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November 01st, 2009

Ringette Alberta is proud to officially announce the coaching staff for the 2011 Canada Winter Games (CWG) program. Chris Belan and Bob Kerr, both from Calgary, have been named the Head Coach and Manager, respectively. From Edmonton, we have Lorrie Horne and Barb Bautista: two highly qualified and respected individuals who will undoubtedly add a great depth of experience and knowledge to the team staff.

The CWG occurs on a four year cycle with the following games being held in Halifax, Nova Scotia from February 11<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The CWG is a multi-sport and coed event with over 20 different sports competing. The country's best and brightest amateur athletes will compete, attracting thousands of visitors, VIPs, officials and media. The 2011 Games will be the largest sporting event in Halifax's history and the city's first CWG. For ringette, the CWG is a developmental program for our top U20 athletes and a pre-cursor for many future athletes on the Senior Women's National Team.

The Canada Games Council has been working towards a new philosophy of having the highest possible level of athletes compete at the Games. As a result, they have suggested that Ringette Canada remove any exclusion of athletes (previously any athletes having been on the national team or an athlete who had competed at a World Championship was not eligible for the CWG). Ringette Canada is gladly complying with this suggestion. Therefore, in the next Canada Winter Games (2011) all athletes will be eligible to compete regardless if they were previously a member of a national team (including U19). Further, for the 2011 games, two major changes will be taking place: the age limit has changed from U19 to U20 and there will be a limit of 16 (previously 17) athletes on the roster for each province.

The CWG represents an opportunity to build upon Alberta's strong high performance athletes. The athletes selected will benefit from a myriad of developmental opportunities including on-ice skill development, off-ice conditioning and access to additional auxiliary services such as professional nutritionists, sport psychologists, physiotherapists and massage therapists.

In closing, Ringette Alberta is very pleased to announce Team Alberta's 2011 CWG coaching staff. We are confident this is a highly qualified, diverse, and experienced group of individuals who will undoubtedly lead Team Alberta to strive to reach all of their goals during their journey leading up to and including the games. We trust the program will have many successes and will represent Alberta with the upmost level of integrity and respect.

Sincerely,

Nicole Lark  
Technical Director, Ringette Alberta

**Chris Belan, 2011 CWG Head Coach**



Chris has been coaching Ringette for 19 years with 14 years at the AA level. He has had the privilege to coach four times at the Canadian Ringette Championships. In the summer of 2009, Chris gained his first international experience in Prague, Czech Republic working with the U 19 West Team as the Head Coach. Chris has also been involved with Ringette as a Board member for Ringette Alberta and Ringette Calgary, a NCCP Master Learning Facilitator, an on-ice official and as an avid parent with two daughters involved in the sport.

“I am excited about the opportunity to lead Team Alberta into the 2011 Canada Winter Games. I look forward to the next 28 month process not only in terms of team selection and CWG competition but also in terms of being part of the positive impact the RAB Cup program has on player development and the sport overall in Alberta. This province has skilled and committed players, knowledgeable and dedicated coaches and numerous strong grass roots associations. These are the cornerstones to the continued success Alberta has enjoyed on the national stage. I look forward to the process and will work diligently setting my sites on bringing gold back to Alberta.”

**Lorrie Horne, 2011 CWG Assistant Coach**



Alberta’s Lorrie Horne has played and coached the game for 25 years including 2 years in the Finnish National League. Horne was Head Coach for Team Canada in 2002 and 2004. In 2002 she led Canada to a gold medal for the first time since 1996 and at the 2004 World Championships led Canada to a silver medal finish. At the 2000 World Championships, Horne was the Coach for the U.S.A National Ringette Team that won Bronze. In the 1999-2000 ringette season, she head coached the Kerava Shakers in Finland’s National League where she took her team from 12th to a 6th place playoff spot, something that the Shakers had never done. Horne also assisted with the 1999 Canada Winter Games Team and continues to work with local clubs mentoring coaches and assisting in athlete development. Her work ethic and dedication to the sport of ringette are second to none. She has made an outstanding contribution to the development of athletes at all levels of ringette in Canada. She has coached at numerous summer camps and clinics catering both to the grassroots and elite level ringette athletes across the country. Lorrie was inducted into the Ringette Canada Hall of Fame in the Coaching category in 2008.

### **Barb Bautista, 2011 CWG Assistant Coach**



Barb Bautista started playing ringette on a gym floor in Ottawa during an after school sports program when she was 10 years old. Since that time, Barb has picked up gold as a member of Team Canada in 2002, and has claimed gold at numerous national championships both as an athlete and as a coach (coaching alongside National Team Head Coach Lyndsay Wheelans).

Under Wheelan's tutelage Barb has been motivated to strive for and achieve exceptionally high standards both in sport and in life. She touts remaining in contention for a spot on Team Canada's playing squad for the 2010 World Ringette Championship as her greatest playing accomplishment and now becoming a member of the team staff for the CWG's as her greatest accomplishment in coaching. Barb currently coaches Edmonton Elite at the U16 division and also plays in the NRL for the Edmonton WAM!.

It is Barb's hope that each athlete will graduate from the CWG program with a greater understanding of the game, of their strengths, weaknesses, and the desire to strive for Canada's National Teams.

### **Bob Kerr, 2011 CWG Manager**



Bob Kerr has been involved in Ringette as a Head Coach or Manager in the Calgary North and Calgary AA programs for the past 15 years with past successes at Provincials, Western Canadian Ringette Championships (WCRC) and Canadian Ringette Championships (CRC). In addition, Kerr has served as a NCCP Coaching Learning Facilitator (LF) for Ringette Alberta for the past six years.

Kerr expressed being a part of the 2011 Canada Winter Games (CWG) program as "a great honor". Further, he stated: "I feel that my commitment to excellence, knowledge and passion for the game will contribute to our journey and ultimately our many successes. I look forward to working with the team staff and the athletes involved as we represent our Province at the 2011 Canada Winter Games in Halifax, Nova Scotia and as we strive towards achieving all of our many goals."