



PRESS RELEASE
 For immediate release

COOP FIS Cross-Country World Cup Finals
Alex Harvey skis one last lap to remember on home snow in Quebec City

Quebec City, Sunday, March 24, 2019 – The world’s elite cross-country skiers put on a spectacular show for spectators on the Plains of Abraham this weekend at the COOP FIS Cross-Country World Cup Finals. This year’s event built on the success of the 2017 World Cup Finals here, after an International Ski Federation (FIS) survey of national ski teams voted Quebec City the best stop on the world tour, highlighting what a top-notch destination it is for the sport of cross-country skiing. Event organizer Gestev would like to thank all event partners and everyone who worked directly or indirectly to deliver such a first-rate competition this weekend in line with stringent FIS standards.

Alex Harvey skis one last lap to remember on home snow in Quebec City

Just weeks after announcing his retirement from competitive sport, Alex Harvey chose to ski his last race right here in Quebec City this weekend with his family and countless fans cheering him on. On Saturday, spirits ran high as the local favourite climbed onto the podium to take the silver medal in the 15 km mass start.

After taking silver again in Sunday’s 15 km pursuit, Alex delivered a special tribute to the crowd once the medal ceremonies were over, thanking everyone for their support throughout his career and explaining they were the ones who gave him the strength to keep on skiing. In closing, he stressed how important it is for young people to stay active, highlighting how practising a sport is the best gift they can give themselves. Alex could barely contain his emotions as a wave of love for the hometown hero surged forth from the crowd. Stepping up to the podium not once, but twice, was a dream come true for him and thousands of cheering fans.

It was a memorable weekend for all, with more than 175 athletes competing for a total of 15 nations. Because Quebec City was the final event on the 2018/19 World Cup circuit, crystal globes were awarded not only for the overall season standings, but also to the top skiers in each discipline. In the distance category, Alexander **BOLSHUNOV (Russia)** and Therese **JOHAUG (Norway)** each took home one of the coveted trophies, while Johannes Hoesflot **KLAEBO (Norway)** and Stina **NILSSON (Sweden)** took the top honours in the sprint.

Results at a glance

Freestyle Sprint – Women (Friday, March 22)

Race presented by Le Gruyère AOP

- 1 – Stina **NILSSON (Sweden)**
- 2 – Maja **DAHLQVIST (Sweden)**
- 3 – Jonna **SUNDLING (Sweden)**

Freestyle Sprint – Men (Friday, March 22)

Race presented by Le Gruyère AOP

- 1 – Johannes Hoesflot **KLAEBO (Norway)**
- 2 – Frederico **PELLEGRINO (Italy)**
- 3– Sindre Bjoernestad **SKAR (Norway)**

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10 km Mass Start – Women (Saturday, March 23)

Race presented by Le Gruyère AOP

- 1 – Stina NILSSON (Sweden)**
- 2 – Therese JOHAUG (Norway)**
- 3 – Ingvild Flugstad OESTBERG (Norway)**

10 km Pursuit – Women (Sunday, March 24)

Race presented by Le Gruyère AOP

- 1 – Stina NILSSON (Sweden)**
- 2 – Therese JOHAUG (Norway)**
- 3 – Ingvild Flugstad OESTBERG (Norway)**

Overall season rankings – Women

- 1 – Ingvild Flugstad OESTBERG (Norway)**
- 2 – Natalia NEPRYAEVA (Russia)**
- 3 – Therese JOHAUG (Norway)**

15 km Mass Start – Men (Saturday, March 23)

Race presented by Le Gruyère AOP in collaboration with Cascades

- 1 – Johannes Hoesflot KLAEBO (Norway)**
- 2 – Alex HARVEY (Canada)**
- 3 – Didrik TOENSETH (Norway)**

15 km Pursuit – Men (Sunday, March 24)

Race presented by Québecor

- 1 – Johannes Hoesflot KLAEBO (Norway)**
- 2 – Alex HARVEY (Canada)**
- 3 – Alexander BOLSHUNOV (Russia)**

Overall season rankings – Men

- 1 – Johannes Hoesflot KLAEBO (Norway)**
- 2 – Alexander BOLSHUNOV (Russia)**
- 3 – Sjur ROETHE (Norway)**

On Saturday, March 23, the top junior skiers from across North America and Europe got the chance to compete against each other on the very same course skied by the World Cup athletes in the inaugural FIS Junior Invitational Rising Stars Race, a 10 km classic mass start race presented by Québecor, Cascades and Cross Country Canada. During the medal ceremony, Québecor presented a cheque for \$7,500 to the Quebec City Cross-Country Ski Corporation, representing the Skibec and Mont-Sainte-Anne Nordic Ski clubs.

Thousands of visitors flocked to the Plains of Abraham all weekend to cheer on the athletes, check out the goodies on show from exhibitors and explore the various onsite fringe activities. There were plenty of takers for the free INISKI sessions in collaboration with Fischer— a fun way for anyone to try cross-country skiing with family and friends. This world-class event would not have been possible without the invaluable help of our 500-strong team of volunteers. Mark your calendars for March 2020, when Quebec City plays host to the FIS World Cup again.

Experience the event in photos and see the full results table at worldcupccquebec.com

About FIS

FIS, founded in 1924, is the governing body for international skiing and snowboarding. Recognized by the International Olympic Committee, FIS manages the Olympic disciplines of Alpine Skiing, Cross Country Skiing, Ski Jumping, Nordic Combined, Freestyle Skiing, and Snowboarding, and sets the international competition rules. Through its 119 national federations, more than 7,000 FIS ski and snowboard competitions are staged annually. Specific initiatives are undertaken by FIS to promote winter sports, particularly for young people.

About Cross Country Ski De Fond Canada

Cross Country Ski De Fond Canada is the governing body of cross-country skiing in Canada—the nation’s optimal winter sport and recreational activity with more than one million Canadians participating annually. Its 58,000 members include athletes, coaches, officials and skiers of all ages and abilities, including those on Canada’s National Ski Teams and Para-Nordic Ski Teams. With the support of its valued corporate partners—Haywood Securities Inc., AltaGas, and Mackenzie—along with the Government of Canada, Canadian Olympic Committee, Canadian Paralympic Committee, Own the Podium and B2dix, Cross Country Canada develops Olympic, Paralympic, and world champions.

About Quebec Winter Events Corporation

The mission of Quebec Winter Events Corporation (QWEC) is to promote winter sports on home soil through international events such as the Sprint Quebec FIS Cross-Country World Cup and the Jamboree FIS Freestyle Ski and Snowboard World Cups. In addition to attracting the world’s top winter sport athletes, QWEC works hard to support the development of amateur sport through each of its events.

About Gestev

Founded in 1992, Gestev is a dynamic event management company specializing in happenings that make their mark locally as well as on the world stage. Over the years, Gestev has raised event management and production standards by adding a party twist to high-calibre sporting events, including music shows and live entertainment, while making competitions accessible to all. Jamboree, Red Bull Crashed Ice, Vélirium, Ski Tour Canada and Transat Québec Saint-Malo are just a few of the major events organized by Gestev, which also manages the Baie de Beauport recreational site. Gestev is certified under the BNQ 9700-253 standard for responsible event management.

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