



PRESS RELEASE

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A 9th consecutive showing at the most important sporting event in the country

**THE FORMULA TOUR 1600 TO BE ONCE AGAIN PART OF
THE FORMULA 1 GRAND PRIX DU CANADA, JUNE 5, 6 AND 7**

Montreal, April 16, 2015 – The FORMULA 1 GRAND PRIX DU CANADA is pleased to announce today that North-American Formula 1600 drivers will once again be competing, for the 9th consecutive time, during the most important sporting event in the country, on June 5, 6 and 7. During the 46th edition of the Canadian round of the Formula 1 World Championship, the 36th in Montreal, about 40 racers, both seasoned veterans and young hopefuls, will try to qualify for Sunday morning's race in what will be the second stop of the Formula Tour 1600.

“It’s hard to imagine a weekend at the FORMULA 1 GRAND PRIX DU CANADA without an epic battle between Formula 1600 drivers. Their presence on the track gives our spectators the very essence of motorsport: talent and passion”, explained President and CEO of Groupe de course Octane inc. and President of the FORMULA 1 GRAND PRIX DU CANADA, François Dumontier. **“We are very happy to have made a deal with the management of the Formula Tour 1600 who will undoubtedly do everything in their power to put on an excellent show for the thousands of spectators at île Notre-Dame.”**

“We are very pleased to confirm, both to our drivers and to race fans, that we will once again be part of the FORMULA 1 GRAND PRIX DU CANADA and, as it has become fashionable to say, to share our scenic Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve with the elite of world-class motorsport”, enthused Marcel Lafontaine, President of the Formula Tour 1600. **“For our regular drivers and all of those who will surely join them from all over North America, each time is an incredible race weekend. The track’s layout presents a daunting technical challenge and there’s a unique atmosphere in Montreal, which makes this annual race an event not to be missed for all drivers and their teams.”**

Over the past few years, the Formula Tour 1600 has developed a special relationship with numerous teams from the American South-West – especially from Arizona – who send a lot of drivers to every one of its races run in Quebec during the summer months. On top of this, many drivers from Ontario who take part in the provincial championship, a very popular series there, make a point of competing here during the weekend of the FORMULA 1 GRAND PRIX du CANADA. The race held on 5, 6 and 7 June will be the second round of the Formula Tour 1600, whose 2015 series will begin over the weekend of 23 and 24 May at Mont-Tremblant.

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It should be noted that Formula 1600 has a rich history spanning nearly a half century and that world champions Jenson Button, Mika Hakkinen, Damon Hill, James Hunt, Nigel Mansell, Jody Scheckter, Ayrton Senna and Michael Schumacher all enjoyed early successes in that type of racing. This year, the young 2014 Formula Tour 1600 champion, American Tristan DeGrand, moved to the North American Development Series.

In Canada, Van Diemen, Spectrum, Vector, Piper, Mygale, Reynard and Swift single-seaters are powered by 1,600 cc Ford Kent or 1,500 cc Honda Fit engines. Drivers use monotype chassis shod with Toyo tires. Among the forty or so drivers expected to compete at the FORMULA 1 GRAND PRIX DU CANADA are popular veterans Didier Schraenen and Michel Bonnet, as well as young hopeful Jean-Philippe Jodoin.

Tickets for the event are still available and fans have two ways to reserve their seats:

1. By phone, at 514-350-0000 or 1-855-790-1245, weekdays from 9 AM to 8 PM;
2. On the web, securely, at www.circuitgillesvilleneuve.ca or www.admission.com.

A Montreal-based Canadian company, Octane Racing Group Inc. is the promoter of FORMULA 1 GRAND PRIX DU CANADA for the period from 2015 to 2024, through an agreement made with Formula One Administration Limited and Formula 1 World Championship Limited (which, together, hold the commercial rights to F1).

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Photo: Formula 1 Grand Prix du Canada (Muriel Brousseau)