



GRANDS
PRIX CYCLISTES
DE QUÉBEC
DE MONTRÉAL

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MEDIA ADVISORY | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The world's cycling élite crosses the Atlantic for the 6th edition of the Québec City and Montréal Grands Prix Cyclistes

Québec City, Monday, September 7, 2015 – The [Grands Prix Cyclistes de Québec et de Montréal](#) team is now in Québec City, ready to welcome 168 of the world's greatest road cyclists and orchestrate the races, the only North American stops on the International Cycling Union (UCI) WorldTour. This weekend, Québec will be the scene of fast-paced action and suspense as the riders attack the challenging courses in [Québec City](#) (Sept. 11) and [Montréal](#) (Sept. 13). These prestige events are sure to provide plenty of excitement as well as great exposure for Québec and Canada beyond their borders, as they will be seen not only by hundreds of thousands of on-site spectators, but also broadcast to a potential one billion households in some 130 countries. This year's edition also sees the inauguration of the brand new [Critérium National de Montréal](#) (Sept. 12), a development competition reserved for racers from North America holding UCI licences in the men's and women's Juniors, Espoirs and Elites categories (ages 17 to 29).

Once again this year, the planet's [élite cyclists](#) will be competing, represented by the 17 UCI WorldTeams, the three Professional Continental teams invited as wild-card entries (Team Europcar, Bora-Argon 18 and Drapac Pro Cycling) plus Team Canada. "These two races are eagerly awaited on the international calendar and very much appreciated by the riders as well as observers worldwide," notes Marcel Leblanc, Vice-President of the Grands Prix Cyclistes. "The racers love coming to Québec for the challenge of the circuits, the thorough, attentive organization, the novelty of competing outside Europe and the great reaction from the public. So we urge fans to come out and share their infectious energy. In return, the best riders on the planet will put on an unparalleled show."

Members of the public are invited to come and get a close-up view of all the action from the viewing stands at the Start/Finish lines and watch the live coverage via giant screens on site. Admission is free. The Grands Prix Cyclistes de Québec et de Montréal will also be presented live in their entirety on TVA Sports, Friday and Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: GRANDS PRIX CYCLISTES WEEK

QUÉBEC CITY

TUESDAY, SEPT. 8

2:45 P.M. : WORLDTEAMS ARRIVE IN QUÉBEC CITY

(**Jean-Lesage Airport**) Members of the public and the media are invited to welcome the riders from the 17 WorldTeams at they arrive in Québec City aboard the special flight chartered by the Grands Prix Cyclistes organization, an initiative made possible through the support of AIR TRANSAT.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9

11 A.M. : GRANDS PRIX CYCLISTES OPENING PRESS CONFERENCE

(**Château Frontenac, Salle Place d'Armes**) With, among others, **Mr. Sam Hamad**, Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity and Minister responsible for the Capitale-Nationale region; **Mr. Régis Labeaume**, Mayor of Québec City; **Mr. Benoit Robert**, President and CEO, Sports and Entertainment Group, Québecor Media; **Mr. Charly Mottet**, Sport Manager, Grands Prix Cyclistes; and **Mr. Serge Arseneault**, President, Grands Prix Cyclistes.

2:30 P.M. : PRESS CONFERENCE WITH INTERNATIONAL HEADLINERS

(**Château Frontenac, Salle Place d'Armes**) With reigning UCI Road World Champion **Michal Kwiatkowski** and **Tony Martin**, both members of the Etixx-Quick Step team; 2012 Giro d'Italia winner and two-time 3rd-place finisher in the Grand Prix Cycliste de Montréal (2010 and 2013), Canada's **Ryder Hesjedal** (Team Cannondale-Garmin); 2015 Tour de France 6th-place finisher and two-time Québec City (2013) and Montréal (2010) Grands Prix Cyclistes winner; **Robert Gesink** (Team Lotto NL-Jumbo); former World Champion and winner of the 2011 Québec City Grand Prix Cycliste **Philippe Gilbert** (BMC Racing Team); and 2015 Tour de France 9th-place finisher and stage winner **Romain Bardet** (AG2R La Mondiale).

THURSDAY, SEPT. 10

10 A.M. : PRESS CONFERENCE WITH TEAM CANADA

(Château Frontenac, Salle Place d'Armes) With all members of the Canadian National Team as well as Kevin Field, Men's Road Program Manager for Cycling Canada and the team's *directeur sportif* for the Grands Prix Cyclistes de Québec et de Montréal, plus the members of the men's and women's national team competing in the Junior category in the Critérium National de Montréal.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 11

11 A.M. : START OF THE GRAND PRIX CYCLISTE DE QUÉBEC

(Grande Allée, Parc de la Francophonie) The Québec City Grand Prix Cycliste kicks off the week's events, and is being run on the original course used for the first four editions. Course: 16 laps of 12.6 km (total 201.6 km).

MONTRÉAL

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12

NOON : WORLDTEAMS ARRIVE IN MONTRÉAL

(Delta Montréal) Members of the public and the media are invited to welcome the UCI WorldTeam cyclists as they arrive in Montréal.

4 P.M. : START OF THE CRITÉRIUM NATIONAL DE MONTRÉAL

(Parc Avenue, Parc Jeanne-Mance) This is a men's and women's development competition reserved for North American road racers with a UCI licence in the Juniors, Espoirs and Elites categories (ages 17 to 29). This new event on the program marks the return of international-calibre women's road cycling to Montréal, a first since the last World Cup was held here in 2009. The two criterium races will feature 60 minutes of all-out effort, jockeying for position and sprints, with one men's and one women's champion crowned at the foot of Mount-Royal. The racers will compete on a 1.1 km loop at top speed, with the women covering 30 laps (33 km, starting at 4 p.m.), and the men 40 laps (44 km, starting at 5 p.m.).

SUNDAY, SEPT. 13

11 A.M. : START OF THE GRAND PRIX CYCLISTE DE MONTRÉAL

(Parc Avenue, Parc Jeanne-Mance) The race will favour climber-*puncheurs* with the stamina to tackle the tough climbs up Camillien-Houde and Côte de la Polytechnique—17 times in a row! At the end of the day, will little time to recover and plenty of elevation gain (3893 m), it's not unlike a mountain stage in the Tour de France. The Grands Prix Cyclistes organizers are pleased and proud to once again support the Université de Montréal Institute for Research in Immunology and Cancer (IRIC), which is holding its second "Mount Royal Tour" challenge on the Montréal Grand Prix Cycliste course, starting at 8:15 a.m. on the morning of the race.

ABOUT THE GRANDS PRIX CYCLISTES DE QUÉBEC ET DE MONTRÉAL

The **Grands Prix Cyclistes de Québec et de Montréal**, the only two spots on the UCI WorldTour in America, contribute to fulfilling one of the primary objectives of the UCI WorldTour: the globalization of elite cycling. These tour stops join the list of existing, officially sanctioned events in Europe, Oceania and Asia. Since 2010, the organization has been responsible for the planning and the conduct of the GPCQM and counts on the invaluable support of public and private partners to maintain its standards: the government of Canada, the government of Québec, the city of Québec, the city of Montréal, the National Battlefields Commission, the Québec Tourism Bureau, Montréal Tourism, Québecor, Air Transat, and TVA Sports (official Grands Prix Cyclistes de Québec et de Montréal).

ABOUT THE UCI

The **International Cycling Union (UCI)** is the international federation of cycling, recognized by the International Olympic Committee (ICO). The UCI oversees the worldwide management and promotion of the eight disciplines of cycling.

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SOURCE: Grands Prix Cyclistes de Québec et de Montréal

INFORMATION

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