



## **Media Release**

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**For immediate release**

### **Byers Brings Home Gold from Pan Am Games**

Kia Byers will be bringing home gold this week when she returns from the Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro. Byers teamed up with Marie-Christine Schmidt of Lachine Quebec to win the women's K-2 500 metre event. The win came just one day after Byers won a bronze medal as a member of the Canadian team which finished third in the women's K-4 500 metre event.

Standing on the podium was a dream come true for Byers who has been kayaking since the age of 9. Her goal is to qualify for a berth on Canadian Olympic team in either 2008 or 2012. This experience is an important step for Byers and will help her to continue to focus on reaching her ultimate goal.

Byers has benefited from other international experience over the past couple of years. Earlier this season Byers was named to the CanoeKayak Canada Senior National Team that represented Canada at two World Cup Regattas in Europe. In 2005 she was a member of Team Canada who competed at the Junior World CanoeKayak Championships in Hungary.

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