



## Media Release

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **New World Curling Tour Event Coming to Alberta**

**Unique format allows club curlers to play against curling's elite**

**Banff/Canmore, AB.** A new and exciting World Curling Tour event is coming to Alberta that will see elite and club curlers alike compete for \$10,000 CDN first place prize and \$5,000 for second place. The Qualico Mixed Doubles Classic will be hosted by the Banff and Canmore curling clubs on January 3 – 6, 2019.

"This is going to be one of the marquee events of the World Mixed Doubles Curling Tour," says John Morris, two-time Olympic gold medalist in curling. "It's an exciting new sport that's been picked up by players around the world because it's fast paced and athletic."

Mixed doubles curling has a two-on-two player format that takes half the time to play than a traditional four-member curling game. Each team throws five rocks instead of eight—one person delivers the rock and the other one sweeps it. The game made its Olympic debut at the 2018 PyeongChang Games where Morris, and his doubles partner Kaitlyn Lawes brought home Canada's first Olympic gold in mixed doubles curling.

"Television ratings at the Olympics for mixed doubles curling were higher than for traditional curling," says Morris. "The games were exciting to watch, and fans really took to it." So has Morris. After winning the Olympics, he has directed his energies towards bringing the Qualico Mixed Doubles Classic to the Bow Valley.

Top curlers from Canada and around the globe have already registered. These include all Olympic Mixed Doubles Curling medalists from 2018 PyeongChang games: Canada's Kaitlyn Lawes & John Morris (Gold); Switzerland's Jenny Perret & Martin Rios (Silver); Norway's Kristin Skaslien & Magnus Nedregotten (Bronze). At last count, two teams from the USA and three teams from the UK are also entered, along with household names in the curling world, including Jennifer Jones & Brett Laing, Jocelyn Peterman & Brett Gallant, Chelsea Carey & Colin Hodgson, Laura & Jeff Walker and Rachel Homan & Marc Kennedy.

(more)

But it doesn't stop there. The Qualico Mixed Doubles Classic is open to all curlers, both club and elite. It's a chance for club curlers to live their dreams and play against the top-level curlers they've watched on TV. Cochrane residents, Scott and Becky Moncur, are two curlers up for the challenge.

"We're really excited with all the professionals coming into town and this being a World Curling Tour event," says Scott Moncur. "We know that if we challenge ourselves against top players like that, we're just going to get better."

The Bow Valley is no stranger to hosting world class competitions. What is unique about this event is that Banff and Canmore clubs are teaming together to co-host. Games will be played at both curling venues in Banff and Canmore.

We're excited to be hosting a world class curling event in the world class destination of Banff and Canmore," says Steven Young, President of the Rocky Mountain Curling Association. "We have received a great response from the competitive curling community and are encouraging all teams to stay before and after the event to enjoy all the great things the Bow Valley has to offer. Whether it's our world class restaurants, skiing, shopping or wildlife."

The Qualico Mixed Doubles Classic is sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Curling Association – a newly created association with the goal of promoting the sport of curling in the Bow Valley. Proceeds from the event will go to support the development of junior, senior, wheelchair curling.

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## Social Media

Event updates and information is available on:

Twitter: @mountaincurling

Instagram: @mountaincurling

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/mountaincurling.ca](http://www.facebook.com/mountaincurling.ca)

Website: [mountaincurling.ca](http://mountaincurling.ca)

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