



CITIZENS OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Katjana Bruinsma

Recipient of the 2023 Athletic Achievement Award, Katjana Bruinsma is a dedicated and resilient athlete who has won over 50 titles in her twelve years of competing in Scottish Highland dance.

Born and raised in the Leduc area, Katjana started taking lessons at the Beaumont School of Highland Dance when she was four years old. She quickly fell in love with this highly technical sport, and she dedicated herself to learning diverse techniques as well as undertaking complementary training such as weightlifting. She has overcome several injuries over the years through perseverance and self-discipline. Katjana loves to impart her passion to younger students and has been teaching since she was 14. In 2023, she completed her Associate Teaching Certificate. Katjana is always eager to volunteer her time for performances and community events, and her positivity and encouragement ensure that other dancers around her always feel valued.

Competing at the local, provincial, national and international levels has been an important part of Katjana's dancing. In July 2023, she won the Canadian Championship in the U16 age category, and in July 2024, she repeated her victory when she won the Canadian Championship in the U18 category.

Katjana hopes to continue teaching and become a certified judge for Highland dance. She plans to attend the University of Alberta and become a physiotherapist.