



For Immediate Release

## **Celebration of Softball (Show Your National Pride!)**

**JULY 5 - 11, 2010**

(Surrey, BC.) Put your game face on and get ready to wear your red and white and root for the home-team!

The Canadian Open Fastpitch International Championship held from **July 5 - 11** is gearing up to host two elite level female fastpitch tournaments as well the Celebration of Softball featuring the Canadian National Women's team in action! There will be entertainment for the whole family, with fun fair games, food, and festivities all tournament long.

Some Celebration of Softball activities are set to take place prior to Team Canada's game every day July 5 - 11, with an emphasis on activities prior to the marquee Team Canada/Team USA games happening once per day July 8 - 11. Various activities centered around Team Canada games are sure to please families and sports fans alike.

"Whether it be testing your softball skills in skills activities, other fun-fair games, or singing along to the always popular rendition of 'Take me out to the ballgame' during the fourth inning stretch, it will make for a week with something for everyone," said Greg Timm, Chairman of the Canadian Open Fastpitch International Championship.

Team Canada will be making an appearance with The Province /Team Canada Autograph Signing on Thursday, July 8 following Canada/USA game. Don't miss the chance to meet your favourite players in person!

Be sure to mark your calendar for the NOW Newspaper/City of Surrey "I Love Surrey, I Love Softball Day" on July 10. In celebration of youth in sport and community participation, The Now Newspaper and the City of Surrey are putting on a NOW Kids' Fun Zone on Diamond 4 from 3:30pm to 6:30pm. The NOW houseband, The Headliners will entertain on-site, as will talented finalists from the popular BC Junior Talent Search Contest. When Team Canada takes to the field prior to the 7pm game start, they will be joined by the members of the Now Newspaper/Shaw TV/Mosaic Homes Honourary Kid's team. These young fans are selected through a contest with the Now Newspaper.

Want to learn softball from some of the world's best? Kids aged 9-14 are invited to learn from Team Canada athletes – fresh from the World Championships in Caracas Venezuela. Spend the day with some of our country's most accomplished and experienced players. The NOW Newspaper/Canadian Open Fastpitch/Team Canada Kids' Softball Clinic takes place at Softball City on Saturday, July 10 from 8:30am to 1:15pm. Registration deadline is July 2 or when all spaces are taken. Don't wait - sign up now!

For younger children aged 4-8, there is the Softball BC/Canadian Open Fastpitch Learn to Play Clinic at Softball City on Sunday, July 4 from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Boys and girls can experience the joy of softball, while learning the basics of the game from the Softball BC's Learn to Play instructors.

Enroll for either clinic by visiting [www.canadianopenfastpitch.com](http://www.canadianopenfastpitch.com) or by calling 604.536.9287.

And on the final day of the tournament, who will be named the Canadian Open Fastpitch Champion? Futures and Showcase Division Championship finals get underway on Sunday, July 11. The 16-and-under Showcase final starts at 11am and the under-19 Futures final kicks off at 1pm. Don't miss the pre-Team Canada activities starting at 1:30pm, prior to the last Team Canada/Team USA game slated for 3:30pm.

The Canadian Open Fastpitch International Championship was organized to replace the Canada Cup Futures (U19) and Showcase (16U) female elite youth tournaments for 2010 in order to carry on the Canada Cup spirit of promoting the development of the great game of softball by helping young female athletes reach for their personal best both on and off the field. It is an event geared to celebrate and inspire youth through sport.

Put it in your calendar, bring your family and friends, and don't miss this summer softball showdown!

For more detailed and updated tournament information call 604.536.9287 or visit [www.canadianopenfastpitch.com](http://www.canadianopenfastpitch.com)

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For Media Requiring Further Information Contact:

Colleen Goodwin-Ryan – 604.581.9203 or e-mail: [colleen@goodwin-ryan.com](mailto:colleen@goodwin-ryan.com)