



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wickenheiser Female World Hockey Festival makes move to Calgary thanks to partnership with WinSport, Wickenheiser and the Calgary Hotel Association

CALGARY, Alta. – WinSport is proud to announce today a partnership with one of the top female hockey players of all time, Hayley Wickenheiser, to bring the Wickenheiser World Female Hockey Festival to Calgary.

The Wickenheiser tournament, which has been held in Burnaby, B.C., for the past three years will feature 60 female teams from across the country battling for women's hockey supremacy for girls of all ages. The tournament will take place Nov. 21-24, 2013, with WinSport's Markin MacPhail Centre providing the central location for games and off-ice events.

"WinSport is excited to work with Hayley to bring this tournament to Calgary and help take it to the next level. This tournament has the potential to rival the world-renowned Quebec City peewee tournament," said WinSport president Dan O'Neill. "This event has the potential to grow to as many as 100 teams, including teams from Europe, and to become one of the most influential female hockey festivals in the world."

Wickenheiser, who is a four-time Winter Olympian and will compete for Canada April 2-9 in Ottawa at the Women's World Hockey Championship, is excited to bring the tournament home to Calgary.

"The purpose of this tournament is to create an international summit of the female game for girls of all ages and skills levels," said Wickenheiser. "In addition to the tournament component, the festival will host skills development camps provided by Hockey Canada and access to off-ice clinics and workshops that are unmatched in calibre in amateur female hockey and are delivered by the best-of-the-best in the athletics industry."

In conjunction with the Wickenheiser tournament, WinSport is also excited to announce a multiyear agreement with the Calgary Hotel Association, which will help WinSport continue to draw world-class events of all levels to the city, including the Wickenheiser World Female Hockey Festival. The deal includes naming rights to the new high-speed quad chairlift at WinSport's Canada Olympic Park, along with Arena D at the Markin MacPhail Centre.

The Calgary Hotel Association will play a key role in hosting dozens of teams for the Wickenheiser tournament and for future events.

"Calgary is the winter sport capital of Canada. Partnering with WinSport is a natural fit for the Calgary Hotel Association and will allow the two organizations to continue to work together to bring major events to the city," said Leanne Shaw-Brotherston, chairman of the Calgary Hotel Association. "WinSport has a proven track record in hosting world-class events, while the Calgary Hotel Association and its 58 member hotels can provide accommodations for the influx of competitors and visitors associated with such major events. The Wickenheiser World Female Hockey Festival is a prime example of how WinSport and the Calgary Hotel Association can work together and the CHA is proud to be involved in helping to grow the women's game."

About WinSport

The Canadian Winter Sport Institute provides world-class sport facilities where Canadian athletes can discover, develop and excel. WinSport owns and operates Canada Olympic Park in Calgary, Alta., the Bill Warren Training Centre located at the Canmore Nordic Centre and the Beckie Scott High Performance Training Centre on Haig Glacier, Alta. A not-for-profit organization, WinSport supports national sport organizations, encourages educational opportunities and subsidizes the operation of unique training and recreational facilities used by the nation's top athletes and the general public. For more information on WinSport please visit www.winsport.ca.

About the CHA

The Calgary Hotel Association is comprised of 58 member hotel properties located in four primary quadrants across the city: Downtown, South Calgary, Northeast and Northwest. These properties feature a combined total of 10,433 rooms to meet the needs of a wide range of visitors to Calgary. The Calgary Hotel Association is a voluntary association that serves its member properties and other tourism industry stakeholders by promoting the common economic, political, community and environmental interests of the membership. The CHA Board of Directors is comprised of General Managers from different hotels across the city which meet regularly to discuss policies and to oversee operational programs including the DMF (Destination Marketing Fund).

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