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Curling Alberta Names Representatives to the 2021 Hub City in Calgary

It was announced earlier this month that Curling Alberta was forced to cancel its men's, women's, and mixed doubles provincial championships due to conditions related to COVID-19 pandemic, marking 2021 as the first time in Alberta's curling history that a provincial championship will not be held to name its representatives at the Brier, Scotties, and Mixed Doubles Canadian Curling Championships. Yesterday, Curling Alberta's Board of Directors met to face the challenge of naming Alberta's representatives using some other criterion. In the end, winning last season's Alberta Provincial Curling Championships will progress teams to the national championships, meaning that Team Brendan Bottcher, Team Laura Walker, and Team Brittany Tran/Aaron Sluchinski will be in the Calgary bubble scheduled to kick off in February.

"This was an extremely difficult decision for Curling Alberta's Board of Directors," stated Steven Young, President of Curling Alberta. "As a province, we were faced with a unique set of circumstances in unprecedented times. No one could predict that we would be forced to make a decision like this, which we tried to avoid by pushing hard to host our championships."

Without precedent or an existing policy, Curling Alberta's Board looked to the guidance fashioned by Curling Canada in helping its Member Associations name their representatives in the case where hosting a championship would not be possible. That guidance encouraged the provinces and territories to name the winning team of their last championships assuming the team maintained three of four curlers this season. Across all three categories, Curling Alberta's Board felt that this criterion could be reasonably applied.

"The Board considered a full range of options in making this decision," commented Young. "Alberta is fortunate to have some of the world's best curlers reside here. In all categories, we have several teams who are previous champions and are immensely deserving. Most importantly, we are fortunate that Curling Canada is proceeding with the hub city, giving our athletes an opportunity to play this season and our fans an opportunity to stay engaged. We will consider all our Alberta-based teams to be Team Alberta, and we look forward to supporting them in their preparations and cheering them on in Calgary."

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