



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013

WinSport opens \$4-million expansion to hill at Canada Olympic Park

CALGARY, Alta. – WinSport announced today the official opening of a \$4-million expansion to the ski and snowboard hill at Canada Olympic Park, providing Canadian high-performance technical skiers a world-class training facility and competition venue.

The expansion, which includes the addition of 100 vertical feet and a second high-speed quad chairlift, will put Canadian technical skiers in better position to compete in the future and will assist Alpine Canada in the development of World Cup slalom skiers.

“WinSport worked closely with Alpine Canada president Max Gartner to see how our facilities could align with their development program and how we can contribute to their future success,” said Dr. Stephen Norris, WinSport’s vice-president of sport. “WinSport looked at many of the national sports organizations and there was a feeling that the organization wasn’t doing enough for Alpine Canada. Combined with the on-site National Sport School, WinSport believes that Canadian slalom skiers will now have a competitive edge in their development.”

The increased vertical meets the International Ski Federation’s specifications allowing WinSport to host a World Cup women’s slalom race. The first competition on the new race course will be held on March 16-17, with some of Canada’s rising stars competing against other developmental athletes from the United States and around the world in the Nor-Am Cup finals.

“Our athletes and coaches – from the developmental level through to the national team – now have access to a top-class training facility at our home base here in Calgary that will help them prepare to take on the best in the world,” said Gartner. “Alpine Canada is looking forward to using the new lift when the Nor-Am Cup finals come to Calgary and there is hope that this will be the first of many high-level slalom races held at WinSport.

“Alpine Canada is working very hard on a proposal to bring the first World Cup slalom race to Calgary in the near future and the opening of the lift and vertical is an important step towards achieving this goal.”

WinSport successfully worked closely with the City of Calgary to complete this latest step in transforming Canada Olympic Park, which provides an additional eight acres of skiable terrain and increases the up-hill capacity for skiers and snowboarders by 30% or 2,400 people per hour.

The new lift and terrain is now open to the public, and with six weeks left in the winter season at Canada Olympic Park, there’s plenty of time to enjoy it.

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.

For more information, please contact:

Dale Oviatt

Director, Communications

WinSport

T: 403-247-4601

C: 403-461-9074

E-mail: dale.oviatt@winsportcanada.ca