

**Mushers welcome  
long-distance race**  
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## Sports & Recreation

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**Give skis a chance**  
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**Swimmer Stephen  
Giovannetto, 14,  
will compete at Age  
Group Nationals in  
Calgary next year  
after qualifying with  
an 'X' division time  
at a Polar Bear Swim  
Club event last  
weekend.**

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POLAR BEAR SWIM CLUB



### SPORTS Check

with Natalie Dunleavy

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# Fast times set in Ruth Inch pool

Swimmers race the clock for best finishes

by Natalie Dunleavy  
Northern News Service  
After earning his ticket to  
compete at nationals with an

'X' division time last week-  
end, a 14-year-old swimmer is  
already feeling an extra push  
in the pool.

Stephen Giovannetto com-  
pleted the 50-metre breast-  
stroke in 23.81 seconds, qual-  
ifying him to compete at Age

Group Nationals in Calgary  
next year.

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## Will train for more qualifications

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"I was really pleased because it was one of my goals for the season," said Giovannetto.

"It was nice to accomplish it so early."  
He admitted having extra incentive when he got back in the pool this week.

Although Giovannetto had qualified to compete in the 14-year-old 100-metre breaststroke at Western Canada Summer Games last August, he had to reach even higher this season as he will be 15 by next summer's national meet.

Polar Bear Swim Club coach Ian Legare said Giovannetto's determination to attain the goal was immediately apparent with his performance at the age group

qualifier event last weekend.

"He obviously kept up his conditioning after the Games, and was very motivated to go to the meet," he said.

Legare said qualifying for nationals in the first time trials of the season would give Giovannetto a good boost of motivation for the year.

"It's a pretty impressive start for him," he said.

Giovannetto took a full three-quarters of a second off his last recorded time for the event.

"It's a 50-metre swim, that's a pretty fast swim," said Legare.

With such an impressive first accomplishment so early, Legare said they will aim to help Giovannetto qualify for the 100- and 200-metre breaststroke events before

nationals.

"We'll be boosting the intensity so he can qualify in all three," he said, adding they will also work on Giovannetto's technique to help him drop his time in each event.

Jerry Allen also had a good start to the swim season, beating club records for the 400- and 800-metre freestyle at the meet.

Legare said the time trials were a good opportunity to see where swimmers were at a month into the season.

"It gave us a base level to see where the training needs to go," he said.

The Polar Bear Swim Club's next competition will be in Hay River in November, but Giovannetto will next compete in Edmonton Nov. 30 to Dec. 1.