



## **Press Release:**

December 6, 2011

### **Athletics Alberta tributes Donovan Bailey with international track meet honours and launches month-long athletics festival**

On June 16, 2012 Canada's best track and field athletes will converge on the City of Champions for the Donovan Bailey Invitational. They'll compete head to head with international elite athletes for world rankings, London 2012 Olympic preparation opportunities, as well as prize money. This revamped international track and field meet (formally known as the Edmonton International Track Classic) will be a thrilling afternoon of crowd-pleasing events including the women's 100m hurdles, men's shot put, women's hammer-throw, and track and field's glamour event, the men's 100 metre sprint.

The Donovan Bailey Invitational will be positioned within the internationally acclaimed *National Track League*, a point based, grand-prix style series with stops in Edmonton, Vancouver, Victoria, Halifax, Moncton and Toronto.

Peter Ogilvie, Chair of the event says, "Having Donovan Bailey involved as our sport ambassador is important to our signature event's awareness and long-term sustainability. We are thrilled to have an excellent working relationship with Donovan and privileged that we can draw upon his tremendous international experience as a two-time Olympic Champion".

Donovan Bailey, Canadian Olympic Hall of Famer and Canadian Olympic 100m Champion, commented "I am humbled and very much honoured that this premier track and field event will be rebranded as the Donovan Bailey Invitational. I have such pride, love and sentiment for the City of Edmonton – the City where I proudly concluded my successful international 10 year career.

Bailey added "I truly believe this organization will continue to work tirelessly with my help and global contacts to capture the best and expand the existing Edmonton International Track Classic to be THE showcase event for Canada's National Track League series as well as becoming the very best track and field competition in North America."

#### **About Athletics Alberta**

Athletics Alberta is the provincial organizing body for track and field, cross country and road running, and is a branch of Athletics Canada. Athletics Alberta has approximately 2,000 members and also offers programs for approximately 75,000 non-affiliated members. Athletics is a dynamic sport and not just for those who are completely dedicated, but for all those involved in all activities. Through our various programs and activities, Athletics Alberta tries to bring the joy and benefits of a healthy, active lifestyle to Albertans.

For more information on the 2012 Donovan Bailey Invitational, please contact:

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