

NEWS RELEASE >>> For immediate release

Sagan, Van Avermaet, Uran and Dumoulin set to ride in Québec on September 8 and 10!

Longueuil, Wednesday, August 16, 2017 – Year after year since 2010, the [Grands Prix Cyclistes de Québec et de Montréal](#) (GPCQM) have been delivering outstanding, unforgettable moments on par with the greatest international sports events. The GPCQM organizers, proud promoters of the first UCI WorldTour races ever held in the Americas, are pleased to announce that once again this year, several elite cyclists who have featured prominently in various road races on the international calendar will be racing in Québec. While the final team line-ups have yet to be officially announced, the two key riders from the 2016 GPCQM, **Peter Sagan** (Bora-Hansgrohe) and **Greg Van Avermaet** (BMC Racing Team) have announced they are competing, as have this year's Giro d'Italia winner, **Tom Dumoulin** (Team Sunweb), and the runner-up in the Tour de France, who also won the Grand Prix Cycliste de Québec in 2015, **Rigoberto Uran** (Cannondale Drapac Pro Cycling Team). On September 8 (Québec City) and 10 (Montréal), everyone is invited to come and experience these thrilling competitions, the only ones on this scale on the continent, up close and free of charge!

Last year, the reigning World and Olympic champions were the one-two finishers in both races, with Sagan emerging victorious in Québec City, and Van Avermaet reversing the result two days later in Montréal. The Belgian will be even more determined to do well here this year, as he currently leads the UCI WorldTour rankings and hopes to claim the title at the end of the season. "Québec and Montréal are my most important races for scoring some points in the UCI WorldTour before the World Championships, which are my last goal for the season," **Van Avermaet** says. His closest rival in the UCI rankings, Tom Dumoulin, will also be racing in Québec.

"These one-day classics on city circuits have proven their worth: in just a few short years, the GPCQM have gained a huge reputation on the world cycling scene," notes **GPCQM Executive Vice-President Marcel Leblanc**. "The riders in the WorldTour peloton have said so year after year: they love coming to Québec. They mention the quality of our circuits, even if the races are considered very challenging, the quality of our organization, the change of scenery, and the warmth of the fans, who are eager to meet them."

The WorldTour pros become spectators!

In 2016, at the second edition of the [Critérium National de Montréal](#), a development competition reserved for North American athletes, 172 cyclists in the Junior, Senior and Masters categories had the chance to compete during GPCQM weekend. The third edition of the Critérium National, taking place on Saturday, September 9, is one of the initiatives put forward by the GPCQM to support the growth of road cycling. The entrants will benefit from the expertise of an international-calibre organization and race with the members of the WorldTeams looking on, enjoying the opportunity to talk with them as well as tackle the challenging loop on Mount Royal, which they'll complete between 15 and 25 times, depending on their category. Intense efforts, explosive comebacks, surging intermediate sprints will lead to a powerful finish! The organizers are especially pleased that the best riders from Québec will be competing this year, along with the national Junior team. *Register by September 4, 2017, [here](#)*

With the same objective in mind of helping to grow the road cycling culture among young Québécois and encouraging and supporting up-and-coming riders, the GPCQM has for several years partnered with the Fédération québécoise des sports cyclistes (FQSC). The organization provides financial support to the Coupe du Québec Espoirs de cyclisme sur route and the training camp Un Jour ProTour to prepare the athletes for the Canada Games. A selection program has also been developed to allow young homegrown cyclists to enjoy a one-of-a-kind experience as bike minders during the GPCQM races.

View the GPCQM program [here](#)

Tuesday, Sept. 5 @3 pm : WorldTeams arrive at Jean-Lesage International Airport, Québec City

Friday, Sept. 8 @10 am : Presentation of the riders
@11 am : Start of Grand Prix Cycliste de Québec
[Grande Allée at Place George-V]

Saturday, Sept. 9 @Noon : WorldTeams arrive at Hotel Delta Montréal

@3:30 pm : Critérium National de Montréal – Men’s Masters
@4:15 pm : Critérium National de Montréal – Women’s Junior, Senior, Masters
@5 pm : Critérium National de Montréal – Men’s Junior, Senior
[Parc Avenue, in front of Sir George-Étienne Cartier monument]

Sunday, Sept 10 @10 am: Presentation of the riders

@11 am: Start of Grand Prix Cycliste de Montréal
[Parc Avenue, in front of Sir George-Étienne Cartier monument]

The teams

The GPCQM will feature the 18 WorldTour teams, as well as the Canadian National Team—thanks to an exception granted by the International Cycling Union (UCI) going back to the very first year of the races—and the Pro Continental team Israel Cycling Academy.

Up-close action enjoyed by the public!

Each year, some 200,000 spectators attend the GPCQM FREE, sharing their passion for cycling, showing their colours, and adding to the excitement of these international events. Whether it’s in Place D’Youville or at the crest of Côte de la Montagne in Québec City, or on Voie Camillien-Houde, Chemin de la Polytechnique or the Terrasse du Belvédère in Montréal, spectators have a great choice of vantage points from which to enjoy 5 hours of racing, be part of an intense sport experience, and cheer on the determined competitors all around the courses. Plus, to make sure fans don’t miss one second of the action, the organizers will provide giant screens at strategic spots around the circuits, and offer activities, a food-services area, and all necessary facilities to max out their experience in the [Fans' Village](#). French-language coverage of the full races will be provided on TVA Sports, Friday, September 8 and Sunday, September 10, from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. An English webcast will be available on gpcqm.ca.

Your chance to ride the same course as the pros on the morning of the Montréal GP!

Since 2014, the GPCQM has been proudly supporting Université de Montréal’s Institute for Research in Immunology and Cancer (IRIC), which invites members of the public to ride or walk on a large portion of the Grand Prix Cycliste de Montréal circuit in a participatory fund-raising activity. The Great Challenges Against Cancer take place on Sunday, September 10, and give cyclists a chance to ride loops of the GP course, while 5 km and 10 km circuits are proposed for running and 5 km for walking on Mount Royal’s trails. Sign up for one of the IRIC Challenges as part of a team, with family members, among friends, or solo, and rack up the kilometres to fight cancer at grandsdefisiric.ca

About the GPCQM

The Grands Prix Cyclistes de Québec et de Montréal, the first UCI WorldTour events ever presented in the Americas, contribute to fulfilling one of the primary objectives of the International Cycling Union (UCI): the globalization of the WorldTour circuit. These tour stops are in addition to the existing, officially sanctioned events in Europe and Oceania. 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: the Government of Canada, the Gouvernement du Québec, the city of Québec, the city of Montréal, the National Battlefields Commission, Québec City Tourism, Tourisme Montréal, Québecor, Air Transat, and TVA Sports (official GPCQM broadcaster).

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 >>> Québec City and Montréal Grands Prix Cyclistes

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