



NEWS RELEASE
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The Québec City and Montréal Grands Prix Cyclistes support the Coupe du Québec Espoirs de cyclisme sur route

Montréal, Friday, May 15, 2015 – The organizers of the Québec City and Montréal Grands Prix Cyclistes (GPCQM) are pleased and proud to announce that they have partnered with the Fédération québécoise des sports cyclistes (FQSC) to support the Coupe du Québec Espoirs de cyclisme sur route, which begins this weekend with the [Grand Prix Espoirs Laval-Primeau Vélo](#) in Laval (May 16 and 17). The financial support provided to this series of road races for young cyclists aged 9 to 16 is part of a wider set of initiatives taken by the GPCQM to help develop road cycling in Québec and encourage the next generation of local racers.

“Races are of vital importance to the development of young athletes,” explains GPCQM Vice-President Marcel Leblanc. “By taking part in the Coupe du Québec Espoirs, these riders gain valuable experience and get a great taste of the competitive side of the sport. The organizers and development clubs are therefore working very diligently to put on quality events for these young racers. We believe that being able to compete in events with this level of quality will allow some of them to advance to higher levels, and even compete in the Québec City and Montréal GPs one day, while the majority will certainly discover and appreciate the benefits of engaging in physical activity from an early age. For all these reasons, it was only natural that the GPCQM should support the Coupe du Québec Espoirs de cyclisme sur route,” he adds.

Through such initiatives as inviting the Canadian national team and Steve Bauer’s Canada-based Pro Continental team Spidertech (2011–2012) to compete as wild-card entries in the Québec City and Montréal GPs and the Challenge Sprint Pro, the GPCQM has in the past enabled local riders to gain high-calibre racing experience. Moreover, the La Québécoise and La Montréalaise recreational rides held in conjunction with the the GPs—the only UCI WorldTour events in the Americas—have helped make cycling more accessible to the general public. “So our partnership with the Québec cycling federation is yet one more action we are taking with the objective of supporting the growth of road cycling nationally,” Leblanc adds.

“The Coupe du Québec races help identify pro cycling hopefuls. The financial support being provided by the GPCQM to the race organizers and youth development clubs is therefore a significant lever in encouraging up-and-coming riders,” points out FQSC General Manager Louis Barbeau. “We’re thrilled to have the GPCQM on board as a partner. Their contribution is very much appreciated by the race organizers who put so much passion and dedication into helping our young athletes to aim high. This is exactly the kind of initiative that enabled cyclists like Hugo Houle, Antoine Duchesne, David Veilleux, François Parisien, Dominique Rollin and Guillaume Boivin, to name a few, to go on to compete at the elite level.”

THE COUPE DU QUÉBEC ESPOIRS

In 2002, the Fédération québécoise des sports cyclistes introduced the FQSC road rankings, inspired by those of the International Cycling Union, for all categories (Pee-wee to Masters). They include results for all competitions in Québec, except for regionally sanctioned races. The rankings provide the most accurate picture possible of Québec riders’ performances as the season progresses. The Coupe du Québec Espoirs includes diverse races:

- May 16–17: Grand Prix Espoirs Laval-Primeau Vélo (Laval)
- June 6–7: Coupe Cuisses Or de l’Outaouais (Gatineau)
- June 20–21: Coupe des Patriotes (Verchères)
- July 4–5: Coupe Proco (Alma)
- July 25–26: Tour de la Relève Desjardins (Val-D’or)



ABOUT THE GRANDS PRIX CYCLISTES DE QUÉBEC DE MONTRÉAL

The **Québec City and Montréal Grands Prix Cyclistes**, the only two UCI WorldTour races held in North America, contribute in large measure toward the achievement of one of the International Cycling Union's primary objectives: the globalization of the WorldTour circuit. These races are now established, UCI-sanctioned events alongside events in Europe, Oceania and Asia. The organizing committee has been responsible for planning and putting on the Québec City and Montréal GPs since 2010, and receives vital support from public- and private-sector partners: the Government of Canada, the Government of Québec, the City of Québec, the City of Montréal, the National Battlefields Commission, the Office du tourisme de Québec, Tourisme Montréal, Québécois, Air Transat, Via Rail and Québec Original.

The 6th edition of the Québec City Grand Prix Cycliste will take place Friday, September 11, 2015, with the Montréal Grand Prix Cycliste following on Sunday, September 13. <http://gpcqm.ca/en/home/>

ABOUT THE FÉDÉRATION QUÉBÉCOISE DES SPORTS CYCLISTES

Founded in 1960 under the name Union cycliste du Québec, the **Fédération québécoise des sports cyclistes (FQSC)** is a non-profit organization dedicated to the management and promotion of cycling-related disciplines. It manages competitions in Québec and oversees a total of 400 events per year, ranging from regionally sanctioned races to international-level competitions. The FQSC is also actively involved with health-focused events and organizations, and is an active partner in traffic safety advocacy.

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SOURCE: Québec City and Montréal Grands Prix Cyclistes

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