



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2019

WinSport launches world-leading, year-round training facilities for big air, slopestyle and halfpipe athletes

CALGARY, Alta. – WinSport is launching one of the world’s most comprehensive training centres for freestyle skiers and snowboarders, the Progression Park. The year-round facility will open this summer for a wide range of big air, slopestyle and halfpipe athletes — from local beginners to elite competitors.

Summer components of the park include a dry slope skiable terrain learning area, progression air bag, super trampoline and rail park. This spring WinSport will introduce an on-snow halfpipe airbag — one of only four of its kind in the world — which will be placed next to WinSport’s world-renowned halfpipe. The Progression Park is the only Canadian facility to offer all these components together, creating one location where thousands of athletes can train in these fast-growing winter snow sports.

“It will encourage learning and skill development for athletes of all ages and abilities and be a tremendous community asset in creating interest in skiing and snowboarding,” says Bernie Asbell, Vice President, Sport Operations for WinSport. “The dry slope will help kids learn and embrace the sports while allowing them to progress their skills.”

It will also be a tremendous boost to elite athletes. “These facilities provide the opportunity to build a pipeline of big air, slopestyle and halfpipe athletes who can score in 2022, 2026, 2030 and beyond.” says JD Miller, President and co-founder of B2ten. “Athletes will now have the opportunity to train year-round in Canada, and for some, right at home.”

The Progression Park was made possible with lead funding from B2ten along with substantial financial contributions from Parks Foundation Calgary, Calgary Foundation, Neil Daffern Award for Excellence Fund, Canada Snowboard and Freestyle Canada. The annual operation of the Progression Park will be financially sustainable.

These facilities will be used by thousands of athletes, including Freestyle Canada and Snowboard Canada, and will attract other freestyle participants from around the world. The Progression Park will also attract local athletes to WinSport’s Discover, Develop and Excel continuum, a program delivery model that offers a pathway of progression from beginner (Discover) through to becoming Canada’s next generation athletes (Develop).

A dry slope mimics the attributes of snow so you can ski or snowboard during the summer. A progression airbag is angled downward and provides a realistic, yet safer, landing than traditional flat airbags. Having all these components on a single site allows athletes to focus on training and spend less time and money having to travel.

“It will be an unprecedented development facility in Canada and will exceed any facility in the world for complete ski and snowboard slopestyle training, rails and jumps,” says Chip Milner, a veteran professional freestyle coach. “With the combination of a dry slope summer rail park

and an XL progression airbag in the same facility, we would not need to travel outside of Calgary for our slopestyle competitive airbag training needs.”

“WinSport’s Progression Park is exactly what we need to continue being a leading nation on the world stage for years to come,” says Toben Sutherland, head coach, Canadian slopestyle & Big Air Ski Team.

– 30 –

About WinSport

The Calgary Olympic Development Association, which operates as WinSport, is a not-for-profit community-based organization that owns and operates Canada Olympic Park. Our vision is to be a world-leading centre for athletic development. We inspire human potential through the spirit of sport by introducing people to winter and mountain sports, helping them develop their skills and thereby igniting a passion for sport and lifelong learning. WinSport does not receive any direct government funding for our operations and we support our purpose by building on the legacy of the 1988 Winter Olympic Games and by delivering exceptional value and experiences to our guests. For more information on WinSport please visit www.winsport.ca.

For more information, please contact:

Leighton Klassen
Communications Specialist
WinSport
T: 403-202-6599
E-mail: lklassen@winsport.ca