



MEDIA ADVISORY

GOLD MEDAL PLATES FIRES UP COMPETITION IN THE QUEST TO FIND CALGARY'S BEST CHEF

November 16, 2009

Nine of Calgary'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 Thursday, October 29, 2009. With only 106 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 700+ guests attending the event. A panel of culinary judges selects the gold, silver and bronze winners; the gold medal winning chef from Calgary 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:

Derek Dale, Calgary Stampede
Shaun Desaulniers, Wild Ginger & Belgo Brasserie
Chris Grafton, Murrieta's
Duncan Ly, Hotel Arts Raw Bar
Scott Pohorelic, River Cafe

Michael Dekker, Rouge
Cam Dobranski, Muse/Wine Bar Kensington
Jan Hrabec, Crazyweed (Canmore)
Grant Parry, The Bison Restaurant and Lounge (Banff)

Olympic and Paralympic athletes in attendance include:

Chandra Crawford (Cross-Country Skiing), Beckie Scott (Cross-Country Skiing), Carol Huynh (Wrestling), Kyle Shewfelt (Gymnastics), Cassie Campbell (Hockey), Heather Moyse (Bobsleigh), Catriona Le May Doan (Speed Skating), Kendra Ohama (Wheelchair Basketball), Denny Morrison (Speed Skating), Danielle Goyette (Hockey), Shannon Kleibrink (Curling)

Date: Thursday, October 29 – fifth of seven events!

Location: Hall E - The "new" Round Up Centre – Stampede Park

Timing: 5:15 - 6:00 p.m. VIP Reception – **Interviews with chefs and athletes** – Palomino Room
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. **Culinary competition** – Hall E
7:45 – 10:00 p.m. Speeches, entertainment featuring Matt Dusk
9:30 p.m. **Calgary's gold, silver & bronze medal culinary winners announced** – Hall E

Gold Medal Plates' regional competitions began in October with Edmonton kicking off the cross-country events. Now it is Calgary's chance to shine and support the athletes in their quest to Own the Podium! Other events have already occurred in Edmonton, Vancouver, Ottawa, and Montreal and will follow in 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).