



“Friends and Fans, MAKE SOME NOISE!”

The World’s Best Skiers in Gatineau

First Stage of Ski Tour Canada 2016 at Jacques-Cartier Park on March 1

Gatineau, February 12, 2016 – The Organizing Committee for the Gatineau Stage of Ski Tour Canada 2016 today unveiled the highlights of the competition and its complementary activities, and encouraged folks to attend this exceptional free event, the first stage of which will take place on March 1 at Jacques-Cartier Park. Ski Tour Canada 2016, which is part of the International Ski Federation (FIS) World Cup, will run from March 1 to 12. The next stages of the 2016 World Cup finals will take place in Montréal, Québec City and Canmore. The announcement was attended by several dignitaries, including **Stéphane Lauzon**, Parliamentary Secretary for Sport and Persons with Disabilities, and Member of Parliament for Argenteuil – La Petite Nation, **Stéphanie Vallée**, Minister of Justice and Minister responsible for the Outaouais region, **Mireille Apollon**, Deputy Mayor of Gatineau, **Maryse Gaudreault**, Member of the National Assembly for Hull, **Manuela Teixeira**, President of Tourisme Outaouais and **Pierre Lafontaine**, Chief Executive Officer of Cross Country Ski de Fond Canada.

Between March 1 and 12, the eight (8) cross-country ski competitions will attract the 150 best skiers from 25 countries. For the very first time on Canadian soil, they will try to win the coveted Crystal Globe, which will go to the best cross-country skier in the world in 2016. “Watching top Canadian athletes such as **Alex Harvey** take on the best in the world here in Gatineau, against the backdrop of the Parliament buildings, is truly a unique opportunity that should not be missed!” pointed out Évènements Nordiques Gatineau President **Yan Michaud**.

A spectacular first stage in Gatineau!

The first stage of this historic tour, a free technique sprint, will take place at Gatineau’s Jacques-Cartier Park on Tuesday, March 1, 2016. The backdrop for this 1.7 kilometre race will be downtown Gatineau, the Canadian Museum of History, and Canada’s Parliament Hill. The course will use structures from Winterlude. Approximately fifty international media representatives are expected to attend the Gatineau stage, and the events will be telecast in more than 125 countries. This is an extraordinary showcase for the country, and a tremendous opportunity to celebrate excellence in sport.

Families and fans, turn up the volume for the skiers!

On Tuesday, March 1, families and fans from both sides of the river and throughout Quebec and Ontario are invited to come and cheer on the skiers at Jacques-Cartier Park, where 2000 little bells generously donated by Québecor will be handed out to the first people to arrive at the site. “We are lucky to have this opportunity to host the sprint, which is the most spectacular stage of the competition. This is a free activity, and given that it is happening during March break in Gatineau, we are hoping for a big show of very loud support for the athletes,” indicated Mayor Pedneaud-Jobin.

Organizing Committee President **Claude Laramée** outlined the complementary program lineup accompanying the competition. A family area will be set up and open as of Sunday to give everyone a chance to watch the athletes train and to have some fun with things like the giant inflatable structures, climbing walls and fat bikes. “On Sunday, February 28, we will give skiers of all levels a chance to try out the World Cup course. A unique experience. Bring your equipment!” he added.

An exhilarating event!

The kick-off will be at 11:15 a.m. on Tuesday, March 1, with the qualifying events. The main event will be at 1:45 p.m. with the fastest qualifying skiers racing head-to-head in heats of six to decide the winners of the day. A TVA Sport Fans Zone will be provided, where the race will be shown on a giant screen. The competition will be aired live on TVA Sports and live streamed on CBC Sports across Canada. This major competition will give Canada’s cross country ski team, which includes Alex Harvey, one of the best in the world and the event’s spokesperson, a chance to compete at home in front of their families, friends and fans.

For program details and the course outline for each stage of Ski Tour Canada, check skitourcanada.com

On March 1, the whole world will be watching Gatineau, a number one cross-country ski destination. Be seen and be heard!!

About FIS

FIS, founded in 1924, is the governing body for international skiing and snowboarding. Recognized by the International Olympic Committee, FIS manages the Olympic disciplines of Alpine Skiing, Cross Country Skiing, Ski Jumping, Nordic Combined, Freestyle Skiing, and Snowboarding, and sets the international competition rules. Through its 119 national federations, more than 7,000 FIS ski and snowboard competitions are staged annually. Specific initiatives are undertaken by FIS to promote winter sports, particularly for the young.

About Cross Country Ski de fond Canada

Cross Country Canada is the governing body of cross country skiing in Canada, which is the nation's optimal winter sport and recreational activity with more than one million Canadians participating annually. Its 58,000 members include athletes, coaches, officials, and skiers of all ages and abilities, including those on Canada's National Ski Teams and Para-Nordic Ski Teams. With the support of its valued corporate partners—Haywood Securities Inc., AltaGas, and Mackenzie—along with the Government of Canada, Canadian Olympic Committee, Canadian Paralympic Committee, Own the Podium, and B2dix, Cross Country Canada develops Olympic, Paralympic, and world champions.

