

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Over \$300K available for inaugural National Track League

OTTAWA – The structure of the inaugural National Track League (NTL) series has been finalized and Athletics Canada announced today that the inaugural edition will feature over \$300K in prize money. NTL is a point based grand prix style series which in 2011 will make stops in Edmonton, Halifax, Toronto, Vancouver, and Victoria.

“As the premier Track and Field meet in Atlantic Canada, the Aileen Meagher International Track Classic is delighted to be involved in the National Track League. This newly formed organization will give national level athletes the opportunity to compete in a high quality domestic circuit against top international competition for prize money. Athletes will be able to use the competitions as they prepare for the upcoming World Championship as well as the 2012 Olympic Games. The series will be an opportunity to showcase our best athletes as they strive to compete against the best in the world” – Kevin Heisler.

NTL’s initial offering is comprised of five meets over a period of x days beginning. The inaugural series will kick off in Edmonton, Alberta at the Edmonton International Track Classic on June 29th four days following the closing of the 2011 World Championship Selection Trials and Canadian Championships in Calgary (June 22-25). The series will then head to British Columbia for stops at the Harry Jerome International in Vancouver on July 1st and in Victoria on July 3rd for the Victoria International Track Classic. We then head east for the Aileen Meagher in Halifax, Nova Scotia on July 10th, followed by the NTL Series Finale in Toronto July 13th.

1996 Olympic Gold medalist Bruny Surin comments on the creation of NTL, "I applaud Athletics Canada’s initiative in establishing a coherent national series. I often get questions from young athletes about getting to Europe for competitions, they usually aren’t aware of all the costs and difficulties associated with it.” The two-time World Championship medalist adds, “99% of the time they can get the same level of competition here at home and I hope we can continue to build this series into a lasting legacy to give our country’s athletes the most opportunities to race at home in a controlled environment.”

2008 Olympic bronze medalist Priscilla Lopes-Schliep looks back, "I remember starting out in this sport and having very few options to race, it wasn't easy and it wasn't cheap. Now that I’ve been on the international tour for a couple of years it's great to see changes on the horizon for the next generation of athletes in the system.” The 2010 world leader in the hurdles adds, “Canadian athletes will benefit immensely from high level competition in their own backyard, personally I’m excited to get more opportunities to compete and succeed on home soil!”

In the coming weeks Athletics Canada will launch the official NTL website which will feature meet information, prize structure, schedules, technical documents and much more.

About NTL

The National Track League is a dynamic platform which will help support three core Athletics Canada pillars. Athlete Development – NTL will aid in the development of talent ensuring Canadian athletes succeed at major international events; Competitions – building and strengthening the domestic system; Organizational Capacity – enhancing resources to grow the sport in Canada. NTL's mission is to deliver a sustainable brand that will increase funding and participation for the sport of athletics, accelerating the development of athletes, coaches, volunteer programs and infrastructure capacity.

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