



MEDIA ADVISORY

GOLD MEDAL PLATES FIRES UP COMPETITION IN THE QUEST TO FIND ST. JOHN'S BEST CHEF

December 2, 2009

Eight of St. John'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, November 12, 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 the chefs, together creating and serving their signature dish to the 400+ guests attending the event. A panel of culinary judges selects the gold, silver and bronze winners; the gold medal winning chef from St. John's 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:

Brian Abbott, 7...a restaurant	Tak Ishiwata, Basho
Mike Barsky, Bacalao	Ivan Kvutukchiev, Bianca's
Gregory Bersinski, Bistro Sofia	Roary MacPherson, The Cabot Club, Sheraton Hotel –Nfld.
Jeremy Charles, Atlantica	Mark McCrowe, Aqua

Featured Olympic athletes in attendance are:

Adam van Koeverden – Canoe/Kayak, Olympic Gold, Silver and Bronze Medallist
Marnie McBean – Rowing, Three-time Olympic Gold and Bronze Medallist

Date: Thursday, November 12th – the 6th of seven events across the country!

Location: 120 New Gower Street

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
9:20 p.m.	St. John's gold, silver and bronze medal culinary winners announced

Gold Medal Plates' regional competitions began October 21st with Edmonton kicking off the cross-country project. Events are also taking place in Vancouver, Montreal, Ottawa and Calgary. The finale will be held in Toronto on Nov. 19th. Now it is St. John's chance to shine and support the athletes in their quest to Own the Podium! 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).