



## WORLD'S TOP CYCLISTS TO TACKLE HILLS OF OLD QUÉBEC CITY

**Québec City, Wednesday, September 8, 2010** – The activities surrounding the very first race of the UCI ProTour in North America, the Grand Prix Cycliste de Québec, were officially launched this morning by the president of the Grand Prix Cycliste ProTour, Serge Arsenault, in the company of a number of dignitaries.

A total of 176 of the world's top racing cyclists from 22 teams, 18 of which are part of the ProTour, arrived in Québec City yesterday. A contingent of over 500 racers, trainers, medical staff, officers and journalists will be in town this week for the big race.

Wednesday and Thursday, the racers will have time to stretch their legs, get used to the course and adjust to the time change. "They'll be happy to have some time to explore the route, which is technically very demanding, like a world championship course," said Charly Mottet, sports manager of the Grand Prix Cycliste de Québec.

The start of the Grand Prix Cycliste de Québec is scheduled for 11:45 a.m. Friday on Grande-Allée, opposite George V Park. The race should finish around 4:30 p.m. Unlike many others, the route, which can be viewed at [www.protourquebecmontreal.com](http://www.protourquebecmontreal.com), is accessible to spectators free of charge.

"This difficult race through the streets of the old town will be broadcast live on Évasion and Radio-Canada and be seen in over 60 countries," said Mr. Arsenault. "The people of Québec City will discover a noble sport, friendly riders, a very highly developed sense of sports ethics and an accessible, tremendously entertaining race," he added.

Besides having the chance to see riders getting a feel for the official course this week, cycling fans are invited to visit the Technical Area tent, opposite the Château Frontenac, where the bikes of the 22 participating teams will be maintained and tuned up. The racers will be picking up and leaving off their bikes at the tent.

"The organization of UCI ProTour races on the American continent for the first time is an important step forward in the UCI's programme for the globalization of cycling," said Pat McQuaid, president of the International Cycling Union (UCI).



On Thursday, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., those who like thrills and spills might want to take in a spectacular demonstration race starring some top Canadian riders, including Quebecers Dominique Rollin and Martin Gilbert. Inspired by the ski cross that debuted at the Vancouver Winter Olympics, the Challenge Sprint will involve groups of four riders who face off on the last kilometre of the ProTour race course. The riders will be allowed a flying start, in front of the Château Frontenac, and the finish line will be on Grande-Allée, opposite George V Park.

#### **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](http://www.protourquebecmontreal.com) website for full details on these races emblematic of the highest level of international cycling.

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