



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### WinSport renews commitment to Sarah Burke Performance Awards

Calgary, Alta. – WinSport president and CEO Barry Heck announced today that WinSport will continue to support Canadian winter athletes with the presentation of the Sarah Burke Performance Award during the 2013-14 season.

The Sarah Burke Award was established in honour of Burke's contribution to winter sport and in respect to her pioneering attitude. She was one of Canada's top freestyle halfpipe skiers before she succumbed to injuries she suffered in a training accident in Utah in January 2012.

The award, which is presented in the amount of \$5,000 Cdn. is given to any Canadian athlete that reaches the podium in any senior World Cup event that is held at WinSport's facilities at Canada Olympic Park.

"Sarah was truly a trailblazer in freestyle halfpipe skiing and for women's winter sport in general," said Heck. "She lived life to the fullest and her can-do attitude is a lesson to us all. Her legacy provides a great role model for all Canadian athletes."

Canadian athletes get their first crack at the medal podium at Canada Olympic Park this weekend for the season-opening Viessmann bobsleigh and skeleton World Cup. Women's skeleton (noon), men's skeleton (2:30 p.m.) and men's two-man bobsleigh (6 p.m.) take to WinSport's Olympic track on Friday, with men's four-man bobsleigh (10 a.m.) and women's bobsleigh (2 p.m.) taking place on Saturday.

WinSport will also hold a World Cup freestyle halfpipe ski event in the superpipe on Jan. 3, 2014 and a World Cup moguls event the following day.

Since the inception of the Sarah Burke Performance Award, WinSport has awarded \$50,000 to Canadian athletes to help them on their path to Olympic gold.

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#### **About WinSport**

*The 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](http://www.winsport.ca).*

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