



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MAY 3, 2013**

## **Team Garmin-Sharp and Canadian Star Ryder Hesjedal Announced for the 2013 Tour of Alberta**

*Edmonton* ... Garmin-Sharp, the team of Canadian superstar cyclist and winner of the 2012 Giro D'Italia Ryder Hesjedal is the first professional team confirmed to participate in Canada's first international professional cycling stage race, the Tour of Alberta, scheduled to be held September 3 to 8, 2013.

"While we will be announcing a complete list of the teams in early June, we are pleased to confirm Hesjedal's team, Garmin-Sharp, one of the top teams on the world pro-tour, will be competing in the first Tour of Alberta this September," said Duane Vienneau, Executive Director of the Tour of Alberta. "The final team rosters will not be announced till late August."

The Garmin-Sharp team confirmed Hesjedal plans to compete in his native country's biggest stage race.

The Garmin-Sharp team begins the Tour of Italy – or Giro D'Italia – on Saturday, May 4 in Naples, Italy, where they will defend Hesjedal's historic title in 2012. Hesjedal made history when he became the first Canadian to win the event, considered the world's second biggest professional cycling race next to the Tour de France.

The Garmin-Sharp team is currently ranked fifth in the UCI World Tour rankings, and boasts stars including: Hesjedal; Ireland's Daniel Martin, the winner of this year's prestigious Liege-Bastogne-Liege Belgian classic and Spain's Tour of Catalunya; Americans Tom Danielson, who recently finished fourth overall in Switzerland's 2013 Tour of Romandie; and Andrew Talansky, who finished second overall in the Paris-Nice race in March 2013.

In recent years, the Denver-based team has finished on the podium or won in every major event in the United States, including Christian Vande Velde's overall title at the 2013 USA Pro Challenge and Danielson's third place overall at the Amgen Tour of California last year.

More information on the Tour of Alberta can be found at [www.tourofalberta.ca](http://www.tourofalberta.ca). Follow the Tour of Alberta on Twitter @TourofAlberta or on Facebook at TourofAlberta.

**About the Tour of Alberta** *The Tour of Alberta: Canada's Pro-Cycling Festival is a six-day stage race scheduled to be held September 3 to 8, 2013. The Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), cycling's governing body, awarded the inaugural Tour of Alberta with a 2.1 sanctioning in September 2012, making it one of the highest level pro cycling event in Canada, and one of the highest level events in North America. An annual event beginning in 2013, the Tour of Alberta will feature up to 15 professional, international cycling teams, comprised of eight riders per team. The events will be broadcast live daily in Canada on Sportsnet, and broadcast internationally on various networks, as it is expected that the event will host riders from over 20 countries around the world.*

**For more information, please contact:**

Val Mellesmoen  
Alberta Peloton Association  
+1 780 982 7277  
[valm@albertapeloton.ca](mailto:valm@albertapeloton.ca)

Priscilla Visintine  
KOM Sports Marketing  
+ 1 314.422.5646  
[pvisintine@kom-sports.com](mailto:pvisintine@kom-sports.com)

Marya Pongrace  
Garmin-Sharp  
+1 347.698.3412  
[marya.pongrace@slipstreamsports.com](mailto:marya.pongrace@slipstreamsports.com)