

**Monica Pinette.** (b. 1977)

Monica Pinette was born on Feb. 5, 1977 at Langley B.C. Monica received a National Aboriginal Achievement Award in 2010 for contribution to sport. The Foundation's write-up of her achievements says:

Known as the only Aboriginal athlete at the 2004 and 2008 Olympic Games, Ms. Pinette helped raise the profile of the pentathlon in Canada. A pentathlete must excel in five disciplines which include pistol shooting, epee fencing, 200 m freestyle swimming, show jumping and a 3 km cross-country run. Ms. Pinette was also the first Canadian female to ever qualify for the Olympics in the pentathlon

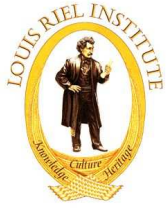


In order to show people how Ms. Pinette prepares herself as an elite Olympic athlete, she agreed to do a documentary called *The Journey* - her journey to the Beijing Olympics. It motivated her to devote more time mentoring other young women in the sport and helping coach the Canadian Juniors to the World Championships in Taiwan.

Monica has qualified for the world championships every year since 2002, was the first female pentathlete to ever qualify for the Olympic Games, and her 13<sup>th</sup> place in Athens in 2004 was the highest a Canadian pentathlete has ever finished in the Olympics, male or female. She was also the lone Canadian Aboriginal athlete competing in Athens. She has also had the best world cup and world cup final results of any Canadian pentathlete ever.



In her first Pan American Games, where she finished 7th. In 2003, Pinette also made it to the World Cup Final in Athens, finishing in 16th spot. She improved that to 10th place at two different World Cups in 2004. In her third World Championship appearance, Pinette improved again to 33rd in 2004. That set the stage for her very successful 13th place finish at the 2004 Olympic Games. Monica continued her progression by winning the Gold medal in the Pan American Championships in Mexico City in June 2006 and a silver medal in the 2007 Pan American Games. June 1, 2008, Pinette was in Budapest to compete in the modern pentathlon world championships. When she crossed the finish line in 11th place, it was perhaps her best result yet. In the 2008 Beijing Olympics she placed 27<sup>th</sup>. She received the British Columbia Premier's Athletic Award in 2009.



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