

MEDIA RELEASE

**Gymnastics Canada's largest participant-based event awarded to Calgary**

Calgary, December 4, 2012 – Gymnastics Canada has awarded its largest participant-based event to Calgary. The 2014 Canadian Gymnaestrada event will be held June 25 to July 1 at the University of Calgary and University Gymnastics Centre. Gymnaestrada is a form of gymnastics that combines dance with gymnastics skills and acrobatics.

"The Canadian Gymnaestrada is a prestigious national event hosted every four years," said Jean-Paul Caron, president & CEO, Gymnastics Canada. "A true national celebration of our sport for all our members, and we are extremely pleased to partner with the Alberta Gymnastics Federation and the city of Calgary for the hosting of the 2014 edition of the Canadian Gymnaestrada."

While the World Gymnaestrada does not require merit-based qualification of participants, attendance at the Canadian Gymnaestrada is mandatory for athletes intending to compete in Helsinki, Finland in 2015, guaranteeing a high calibre of performances at the event. "The Canadian Gymnaestrada is the premier recreational event of any gymnastics season and is always thoroughly enjoyed by everyone in attendance," stated Scott Hayes, event champion and president & CEO of the Alberta Gymnastics Federation. "Hosting the event in Calgary will be tremendous for our local athletes, and audiences will be treated to the remarkable talent and regional cultures of all the attending provinces and territories."

Canadian Gymnaestrada is the largest room night producing event in Gymnastics Canada's event portfolio and was last hosted in Winnipeg in 2010. "Tourism Calgary is proud to have supported the Alberta Gymnastics Federation in this successful competitive bid process," said Randy Williams, Tourism Calgary president & CEO. "We're excited to host this event and welcome 850 participants supporting 1,350 hotel room nights and the accompanying economic benefit for Calgary businesses."

Calgary has a long and proud gymnastics history hosting a variety of high profile events in the last four years. "The 2014 Canadian Gymnaestrada will be the highlight of the year for male and female gymnasts of all ages and one unforgettable experience for everyone in attendance," concluded Hayes.

To learn more about The Canadian Gymnaestrada in Calgary, Alberta, June 25 to July 1 2014:

web: <http://www.gymcan.org>

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For more information about Tourism Calgary:

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