

## THE THIRD EDITION IS UNDERWAY

**(Québec City, Québec) – Wednesday September 5, 2012** - The organisation of the Quebec City and Montréal Grand Prix Cyclistes (GPCQM) is starting for good this Wednesday morning with the opening press conference by its president Serge Arsenault.

The event is underway. The riders have settled in the rooms of the Château Frontenac in Quebec, the bikes have been fixed and the public is ready for a great show. The Québec City and Montréal Grands Prix Cyclistes are ready to kick off for a third edition full of events and excitement. On Wednesday, on the eve of the Challenge Sprint Pro which will launch the hostilities on the tarmac, GPCQM president Serge Arsenault meets the press to give the go-ahead to this 2012 edition.

“We took advantage of the experience from the first two editions to make sure that every detail will be taken into account to reach a level of excellence of the highest degree and to strengthen the long term existence of this great international cycling event,” said the GPCQM founder.

The organisers attracted a field composed of some of the very best riders in the world, including **Ryder Hesjedal** (Garmin-Sharp), the Giro champion, **Thomas Voeckler** (Europcar), the best climber in the 2012 Tour de France, des rising stars like **Peter Sagan** (Liquigas-Cannondale) or **Edvald Boasson Hagen** (Sky), or local hero **David Veilleux** (Europcar) ready to give it his all in front of his home crowd. The GPCQM have secured all the ingredients to make this week a great show of sport and passion.

The leading cycling event in North America will start with the Challenge Sprint Pro on Thursday September 6, the qualifications starting at 4 PM. The new event, invented from scratch by the GPCQM organisers, will provide a fast and exciting format for both spectators and television viewers.

On Friday September 7, the Grand Prix Cycliste de Québec will take over the old city with 201.6 km in the historical streets of Québec City. On such a bumpy course, riders will have a tough task to take over from Belgium’s Philippe Gilbert, the 2011 winner.

After a rest day and a railway transfer on Saturday September 8, the riders will meet up again for the Grand Prix Cycliste de Montréal (205.7 kms) on Sunday September 9. Faster on paper than the Québec City race, it could crown a sprinter or a fast finisher. Norway’s Edvald Boasson Hagen (Sky) and Slovak PeterSagan (Liquigas-Cannondale) are among the most cited contenders. Once again, the public of both Québec City and Montréal will be impressed by the performances of such exceptional riders.

### **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](http://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 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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