About the National Organizing Committee (NOC)

The NOC has been established by Cross Country Canada (CCC) to assist in managing and coordinating Ski Tour Canada 2016. By facilitating communication between CCC and the Local Organizing Committees (LOCs) including ÉVÈNEMENTS NORDIQUES GATINEAU (Gatineau), QUÉBEC WINTER EVENTS CORPORATION (Montréal and Québec City), and the ALBERTA WORLD CUP SOCIETY (Canmore & Lake Louise), the NOC plans to deliver a seamless Tour in both eastern and western Canada.

About Évènements Nordiques Gatineau Nordic Events

The mission of Évènements Nordiques Gatineau Nordic Events (ENGNE) is to host, organize, and promote major events and competitions in the field of cross-country skiing and other related sports activities aimed at offering an enriching experience for all participants and fans, promoting the practice of amateur and competitive sport and a healthy lifestyle, as well as broadening the reputation of Gatineau and the National Capital Region as a sports and cultural destination of choice.

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A promotional video is available for download and distribution: <https://vimeo.com/144379990>

To get all the information about Ski Tour Canada : www.skitourcanada.com



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THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PARTNERS

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Government of Canada (Sport Canada, Economic Development Canada)
Government of Quebec (Tourisme Québec, Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement Supérieur)
Ville de Gatineau
Tourisme Outaouais
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Federations and organising committees

International Ski Federation
Cross Country Canada
Ski de fond Québec
Québec Winter Events Corporation

Alberta World Cup
Gestev
Gatineau Nordic Events

DATA SHEET

2015-2016 WORLD CUP CALENDAR

2015

November 27 to 29	Ruka, Finland
December 5 to 6	Lillehammer, Norway
December 12 to 13	Davos, Switzerland
December 19 to 20	Toblach, Italy

2016

January 1 to 10	Tour de Ski, Switzerland, Germany and Italy
January 16 to 17	Planica, Slovenia
January 23 to 24	Nové Mesto Na Morave, Czech Republic
February 3	Drammen, Norway
February 6 to 7	Oslo, Norway
February 11	Stockholm, Sweden
February 13 to 14	Falun, Sweden
February 20 to 21	Lahti, Finland
March 1 to 12	Ski Tour Canada

RANKING (as of February 11, 2016)

Top 10 Women

Rank	Name	Country	Points
1	JOHAUG, Therese	Norway	1644
2	OESTBERG, Ingvild Flugstad	Norway	1472
3	WENG, Heidi	Norway	1221
4	KALLA, Charlotte	Sweden	894
5	PARMAKOSKI, Krista	Finland	744
6	NISKANEN, Kerttu	Finland	741
7	NILSSON, Stina	Sweden	737
8	HAGA, Ragnhild	Norway	670
9	KYLLOENEN, Anne	Finland	596
10	INGEMARSDOTTER, Ida	Sweden	594

Top 10 men

Rank	Name	Country	Points
1	SUNDBY, Martin Johnsrud	Norway	1687
2	KROGH, Finn Haagen	Norway	967
3	NORTHUG, Petter Jr.	Norway	945
4	USTIUGOV, Sergey	Russia	730
5	DYRHAUG, Niklas	Norway	723
6	ROETHE, Sjur	Norway	650
7	TOENSETH, Didrik	Norway	623
8	MANIFICAT, Maurice	France	560
9	POLTORANIN, Alexey	Kazakhstan	531
10	DE FABIANI, Francesco	Italy	508
13	HARVEY, Alex	Canada	453

SKI TOUR CANADA 2016 IN NUMBERS

12 days	150 athletes
8 stages	200 coaches and technicians
4 races in Quebec	300 volunteers for the Gatineau stage
4 races in Alberta	50 accredited international media
4 days of rest	Event broadcast in 125 countries
5 days of skiing in the Outaouais, including the Gatineau Loppet	Close to \$1 million in prize money
23 countries represented	1 coveted trophy: the Crystal Globe!

COMPLETE SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 27

9 to 11 a.m. – Athlete training (non-official)

1 to 9 p.m. – Chelsea Super Sprint Jeunesse

Sunday, February 28

8 to 10 a.m. – Athlete training (non-official)

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Family day*

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – World cup course open to one and all – Come and test your skills!

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Free introduction to cross-country skiing for youth aged 5 to 13, presented by Rossignol

(Registration from 9:30 a.m. to 3 pm) 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Open house and family area at Jacques-Cartier Park*

7 p.m. – Opening ceremony at the Canadian Museum of History

Monday, February 29

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Family area open*

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Official training

Tuesday, March 1

10 a.m. – Site open for spectators

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Family area open*

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – TVA Sports Fan Zone

11:15 a.m. – Sprint Qualifiers

1:45 p.m. – Men's and Women's Finals (Men's Finals sponsored by Quebecor)

3 p.m. – Flower Ceremony

*Family area and activities for everyone, including:

- Tethered hot air balloon rides (weather permitting)
- Subway inflatable structures, obstacle course and climbing walls
- Exhibits and food concessions
- Fat Bike demonstration and initiation
- And much more...

Schedule subject to change