

## **\$1 Million in funding announced for the 2013 ICF Junior and U23 Canoe Sprint World Championships**

CanoeKayak Canada and the Welland Recreational Canal Corporation are pleased to announce \$1 million in funding from Sport Canada for the 2013 ICF Junior and U23 Canoe Sprint World Championships.

“On behalf of the Government of Canada, I am pleased to announce funding to Canoe Kayak Canada for this exciting competition,” said the Honourable Bal Gosal, Minister of State (Sport). “Hosting the 2013 ICF Junior and U23 Canoe Sprint World Championships will not only provide our athletes with a chance to compete on home soil, but will also bring significant economic benefits to the community, to the region, and to our country. We look forward to cheering on our athletes as they compete against the world's best.”

This money will go a long way in staging the 2013 Jr & U23 World Championships at the Welland International Flatwater Course (WIFC) in Welland, ON, Canada. Aptly branded, Canoe Niagara 2013 because the World Championships will have a regional impact, the event is expected to draw an impressive 1,200 athletes, coaches and international delegates from as many as fifty countries.

The financial support is a critical piece of the operational funding. The support from Sport Canada and the show of confidence in the business case and operational plan from CanoeKayak Canada and the WIFC is a significant catalyst to ramping up hosting activities for the Worlds. The championships will be held next year from August 1 to 4, 2013.

“We’re very pleased to receive the news and excited to move forward on hosting plans with the knowledge of Sport Canada's generous support. We're excited to be hosting some of the fastest paddlers in the World at our beautiful venue, City and Region” says Stephen Fischer, Executive Director of the Welland Recreational Canal Corporation.

Welland recently hosted the 2011 Canadian Sprint CanoeKayak Championships which generated an estimated \$2 million in economic spinoffs according to the Niagara Sport Commission and has received national recognition as a nominee for Event of the Year through the Canadian Sport Tourism Alliance. Welland is also the flatwater venue for the Toronto 2015 Pan American Games and the 2015 World Dragon Boat Racing Championships. The support of Sport Canada emphasizes the federal government's continued support for sport tourism and hosting as an economic driver.

“We are proud to have such a strong partner in the Welland Recreational Canal Corporation, and we look forward to hosting another successful international event in Canada,” says Lorraine Lafrenière, Director General, CanoeKayak Canada.

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