



ELITE ROAD RACERS TAKE ON MONTRÉAL

Montréal, Québec, Saturday, September 11, 2010 - The activities surrounding the second race of the International Cycling Union (UCI) ProTour circuit in North America were kicked off today by Grand Prix Cycliste ProTour President Serge Arsenault, in the company of a number of dignitaries.

A total of 176 of the world's top racing cyclists arrived in the city today. A contingent of over 500 riders, trainers, medical staff, officials and journalists will be in Montréal for this major competition. The high-calibre peloton will consist of representatives of 22 teams, including 18 that are regulars on the ProTour circuit.

"Of course, tomorrow is a really big day," said Mr. Arsenault. "But with the help we've received, especially from Mayor Tremblay, from the very beginning of the project, back in 2008, I am confident that it will be a huge success. It's a dream come true. The first episode will come to an end tomorrow evening, but the event will return year after year. Yesterday's race was extraordinary, and I'm convinced that the riders will perform equally well tomorrow. There are bound to be some great moments, so be sure to turn out tomorrow morning!"

The Grand Prix Cycliste de Montréal will start at 12:15 Sunday, September 12, on Parc Avenue, north of the monument to George-Étienne Cartier. The race is expected to finish around 5:15. Access to the race route, which is posted at www.protourquebecmontreal.com, is free to anyone who wants to watch this enthralling sporting event.

"Thank you for lending us Mount Royal! The riders will discover it tomorrow, just as their elders did in years gone by. It's a magnificent route and I'm sure that the racers will enhance it even more by putting on a tremendous show for Montrealers, just as they did in Québec City," said Charly Mottet, sports manager of the Grand Prix Cycliste de Québec-Montréal.

"Montréal has a strong cycling tradition. Holding this UCI ProTour race in North America for the first time represents an extremely important step forward in the globalization of cycling. Canada can be proud of promoting these two UCI ProTour races. The UCI name means quality, and only events that meet very strict, very high standards are allowed to use it. Only the best, in other words! In light of what we saw yesterday and what we expect tomorrow, we can say without a shadow of a doubt that we will continue to build on the excellent relationship we have developed," said Pat McQuaid, president of the International Cycling Union.



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“We’ve had some unique opportunities in the past few decades to enjoy races on the international scene, but we had always dreamt of hosting the UCI in Montreal. And now today, you’ll understand how proud I am, as mayor of Montreal, to be sitting beside Pat McQuaid, Charly Mottet and Serge Arsenault,” said Gérald Tremblay.

About Grand Prix Cycliste ProTour Québec – Montréal

In 2009, the UCI awarded a pair of licences to present the first-ever North American stops on the ProTour racing circuit. The organization is in charge of planning and presenting the Québec City and Montréal races from 2010 to 2014 inclusively. Please see the www.protourquebecmontreal.com website for full details on these races emblematic of the highest level of international cycling.

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