



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WinSport announces Barry M. Heck as new President and Chief Executive Officer

Calgary, Alta. – The Board of Directors of WinSport announced today that Barry M. Heck has been named the new President and Chief Executive Officer, effective July 15, 2013. Heck brings to WinSport extensive leadership experience and success, garnered through a dynamic career in business and law, a strong commitment to community and public service, and a deep passion for sport.

“We are extremely pleased that Barry will be leading WinSport,” said Lesley Conway, Chair of the WinSport Board of Directors. “As the Vice Chair of the WinSport Board, Barry has been a valued leader and strategic advisor. He has continuously demonstrated that the vision of WinSport and development of our athletes are at the core of every decision he has made.”

“We were thrilled when the recruitment team brought Barry’s name forward,” she continued. “With his diverse and accomplished background in business, law and the community, we know that under Barry’s leadership, WinSport will be able to take further strides towards our vision of becoming the World’s Leading Winter Sports Institute.”

WinSport has created one of the most unique winter sport environments in the world, where athletes of all levels and disciplines have a one-stop shop to train and maintain an active lifestyle. Thanks to WinSport, the legacy of the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympic Games is not only alive, but thriving. The organization has operated, maintained and rejuvenated the facilities from the ’88 Games, as well as built world class new facilities to support Canadian athletes for generations to come, and is well on its way to becoming the world’s leading Winter Sports Institute.

“I am thrilled to be leading the WinSport team,” said Heck. “I believe so strongly in this organization’s commitment to provide excellence in winter sports facilities and training for our Canadian athletes to discover, develop and excel, while creating a love of sport in our communities. The athletes that currently train at the WinSport facilities in preparation for Sochi 2014 are among the world’s best and we are here to support them. We will ensure that our facilities remain world class to provide a solid foundation for our future Olympic and Paralympic champions in 2018 and beyond. To lead an organization that helps make dreams come true is an honour.”

“I know that I am joining an outstanding team at WinSport and want to thank Dr. Stephen Norris for his recent leadership as the interim President,” added Heck. “Stephen is one of Canada’s most respected leaders in Canadian sport excellence and sport physiology, and I am honoured to have his support and commitment. He will continue to play a critical leadership role in the future of WinSport as we continue to grow and evolve.”

Heck is a prominent Calgary businessman and community leader and brings a remarkable background of more than 28 years of professional success and community leadership to WinSport. In his most recent position as President and Principal Partner of EL Merchant Capital, a private merchant capital firm, Heck invested in growing public and private companies and businesses. He worked closely with management to assist and mentor in executive leadership, finance, operations, governance, and execution of strategic plans.

In January 2013, Heck was appointed volunteer Chair of the Alberta Economic Development Authority (AEDA). Reporting directly to the Premier, AEDA is focused on providing advice and identifying strategic solutions to government on a wide range of Alberta's economic opportunities and challenges. In addition to these roles and numerous other committee and Board commitments, Heck has remained a passionate volunteer and community builder through his involvement in numerous organizations, including serving as the Vice Chair of WinSport and a member of B2ten (private sector support of Canadian amateur sport and elite athletes) from the early days, helping build the significant donor and support base in Alberta.

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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.winsportcanada.ca.

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