



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Okotoks to Host the 2020 Alberta Scotties Tournament of Hearts January 22 – 26

Alberta's top women's curling teams will be heading to the Town of Okotoks in January to compete at the 2020 Alberta Scotties Tournament of Hearts, it was announced by Curling Alberta today. This flagship event is the women's provincial championship, and the winning team will go on as Alberta's representative at the Canadian Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Moose Jaw, Sask. February 14-23, 2020.

"Okotoks knows how to host an extraordinary curling event," said Jill Richard, Executive Director of Curling Alberta. "Most recently, they hosted the Grand Slam of Curling Masters in 2016, and just last season they hosted the 2019 Junior Provincial Championships. People were blown away with what a great job they did in making the event feel special, and I have no doubt that they'll produce a first-class women's championship in 2020."

"We have a tremendously excited and engaged community here in Okotoks," said Mike Libbus, who will serve as Host Committee Co-Chair. "We're working hard to give the athletes and fans alike a truly awesome experience. And even though the competition is at the heart of it, we have some creative plans in the works to encourage a wide variety of people to participate in this celebration."

The Murray Arena will be transformed into a four-sheet, world-class curling facility for the event. Teams will earn their way into the 2020 championship by competing at qualifying events sanctioned by Curling Alberta earlier in the season, or by invitation based on the Canadian Team Ranking System (CTRS) or based on results at other Alberta-based events.

"As a former competitor, I have a special appreciation for the difference a well-organized and well-attended event can make to an athlete's experience and performance," said Atina Ford-Johnston, who will also act as Host Committee Co-Chair. Ford-Johnston was a gold medalist at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games as the alternate for the legendary Sandra Schmirler team. "It's a privilege to host this event, and we're setting out to make sure we leave a positive, lasting impression with the athletes, as well as their fans and families who will be here to cheer them on."

Sportsnet will provide broadcast coverage of the semi-finals and final on Sunday, January 26th, 2020. Tickets will go on sale in September.

Please visit the Curling Alberta website for the complete list of provincial championship locations and dates (albertacurling.ab.ca).

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