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**Olympic Medallist, Jeff Pain, to Lead Canadian Women's Ski Jumping Athletes' Podium Pursuit as Inaugural High-Performance Director
—Sport partners join forces to provide increased funding, services and improved facilities—**

CALGARY—One of Canada's most accomplished Olympians, Jeff Pain, will guide the nation's women's ski jumping athletes in their pursuit of the international podium. Ski Jumping Canada named Pain as the organization's first-ever high-performance director on Wednesday in Calgary.

Pain, a legendary skeleton athlete who retired in 2010 having re-written record books around the world, will lead a team of coaches, athletes and an Integrated Support Team to achieve their maximum potential. In addition to developing an aggressive talent identification and recruitment initiative, Pain will also guide the men's ski jumping and Nordic combined programs.

"As an athlete that found podium results, I learned that I was simply at the front of a large team, and without them, I simply could not achieve my goals. Ski jumping has operated largely on volunteer spirit, and has never had a full system of support for its athletes. What they have been able to achieve with the resources they've had to work with is miraculous," said Pain, who is also ambitiously seeking sponsors to take the sport to a new level.

"I firmly believe that Canada has the best athletes in the world. Given access to proper funding, a great system with world leading coaching, support services and facilities, there is no doubt in my mind we can stand on the podium. I am excited for this tremendous challenge of trying to win Canada's first-ever Olympic medal in the sport."

A three-time Olympian, Pain brings a wealth of experience to his new role. In his 15-year career, Pain won an Olympic silver medal, was a three-time World Championship medallist – twice gold – a two-time overall World Cup winner, and slid to the podium 22 times – including 10 victories – in 74 World Cup appearances.

"Jeff was a trailblazer for skeleton in Canada who created a culture of excellence, and belief for his teammates that they too can get on the podium and win," said Brent Morrice, chairman, Ski Jumping Canada. "We believe Jeff's experience, combined with his competitive attitude and determination, will play a key role in leading our women's and men's programs to unprecedented international results."

With a goal of placing a Canadian women's ski jumping athlete on the podium at the Olympic Winter Games in 2014, along with a plan to develop a sustainable system that produces medal-winning performances, Ski Jumping Canada, along with its sport partners – Own the Podium, Canadian Sport Centre Calgary, and WinSport Canada – will combine their expertise to ensure athletes have access to the world-leading resources and facilities required to win. Steered by Own the Podium, the four parties will form a high-performance management group that will support Pain in his new position.

OTP is injecting \$300,000 into the women's program to allow for an elite training environment. The funds will be used for the hiring of Pain and other coaches, coaching development, world-leading equipment and team travel expenses for the women.

The Canadian Sport Centre Calgary will provide support services for the women's ski jumping program, including all critical sport medicine and sport science services that are essential to support athletes and coaches in their daily training environment.

WinSport Canada has committed to upgrading the existing Ski Jumping Training Centre at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary to support the women's pursuit of the Olympic podium.

In addition to updating the current profiles for the ski jumps and improving existing drainage issues in the jump bowl that will encourage early-season access to the facility, WinSport Canada will relocate its existing East Side Runner quad chairlift closer to the jump bowl to increase access and training cycle time for the sports using the ski jump bowl area. A new high-speed quad chairlift will be installed this summer to service the activities on the main hill.

WinSport Canada will also replace the in-run speed and wind meters, and has allocated space for a new women's locker room, a small weight training area and exercise space.

Four years ago, WinSport Canada underwent a major renovation that made the ski jump bowl the first facility in the world to combine ski jumping, freestyle aerials and moguls, and alpine slalom, all built to international specifications. The facility is equipped with improved snowmaking, lighting, and the latest video technology for training.

Canada's ski jumping athletes train year-round at WinSport Canada's facilities at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary.

Ski Jumping Canada is the governing body for ski jumping competitions in the country. In collaboration with WinSport Canada, Ski Jumping Canada operates the National Ski Jumping Training Centre at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary, which develops our nation's high-performance ski jump athletes, and promotes the sport across the country. With the support of its valued partners including the Government of Canada, Canadian Olympic Committee and Own the Podium, Ski Jumping Canada is focused on developing medal-winning athletes. For more information on Ski Jump Canada, please visit us at **www.skijumpingcanada.com** on the Internet.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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