



MEDIA RELEASE

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WinSport plays key role on road to Sochi

Calgary, Alta. – The one-year countdown to the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic Games begins Thursday, and WinSport is proud to play a critical role in helping Canadian athletes get there.

The Calgary-based Winter Sport Institute is responsible for maintaining and operating the 1988 Olympic Winter Games facilities, providing world-class facilities, along with training and competition opportunities for more than 300 athletes, including Canadian luge, skeleton and bobsleigh athletes, in addition to snowboarders, ski jumpers, alpine and freestyle skiers. The road to Sochi runs directly through Calgary.

“Having access to world-leading facilities and resources at the Winter Sport Institute that is being created in Calgary, with Canada Olympic Park serving as the hub location, is critical for Canada's sliding sport athletes to mount an attack on the podium,” said Don Wilson, chief executive officer, Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton. “WinSport has served as a medal-generating factory for the nation's best bobsleigh and skeleton athletes that have celebrated more than 200 international podium finishes around the world over the last decade.”

Several Canadian athletes with ties to WinSport have had success on the world stage this competitive season, including bobsleigh pilots Kallie Humphries and Lyndon Rush; skeleton racer Sarah Reid; freestyle moguls skiers Mikael Kingsbury and Justine Dufour-Lapointe, who won gold at the World Cup stop at Canada Olympic Park three weeks ago; and luge star Alex Gough, who won gold at the Calgary World Cup last season, and continues to hit the podium this season.

At the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics, 115 of Canada's 202 athletes trained or competed at WinSport facilities, with 20 of 26 Canadian medals won by athletes that trained or competed at WinSport. That number is expected to continue to rise leading into 2014 and beyond.

“We have had significant success in the past, and our plan with the athletes that are currently training at WinSport will have a further impact on their success in Sochi and at the 2018 Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea,” said WinSport president and CEO Dan O'Neill.

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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.

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