



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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**Sport Leader Bill France to Retire from WinSport Canada  
—WinSport Canada launches national search for new vice-president of sport—**

**CALGARY**—WinSport Canada has launched a national search for a new vice-president of sport to replace Bill France, who has decided to retire from his position with the national sport body effective September 30, 2011, WinSport Canada announced on Thursday.

France served in a variety of leadership positions within the Canadian sport system over the last three decades, most notably as the vice-president of sport for the organizing committee of the 1988 Olympic Winter Games in Calgary, and with WinSport Canada (formerly Calgary Olympic Development Association) over the last 10 years where he developed from a manager of sport services into the vice-president. France is also chair of the Board of Directors for the Whistler Legacies Society, a position he will maintain in his retirement.

“Bill played a critical role in developing and fostering WinSport Canada’s vision for creating the nation’s first sport institute,” said Dan O’Neill, president, WinSport Canada, who added that France was instrumental in the successful opening of the Athletic and Ice Complex at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary, which will be the new home to Hockey Canada and the core new facility added within its bold expansion plan.

“With his passion for delivering the resources and facilities athletes require to achieve excellence from the grassroots to elite level, Bill has created a lot of momentum for sport in Alberta and leaves big shoes to fill. He will be missed, but his career has left an indelible mark on sport in Canada.”

France will maintain his post until the end of September, however WinSport Canada will immediately launch a nation-wide search for his replacement to ensure a smooth transition.

WinSport Canada is committed to ensuring the road to the 2014 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, and beyond, continues to go through southern Alberta. Over the last decade, the legacy organization of the 1988 Olympic Winter Games has been working diligently to build new, and upgrade existing, facilities that will encourage more Canadians to get involved in sport, and ultimately, propel more Canadian athletes onto the international podium.

As part of the organization’s ongoing commitment to play a critical role in the next Olympic and Paralympic cycle, WinSport has promoted Lynda Crawley to director of sport, ensuring continuity in the organization’s existing relationships with key sport partners and athletes.

“WinSport Canada is exceptionally well positioned to deliver the facilities athletes in Calgary, Alberta, and Canada require to be the best in the world,” said O’Neill. “The organization has a strong plan, a clear vision, a dynamic Board of Directors, and great people who are passionate about sport, and are fully committed to ensuring Canada continues its rise as a world-leading winter sport nation.”

**About WinSport Canada**

The Canadian Winter Sport Institute provides world-class sport facilities where Canadian athletes can discover, develop and excel. WinSport Canada owns and operates Canada Olympic Park, the Bill Warren Training Centre in Canmore, the Beckie Scott High Performance Training Centre on Haig

Glacier, Camp Green on Farnham Glacier and funds two-thirds of the operating costs of the Olympic Oval in Calgary. A not-for-profit organization, WinSport Canada supports national sport organizations, encourages educational opportunities and subsidizes the operation of unique training and recreational facilities used by the nation's top athletes and the general public. For more information on WinSport Canada, please visit [www.WinSportCanada.ca](http://www.WinSportCanada.ca).

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

*Brendon Arnold*

*Media Relations Manager*

*WinSport Canada*

*T: 403-247-5601*

*E-mail: [Brendon.arnold@winsportcanada.ca](mailto:Brendon.arnold@winsportcanada.ca)*