



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

WinSport receives \$250,000 grant from Parks Foundation Calgary

CALGARY, Alta. – WinSport is honoured to receive today a \$250,000 Amateur Sport Grant from Parks Foundation Calgary toward the creation of a new dry slope area.

Although still in the planning stages, this project involves building a dry slope ski/snowboard training area on WinSport's hill which would allow Calgary-based athletes – and potentially athletes from other parts of North America – to train during the summer months.

Dry slope is a ski slope that mimics the attributes of snow using materials that are stable at room temperature, to enable people to ski, snowboard or snow tube in places where natural, snow-covered slopes are inconvenient or unavailable.

"We truly appreciate the support of Parks Foundation and this grant plays a significant role in helping to make this project a reality," says WinSport's President and CEO Barry M. Heck. "The dry slope project helps address the need for developing and high-performance ski and snowboard athletes to train on skis and snowboards outside of winter, without having to travel to either train on snow or on another dry slope.

"This also allows us to expand our programs and facilities that allow kids to get involved in sport so they can lead healthy, active lives. WinSport's dry slope project would do just that by expanding the amateur sport offerings in the city of Calgary."

The goal of the Amateur Sport Grant Committee at Parks Foundation Calgary (PFC) is to promote amateur sport development and enhance sport participation for Calgarians of all ages. Since its inception in 1985, the Amateur Sport Grant Committee has awarded more than \$12 million worth of grants to more than 470 sport-related projects. The Amateur Sport Grant Committee is comprised of a group of committed volunteers who distribute the amateur sport funds in a fair and efficient manner.

The Amateur Sport Grant Program was created as part of the Saddledome Foundation's establishment of an Olympic legacy from the operations of the Saddledome. The continued success of the program is possible through a joint community partnership with the Calgary Flames Hockey Club, The Saddledome Foundation and Parks Foundation Calgary.

"We're happy to be part of such an innovative and exciting project that will bring year-round skiing and boarding to families and athletes," said Sheila Taylor, Executive Director Parks Foundation Calgary.

This grant would assist WinSport in purchasing dry slope ski terrain required to build an adequate dry slope training area. Building the dry slope training area would involve grading and adjusting ground elevations on our ski hill. An opening date for the dry slope area is still being determined.

*Note: Please see attached photo of Wednesday's cheque presentation

Cutline information: From left: Dave Ardell (Chair, Amateur Sport Committee, Parks Foundation Calgary); Sheila Taylor (Executive Director, PFC); Barry M. Heck (President & CEO, WinSport); Judy Black (Manager, Fund Development, WinSport); Scott Hutcheson (Board Chair, WinSport) Don Baird (Chair, Board of Governors, PFC).

- 30 -

About WinSport

WinSport 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 public. For more information on WinSport please visit www.winsport.ca.

About Parks Foundation Calgary (PFC)

Since its establishment in 1985 as a non-profit organization, Parks Foundation Calgary (PFC) has supported and improved the communities and public spaces in the city. PFC makes Calgary a great city for its residents and guests by enhancing healthy lifestyle. It also contributes to Calgary's enjoyment by providing easily accessible, unique & recreational sport and green spaces in the community.

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