



MEDIA ADVISORY

GOLD MEDAL PLATES FIRES UP COMPETITION IN THE QUEST TO FIND VANCOUVERS BEST CHEF

November 6, 2009

Ten of Vancouver's most celebrated chefs will battle it out to see who will be named the city's best chef during the Gold Medal Plates competition held on Friday, October 23, 2009. With only 112 days to the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games, guests are encouraged to show their Olympic spirit and wear something red and be ready to *Paint the Town Red* – the adopted theme for this year's events across the country!

A celebration of Canadian excellence, Gold Medal Plates brings together the finest chefs, wines and athletes. Olympic and Paralympic athletes assist each competing chef, together creating and serving their signature dish to the 600+ guests attending the event. A panel of culinary judges selects the gold, silver and bronze winners; the gold medal winning chef from Vancouver will go on to compete at the Canadian Culinary Championships held November 27 – 28, 2009 in the host city of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, Vancouver, BC.

Competing chefs are:

Angus An, Maenam	Andrea Carlson, Bishop's
Rob Feenie, Cactus Club	Don Letendre, Elixir
Dale MacKay, Lumiere	Tobias McDonald, La Belle Auberge
Pino Posteraro, Cioppino's	Dino Renaerts, Diva at the Met
Vikram Vij, Vij's	James Walt, Araxi

Olympic and Paralympic athletes in attendance include:

Alexa Loo (Snowboard), Aleisha Cline (Ski Cross), Trevor Linden (Hockey), Tom Velisek (Snowboard), Ben Rutledge (Rowing), Adam Kreek (Rowing), Steve Podborski (Alpine Skiing), Robert Esmie (Athletics), Nancy Greene Rain (Alpine Skiing), Simon Whitfield (Triathlon), Karen Magnussen (Figure Skating), Kathleen Heddle Bryden (Rowing) Catherine Priestner-Allinger (Speed Skating), Aeron Lowe and Meghan Wing (Figure Skating) & others

Date: Friday, October 23 – the 2nd of seven events across the country!

Location: Westin Bayshore, 1601 Bayshore Drive

Timing:	5:15 - 6:00 p.m.	VIP Reception – Interviews with chefs and athletes
	6:00 - 7:45 p.m.	Culinary competition
	8:00 - 10:00 p.m.	Speeches, entertainment featuring Jim Cuddy and Steven Page
	9:20 p.m.	Vancouver's gold, silver and bronze medal culinary winners announced

Gold Medal Plates' regional competitions began in October with Edmonton kicking off the cross-country events. Now it is Vancouver's chance to shine and support the athletes in their quest to Own the Podium! Other cities to follow include Montreal, Ottawa, Calgary, St. John's and Toronto. Since its inception, Gold Medal Plates has donated more than \$2.8 million to support Canadian Olympic and Paralympic athletes and has elevated the profile of Canadian cuisine and wine. Outstanding team performance extends to the corporate partnerships of GE and EPCOR and title sponsors of Gold Medal Plates, companies that recognize the value of investing in Canadian excellence and achievement. For more information: www.goldmedalplates.com

The Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) is a national, private, not-for-profit organization committed to sport excellence. It is responsible for all aspects of Canada's involvement in the Olympic Movement, including Canada's participation in the Olympic and Pan American Games and a wide variety of programs that promote the Olympic Movement in Canada through cultural and educational means. For news and information, visit the COC website at www.olympic.ca and find the team on both Facebook (Canadian Olympic Team) and Twitter (CDNOlympicTeam).