

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Grande Prairie Set to Host the 2022 Men's and Women's Provincial Curling Championships**

A year later than hoped for, Curling Alberta will stage for the first time a combined provincial men's and women's curling championships, it was announced today.

The 2022 Boston Pizza Cup, Presented by Best Western, and the 2022 Sentinel Storage Alberta Scotties Tournament of Hearts are set for Revolution Place in Grande Prairie from January 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>.

Curling Alberta had planned to stage a combined event for the first time earlier this year, but unfortunately, those championships were cancelled due to Alberta's continued state of public health emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

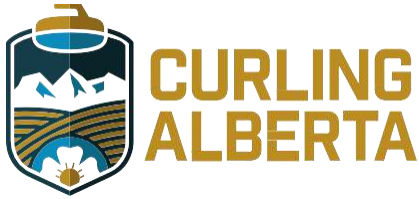
For Curling Alberta, moving toward a combined event started out as an idea to make the championships a bigger, flashier event — a flagship celebration of curling in the province. As COVID-19 vaccines begin to roll out and the world eagerly anticipates a return to gatherings and celebrations, these championships will be a meaningful celebration indeed.

"Piloting a combined championship will offer many advantages," said Jill Richard, Executive Director for Curling Alberta. "Most importantly, if the pandemic throws us yet another curve ball as we approach January, we will be ready to pivot as needed if it means we can keep people healthy and the championships can proceed this upcoming season."

"We are looking forward to hosting and organizing this wonderful event," said Keri Bruce, President of the Grande Prairie Curling Centre. "The Peace Region boasts a hotbed of curlers and fans and we are thrilled that all levels of local government have offered their enthusiastic support. This event will be hugely welcomed by the community as we emerge from some trying times."

"We are fortunate to have a strong foundation of supportive businesses and a great volunteer base from the host club, the Grande Prairie Curling Centre," said Ray Mildenberger, Chair of the Organizing Committee. "We have a lot of experience hosting successful, high-profile events, as we did in for the 2006 Ford World Women's Curling Championship, the 2015 Home Hardware Canada Cup and the 2016 Scotties Tournament of Hearts, and I'm confident we will make our community proud once again."

"The community is really planning to roll out the red carpet," added Richard. "There will be a new kind of energy in Revolution Place as our curlers reconnect with competing on the big stage and with their fans, who can expect a truly special experience."



With respect to an outlook for sport of curling in our province next season, Curling Alberta is preparing for a return to play as usual this fall. However, the provincial governing body will continue to monitor any changes in the COVID environment and the guidance of provincial and local health authorities and adjust as necessary.

“All of us are dealing with challenges and changing realities. We are tremendously grateful to all the partners who have chosen an optimistic approach to help us set the stage for a truly spectacular return to play and a celebration of our determined spirit as a community,” said Richard.

Sportsnet is scheduled to provide broadcast coverage of the semi-finals and finals on January 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Keep your eyes on the [Curling Alberta website](#) and social media for updates on the qualification process and for more information on the championships.

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