

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate distribution

Froome, Contador, Sagan, Evans, Hesjedal and Schleck to compete in the Québec City and Montréal Grands Prix Cyclistes

Saint-Lambert, Québec, Tuesday, August 2013 – **Chris Froome** (Sky Pro Cycling), winner of the 2013 Tour de France and the current UCI WorldTour points leader, will be one of the main attractions at this year's Québec City and Montréal Grands Prix Cyclistes, to be held on September 13 and 15.

For the first time, the races organized by Serge Arsenault and his team will feature the reigning champion of the world's greatest bike race. Great Britain's Froome will not be the only Tour de France title holder lining up for the start: **Cadel Evans** (2011), **Alberto Contador** (2007 and 2009) and **Andy Schleck** (2010) will all be getting their first taste of the Québec City and Montréal courses as well. The races will also feature Canada's **Ryder Hesjedal**, of Garmin Sharp, winner of the 2012 Giro d'Italia, more determined than ever to deliver a podium performance in front of the home crowd, after a season marred by bad luck.

The race peloton of 21 teams of 8 riders each (including the 19 ProTeams, the world's top squads) will feature some of the planet's greatest cycling stars, joining this quintet of history-making riders.

They include **Peter Sagan** (Cannondale Pro Cycling), the Slovak who has twice claimed the Green Jersey in the Tour de France and is one of the winningest cyclists in the world this season, with 16 victories to his credit; **Rui Costa** (Movistar), who won in Montréal in 2011 and had two stage wins in this year's Tour de France; **Christophe Riblon** (AG2R La Mondiale), winner of the Alpe d'Huez summit stage in the Tour de France; **Lars Petter Nordhaug** and **Robert Gesink** (Belkin-Pro Cycling Team), Montréal GP champions in 2012 and 2010 respectively; **Damiano Cunego** (Lampre-Merida); **Sylvain Chavanel** (Omega Pharma-Quick Step); **Tony Gallopin** (RadioShack Leopard); **Richie Porte** (Sky Pro Cycling) and many others.

There will also be a strong Canadian contingent, featuring Québécois **David Veilleux** (Europcar), **Dominique Rollin** (FDJ.fr), **François Parisien** (Argos-Shimano) and **Hugo Houle** (AG2R La Mondiale), all of whom compete at the elite level in Europe, as well as the Canadian National Team, invited by the organization as a wild-card entry. It includes **Bruno Langlois**, Best Climber in the Québec City GP last year, **Zach Bell**, the current Canadian road racing champion, and **Antoine Duchesne**, the Under-23 Canadian champion.

Now entering their fourth editions, the Québec City and Montréal Grands Prix Cyclistes have truly established their pedigree on the international cycling circuit and are among the highest-level sports events held in Québec today. And to this day, still the only UCI WorldTour events held in the Americas.

"We're extremely honoured to be welcoming Chris Froome, Alberto Contador, Peter Sagan, Cadel Evans, Andy Schleck, Ryder Hesjedal and all the other top riders who have chosen to race in Canada this year," enthuses Serge Arsenault, President of the Québec City and Montréal Grands Prix Cyclistes, adding: "We will spare no effort to deliver optimum conditions so that they can give the best of themselves. We are proud of the reputation of our races, which extends across the Atlantic, and thrilled to be hosting these great champions for what promises to be a great moment in sport."

Challenge Sprint Pro

This dream lineup provides all the ingredients to deliver competition of the highest level in both Québec City and Montréal, and it all gets underway on Thursday, September 12, with the Challenge Sprint Pro, the electrifying knockout race in which 24 speed specialists—including Veilleux, Rollin, Houle and defending champ Bell—will vie for top honours.

This spectacular event, created by Serge Arsenault and the Québec City and Montréal Grands Prix Cyclistes, will also feature sprinters **Matthew Goss** (Orica GreenEDGE), **Fabian Wegmann** (Garmin Sharp), **Geraint Thomas** (Team Sky), **Francisco Ventoso** (Movistar) and **Danilo Hondo** (RadioShack Leopard), among others, all ready to do battle along Grande Allée in Québec City.

