

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 10, 2019**

**Surf Canada Announces 2019 Rip Curl Nationals presented by Red Bull**

*Rip Curl Nationals will take place May 10-12 and Team Trials for Olympic qualification May 13-14, 2019 at Wickaninnish Beach in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, BC*

VICTORIA, BC - Surf Canada is proud to announce the 2019 Rip Curl Nationals presented by Red Bull, is set to take place at Wickaninnish Beach, BC from May 10-12, 2019. This event is for Canadians Only and will determine National Champions in 10 divisions.

"Rip Curl is proud to partner with Surf Canada. As a brand we have a long history in supporting Canadian surfing from both a grassroots and professional level. Looking forward, we feel the best way to continue that is to provide Canadian athletes with a strong platform to perform on the world stage by supporting the National program" said Nick Russell, Vice President Sales and Marketing at Rip Curl Canada.

Rip Curl Nationals will not only decide the 2019 Canadian Titles for Open Women's and Men's Shortboard but will also qualify the top Women and Men surfers to compete at the Team Trials May 13-14 to earn a coveted and historic spot to become the first Canadians on the 2020 Olympic Games qualification pathway.

"I think it's amazing to have an all-Canadian event to decide our National Champions," stated reigning national champion Pete Devries. "In the past our Canadian Champions have had to battle through rounds at an international event which can skew the results for some competitors," added Devries. "This event is much more fair to decide a national champion. Having it at Wickaninnish Beach will really level the playing field and add a new twist to the works."

Rip Curl Nationals will serve as a direct pathway for selections to the Canadian Team competing at international competitions in the following categories Junior Shortboard U-18 and U-16, Longboard, and SUP Surf, as well as showcasing Canada's best Adaptive Surfers.

Current women's champion Bethany Zelasko, Mathea and Sanoa Olin, Hanna Scott, 2 x WSL Big Wave Champion Paige Alms, as well as men's champion Peter Devries, Cody Young, Sean Foerster, Noah Cohen, Kalum Temple, and Michael Darling are just a few of the familiar names who will be hitting the water in search of the 2019 National Champion title, a nomination to the Team Trials, and a spot on the 2019-20 National Team.

"Competitors in the Open Shortboard who get a great result at Rip Curl Nationals will be invited to compete at the Team Trials for a shot at qualifying for Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games" said Dom Domic, Executive Director of Surf Canada. "By combining points from Nationals and Team Trials will give those competitors multiple opportunities and will greatly increase the odds that the surfers representing Canada are our absolute best" concluded Domic.

The 2019 Rip Curl Nationals presented by Red Bull are proudly hosted by Parks Canada, Tla-o-qui-aht, Yuulu?it?ath First Nations, and supported by our Community Partners, Tourism Ucluelet, Tourism Tofino, Government of Canada, the Province of B.C., our Event Partners Mill Bay Marine Group, Corona, Flor de Caña, Island Savings, Surfrider Foundation, Lifesaving Society, Cascadia, HydroFlask, Aftanas, Clif Bar, Telus, FCS, Gorilla, SexWax, Headhunter, Xtreme Organics, Stact, Ucluelet Rent-It Centre, Blue Room Café, and our Media Partners, CBC Sports, Coast Mountain Culture and SBC Surf.

For event registration and information, please visit [www.csasurfcanda.org](http://www.csasurfcanda.org).

Surf Canada is the official National Sporting Federation (NGF) and sport partner of the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) and the International Surfing Association (ISA) who in turn is the International Olympic Committee (IOC) governing federation. As such, Surf Canada is solely responsible for selecting Surf, Adaptive, Stand-Up Paddle, and Prone Paddle athletes to

compete at international events including the yearly ISA World Championships, PASA PanAm Surf Championships and every four years the PanAmerican Games and the Summer Olympics Games.