



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

### **WinSport Canada and Four Points by Sheraton award 17 sport grants**

Calgary – WinSport Canada and the Four Points by Sheraton Calgary West are proud to announce 17 winners in the inaugural 2011-12 Athlete Grant program. Each grant is worth \$1,000.

Nearly 100 applications were received for the grant program, with WinSport Canada and Four Points by Sheraton staff selecting the winners based on achievement, athletic goals and financial need. The grants are restricted to winter sport athletes who use a WinSport Canada facility to train.

“We are happy to be partnering with an organization such as the Four Points by Sheraton to help Canadian athletes ease the burden in their quest to excel at their given sport,” said WinSport Canada president and CEO Dan O’Neill. “There were a lot of very qualified candidates for these grants and it was a very difficult decision to narrow it down to this year’s recipients.”

The 17 athletes will receive their cheques Wednesday, April 18, at 10 a.m. at the theatre in the main lodge at WinSport’s Canada Olympic Park. Media representatives are welcome to attend.

“The Four Points by Sheraton Calgary West is very pleased to be a partner in this funding program to assist up-and-coming athletes,” said Four Points by Sheraton Calgary West owner Ed Behanji. “Our organization has been a passionate supporter of all sports for many years and we are pleased to work directly with WinSport Canada to help young athletes with this financial boost.”

Luge athlete Alex Gough, the inaugural winner of the \$5,000 Sarah Burke Performance Award, will also receive her cheque during Wednesday’s presentations.

Named winners for the inaugural WinSport and Sheraton award are:

Eric Mitchell (ski jumping)	Thomas Fiselier (freestyle skiing)	Michele Long (bobsleigh)
Heidi Widmer (nordic skiing)	Lauren McGuire (speed skating)	Jaden Bos (snowboarding)
Tyler MacRae (snowboarding)	Keaton Carlson (freestyle skiing)	Garett Northey (freestyle skiing)
Tony Naciuk (alpine skiing)	David Law (alpine skiing)	Kurt Layton (snowboarding)
Matty Herauf (ski cross)	Daniel Tanner (freestyle skiing)	Heather Clarke (short track speed skating)
Katie Babick (speedskating)	Jack Van Lierop (ski jumping, Nordic combined)	

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#### **WinSport Canada**

*The Canadian Winter Sport Institute provides world-class sport facilities where Canadian athletes can discover, develop and excel. WinSport Canada 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 Canada 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 Canada please visit [www.winsportcanada.ca](http://www.winsportcanada.ca).*

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