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PRESS RELEASE

Competing Chefs Announced for Gold Medal Plates Halifax

Halifax, N.S. – Gold Medal Plates is the ultimate celebration of Canadian excellence in cuisine, wine, the arts and athletic achievement. On October 29, 2015, eight Nova Scotia chefs will compete in the Gold Medal Plates Halifax competition.

Celebrated in 11 cities across Canada, Gold Medal Plates features the premier chefs in each city in a competition to crown a gold, silver and bronze medal culinary team in each city, and subsequently nation-wide at the Canadian Culinary Championships in Kelowna, B.C. in February 2016.

"It is important for us to be represented on a national level...to show-off the fantastic chefs and culinary scene we have here in Nova Scotia," says co-chair Mathew Harris, Atlantic Managing Partner of Deloitte. "In addition, 2015 is an important year in that the money raised will support local athletes as they make their bid to represent Canada at the Rio Olympics. In keeping with the Rio theme, the evening will have a festival-feel...it will be fun, colourful and glitzy. We're planning an inspiring celebration featuring the best in Canadian music, food and wine."

Competing chefs for the 2015 competition include:

Thomas Carey - Pictou Lodge Beach Resort (Pictou)

Bee Choo Char - The Prince George Hotel (Halifax)

Mark Gray - The Brooklyn Warehouse (Halifax)

David G. Haynes - The Press Gang Restaurant & Oyster Bar (Halifax)

Ardon Mofford - Governors Pub & Eatery (Sydney)

Erwin Palo – Café 101 (Dartmouth)

Martin Ruiz Salvador, Fleur de Sel (Lunenburg)

Terry Vassallo, Café Chianti (Halifax)

"I learned a lot competing at Gold Medal Plates last year," says Brooklyn Warehouse chef and 2014 silver medalist, Mark Gray. "This year I'm taking that knowledge and ramping everything up to make sure each element works extremely well together. I'm doing a truly Nova Scotian dish...although I don't want to give it away just yet, my menu item is going to be an intricate play on a traditional Nova Scotia dish."

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Net proceeds from Gold Medal Plates are given to the Canadian Olympic Foundation which supports Olympic athletes and high performance programs. Since its inception, Gold Medal Plates competitions across Canada have raised more than \$9.5 million for the Canadian Olympic Foundation.

In addition to the culinary competition, Gold Medal Plates Halifax will feature spectacular auction items, such as getaways with Olympians and Canadian entertainers to locations like New Zealand, Tuscany, Scotland, South Africa as well as Kelowna for the Canadian Gold Medal Plates finals.

To purchase tickets, or for sponsor opportunities for Gold Medal Plates Halifax, contact Sandie at <u>Halifax@goldmedalplates.com</u>, 902-877-1302 or visit <u>www.goldmedalplates.com</u>.

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About Gold Medal Plates

Gold Medal Plates is the ultimate celebration of Canadian excellence in cuisine, wine, entertainment and athletic achievement. Celebrating in 11 cities across Canada in 2015, Gold Medal Plates features superb Canadian wines, premier chefs and Canadian Olympic athletes, in a competition to crown a gold, silver and bronze medal culinary team in each city, and subsequently nation-wide. Since 2004, this event has received tremendous support and accolades all across Canada and generated a combined net total of over \$9.5 million for Canada's Olympic athletes. For more information, visit the Gold Medal Plates website www.goldmedalplates.com.

About Canadian Olympic Foundation – The Beneficiary of the events

The Canadian Olympic Foundation is a national charitable organization created by the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) supporting high performance athletes across all winter and summer sports. The Foundation's mission is to generate support to meet the technical, scientific, medical and coaching needs of Canada's high performance sport system and assist Canada's athletes in becoming ambassadors for sport, healthy living and the pursuit of excellence across the nation. Net proceeds from Gold Medal Plates are given to the Canadian Olympic Foundation to support high performance programs such as Own the Podium. To learn more about the Foundation and the programs it funds, please visit www.olympicfoundation.ca.

