



NEWS RELEASE

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## RIDERS' NAMES ANNOUNCED FOR THE CHALLENGE SPRINT PRO All ProTeams are on board

**Saint-Lambert, QC, Thursday, August 25, 2011** – With exactly two weeks to go before the world premiere of the Challenge Sprint Pro, featuring riders from the ProTeams, the organizing committee is pleased and proud to reveal the names of the competitors entered in the race, which is sanctioned by the Canadian Cycling Association (CCA) and supported by the International Cycling Union (UCI). Every one of the ProTeams has entered a racer in this innovative event, which has a bright future ahead of it. The race will be telecast to more than 75 countries.

The field of 24 competitors includes genuine sprint specialists such as Colombia's **Leonardo Duque** (Cofidis), South Africa's **Robert Hunter** (RadioShack), who won a Tour de France stage in 2007, and Germany's **Gerald Ciolek** (Quick Step), one of the best sprinters in the world and a former Under-23 World Champion, but also *puncheurs* who should feel at home on the one-kilometre course in Quebec City: German **Fabian Wegmann** (Leopard Trek), Belgian **Jürgen Roelandts** (Omega Pharma-Lotto) as well as Frenchmen **Sébastien Hinault** (AG2R La Mondiale) and **Romain Sicard** (Euskaltel-Euskadi). Not to mention two Québécois, **Dominique Rollin** (FDJ) and **David Veilleux** (Europcar), who'll be looking to shine in front of the home crowd.

Each team must submit the name of one racer and one substitute to the CCA. As of today, 20 of the 22 teams have identified their entrants. Note that last minute changes may be made to the list, which is attached with this news release.

### The Challenge Sprint Pro concept

Twenty-four racers, including 22 representing the teams entered in the Québec City and Montréal GPs and two Canadians who will have qualified through the Challenge Sprint Canada, presented immediately beforehand, will compete in the Challenge Sprint Pro, an event created by Serge Arsenaault, President of the Grands Prix Cyclistes, on September 8 on Grande Allée in Québec City.

The format is simple, and easily grasped by spectators familiar with similar winning recipes in winter sports—like ski cross, added to the Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver in 2010, or the knock-out sprint in cross-country skiing. It pits 24 top-level racers, each a seasoned finish specialist with a combative streak, against each other over a one-kilometre distance. Eight heats of three competitors each will pare the field down to sixteen riders, who will immediately race in four-man quarter-final sprints, and so on until the ultimate victor is crowned.

“Winning will take a combination of speed, power, skill and clever tactics. We'll have a really high-energy sports spectacle. The ProTeams are interested in this new racing format and the media attention. Every one of them has entered a rider, and the field is truly a high-calibre one,” explains former world number-one Charly Mottet, the Sports Manager of the Grands Prix.

**Les Grands Prix Cyclistes Québec – Montréal**

In 2009, the Grands Prix Cyclistes Québec–Montréal organization was granted the first two UCI licences for ProTour (WorldTour as of 2011) races in North America. The organization is responsible for planning and putting on races in Québec City and Montréal from 2010 to 2014. Please visit the website [www.gpcqm.ca](http://www.gpcqm.ca) for more details on these races at the premier level of world cycling. We would like to thank our public partners, the Government of Canada, the Government of Québec, the City of Québec and the City of Montréal, as well as our private partners, Desjardins, KIA, Air Transat and Évasion.

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