

MEDIA & PHOTO ADVISORY

TEAM CANADA BOBSLEIGH PILOT ORION EDWARDS, TO MEET FORT ST. JOHN STUDENTS AS PART OF CLASSROOM CHAMPIONS COMMUNITY EVENT

Edwards to Also Present Award to Local Teacher for Her Commitment to Education and Emotional Wellness of Students

Edwards will be available for media interviews and photos between 12 and 2:15 p.m.

- WHO:** All students at [Hudson's Hope Elementary- Secondary School](#), first/second grade teacher, Ms. Suzan Bach (whom is unknowing of her soon-to-be received Energizing Communities Champion award) and Team Canada Bobsleigh Pilot/Olympic hopeful, Orion Edwards, Classroom Champions athlete mentor
- WHAT:** A celebration of Hudson Hope teacher and award recipient, Ms. Suzan Bach participating in Classroom Champions for her creative leadership and dedication to student physical and mental wellness. The event also celebrates student participants in the award-winning Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) program. Classroom Champions matches world-class athletes with classrooms to improve student engagement, build growth mindsets, and inspire positive educational environments. Throughout the year-long curriculum, the students learn critical skills like goal setting, perseverance, teamwork and leadership. The special in-person school event is made possible by PETRONAS.
- WHERE:** 10441 Holland Street Hudson's Hope, BC V0C 1V0; **School Phone:** (250) 783-9994
- WHEN:** Thursday, May 11 between 9 a.m until 2 p.m.

EVENT SCHEDULE:

9– 9:30 a.m. Edwards will visit and interact with his mentored students, Ms. Suzan Bach's classroom

9:30–10:30 a.m. All school students will gather in the gym for an assembly where Edwards will present Ms. Suzan Bach with her official Energizing Communities Champion Award, as they also celebrate the students' success in participating in the award-winning SEL curriculum. This is likely the best touchpoint for media.

10:30 – 11:45: In the spirit of togetherness and fun, Edwards will visit classrooms within the school.

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.: Lunch will be provided by PETRONAS for approx. 185 persons (whole school, staff included)

12 – 2:15 p.m. School led outdoor activities, Spokesperson interview availability

- Orion Edwards, Classroom Champions athlete mentor
- Mr. Derrek Beam, principal
- Mr. Wade Hart, director of instruction, Peace River North district
- Ms. Suzan Bach, teacher representative and award recipient

ABOUT:



ORION EDWARDS

[Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton](#)
[Instagram.com/OrionEdwards](https://www.instagram.com/OrionEdwards)

A defensive back with the University of Guelph (2013-2017), Orion tore his ACL in 2016 going into his senior year of football. A couple hours after getting ACL reconstruction surgery, he decided to rewatch the (1993) movie "Cool Runnings" with his older sister. At the beginning of the movie, his sister said "you have the same length dreadlocks as one of the characters, "Sanka." And he said "Okay what's your point?" Then his sister said "You should do bobsleigh after you're done playing football.

I think you would be great at it, because you are fast, explosive, and strong."

Orion told her that he would think about it. After rehabbing his knee and playing his final season of football at the University of Guelph in 2017, he moved to Seattle to work for Athletes in Action (a Christian sports ministry) as an international campus missionary. While Orion was in Seattle he officially decided to hang up the cleats, however, he felt that he had a lot of athletic potential that he wanted to still use.

Orion started thinking about bobsleigh again, and so he got in touch with his old football coach Neil Lumsden (Jesse's dad). After a talk with Coach Lumsden, he got in touch with Coach Morgan Alexander, where he was given a run down about attending a regional tryout. And the rest was history.

"What I couldn't have expected about my time working with Classroom Champions is how much I have been inspired by the curiosity, kindness, and resilience from these students. They have shown great growth, and desire to learn about what it means to train on the world-stage. I cannot wait to meet them in person on May 11, and make a lasting impression as I

instil confidence that they can chase their dreams whatever 'tunnel' they choose to pass through in life!"

ENERGIZING COMMUNITIES CHAMPION AWARD

Energizing Communities Collective is a group of 21+ energy companies that have joined together to support the work of Classroom Champions. Since 2022, they have raised \$3.6M towards a goal of \$4M to invest in and support youth in communities across Western Canada. The industry coming together will specifically provide mentorship and curriculum programs to their operating areas across B.C., Alberta, and Saskatchewan making long-lasting positive impact.

This Award recognizes long-standing teachers who are integral to the established efforts and proven success of the program. The recipients of the Award are recognized for their commitment to their students and their communities, contributing to Classroom Champions' mission to help mentor 1 million students per year by 2026.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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classroomchampions.org