THE TEAMS AND KEY RIDERS IN THE GRANDS PRIX CYCLISTES

AG2R La Mondiale (FRA)

Christophe Riblon (France), winner of the Alpe d'Huez stage in this year's Tour de France
Romain Bardet (France), 15th in Tour de France, winner of the Tour de l'Ain
Hugo Houle (Canada), 4th in the 2012 Under-23 Championships

Astana Pro Team (KAZ)

Enrico Gasparotto (Italy), 2005 Italian National Champion and winner of the 2012 Amstel Gold Race
Franco Gavazzi (Italy), winner of Stage 18, 2011 Vuelta a España

Belkin-Pro Cycling Team (NED)

Robert Gesink (Netherlands), winner of the 2010 Montréal GP
Lars Petter Nordhaug (Norway), winner of the 2012 Montréal GP

BMC Racing Team (USA)

Cadel Evans (Australia), winner of the 2011 Tour de France, 2009 World Champion
Greg Van Avermaet (Belgium), 2nd in the 2012 Québec City GP

Cannondale Pro Cycling (ITA)

Peter Sagan (Slovakia), 16 wins in 2013 including Gent-Wevelgem, Tour de France Green Jersey, 2nd in the 2010 Québec City GP.
Moreno Moser (Italy), 2nd in the 2012 Montréal GP

Euskaltel Euskadi (ESP)

Ion Izagirre (Spain), 2nd in the 2013 Tour of Poland
Romain Sicard (France), 2009 World Under-23 Champion

FDJ.fr (FRA)

Pierrick Fedrigo (France), winner of the 2013 Paris–Camembert, 2nd in the 2011 Montréal GP
Arthur Vichot (France), 2013 French National Champion
Dominique Rollin (Canada), winner of Stage 4, 2008 Tour of California

Garmin Sharp (USA)

Ryder Hesjedal (Canada), winner of the 2012 Giro d'Italia
Andrew Talansky (USA), winner of Stage 3, 2013 Paris–Nice

Kathusha (RUS)

Alexandr Kolobnev (Russia), winner of Stage 1 and 3rd overall, 2013 Tour de Wallonie
Simon Špilak (Slovakia), winner of the 2013 Frankfurt GP

Lampre-Merida (ITA)

Damiano Cunego (Italy), winner of the 2004 Giro d'Italia
Filippo Pozzato (Italy), winner of the 2006 Milan–San Remo

Lotto-Belisol (BEL)

Jurgen Roelandts (Belgium), 2008 Belgian National Champion
Tim Wellens (Belgium), 8th, 2013 Tour de Wallonie

Movistar (ESP)

Alberto Rui Costa (Portugal), winner of two stages in the 2013 Tour de France, the 2013 Tour de Suisse, and the 2011 Montréal GP
Andrey Amador (Costa Rica), winner of Stage 14 in the 2012 Giro d'Italia

Omega Pharma – Quick-Step Cycling Team (BEL)

Sylvain Chavanel (France), winner of the 2013 Three Days of De Panne
Michal Kwiatkowski (Poland), 11th in the 2013 Tour de France
Matteo Trentin (Italy), winner of Stage 14 in the Tour de France

Orica GreenEDGE (AUS)

Michael Albasini (Switzerland), winner of Stage 4 in the 2013 Paris–Nice
Pieter Weening (Netherlands), winner of the 2013 Tour of Poland

RadioShack Leopard (LUX)

Andy Schleck (Luxembourg), winner of the 2010 Tour de France
Tony Gallopin (France), winner of the 2013 Clásica San Sebastián

Sky Procycling (GBR)

Chris Froome (Great Britain), winner of the 2013 Tour de France
Richie Porte (Australia), winner of the 2013 Paris–Nice

Team Argos-Shimano (NED)

John Degenkolb (Germany), winner of Stage 5 in the 2013 Giro d'Italia
François Parisien (Canada), winner of Stage 5 in the 2013 Tour of Catalonia

Team Saxo-Tinkoff (DEN)

Alberto Contador (Spain), winner of the 2007 and 2009 Tour de France, 4th in 2013
Matti Breschel (Denmark), winner of two stages in the 2013 Tour of Denmark

Vacansoleil-DCM (NED)

Björn Leukemans (Belgium), winner of the Druivenkoers Overijse every year from 2010 to 2013
Marco Marcato (Italy), 8th in the 2011 Québec City GP, 7th in the 2011 Montréal GP

Team Europcar (FRA)

David Veilleux (France), winner of Stage 1 in the 2013 Critérium du Dauphiné
Bryan Coquard (France), Silver Medalist in the Omnium at the 2012 Olympic Games, 5 wins in 2013

Canada (CAN)

Zach Bell (Canada), 2013 Canadian National Champion

Ryan Anderson (Canada), 2nd in the 2013 Canadian National Championships

About the Grands Prix Cyclistes Québec – Montréal

In 2009, the Grands Prix Cyclistes de Québec-Montréal (GPCQM) organization was granted the first two UCI WorldTour licences for races in North America. The organization has been responsible for planning and putting on these world-class cycling races in Québec City and Montréal since 2010. Please visit the website www.gpcqm.ca for more details on these races at the premier level of world cycling. The GPCQM organization would like to highlight the contribution of the following major partners: the Government of Canada, the Government of Québec, the City of Québec, the City of Montréal, Tourisme Montréal, Québecor, KIA and Air Transat.

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