



Media Release

**Canadian Teams Take Gold and Silver at World Ice Stock Championships and Canada to host 2021 America Cup**

March 15, 2020

Regen, Germany – Canada’s ice stock teams won gold and silver medals at the Ice Stock World Championships that wrapped up this weekend in Regen, Germany. The men’s team captured gold with a 20 win - 2 loss record in the 12 team field, going an undefeated 11-0 on the second day of competition. The women’s team won silver with a 10 win - 2 loss record in their 7 team field and improved on the bronzes that they received in the last two world championships. With the gold medal, the men are promoted to Group A at the 2022 World Championships.

“This is the most successful world championships ever for Canada” said Jennifer Mayrl, President of the Canadian Ice-Stock Federation. “We are incredibly proud of our athletes and coaches. They not only showed off their abilities against a strong field but they were incredible ambassadors for our country.”

Canada sent a delegation of 13 athletes and coaches to compete in team and individual competitions. Highlights of the results:

- Men’s Team – Gold Medal and World Champions B Group: Paul Blais, Karl Hammer Jr., Steven Morrissey, Mike Osborne and Milutin Zaric
- Women’s Team – Silver Medal B Group: Kathy Frenette, Jennifer McNeely, Jennifer Mayrl, Karin Schubert and Kata Zaric
- Women’s Distance Throwing – In this event the goal is to slide the stock as far down the ice as possible and it was a women’s event for the first time ever. Jennifer Mayrl qualified for the finals in the 30 athlete field and finished 10<sup>th</sup> overall with a throw of 90 metres.
- Men’s Distance Throwing – Mike Osborne finished 8<sup>th</sup> in the B Group field.
- Men’s Team Target Shooting – Team member Paul Blais finished 5<sup>th</sup> in a field of 24 A and B Group shooters for his performance in the third element.

During Congress meetings held last week, the International Federation of Icestocksport confirmed that Canada will host the 2021 America Cup. That competition is held in the summer months with competitors from across North and South America. By changing the sliding plates on the stock, the sport is playable on asphalt, concrete or similar surfaces. The location of that event is to be determined but the Canadian Federation’s first choice is the South Frontenac Stocksport Club who are anticipating construction of international-standard lanes later this year, a first in North America.

The Federation's Director of Sport, Ronny Horvath, is looking forward to the opportunities that exist over the next six years. Ice stock is on the short list for inclusion in the 2026 Winter Olympics that will be held in Milan and Cortina, Italy. The Olympic decision is expected in the next two years.

President Mayrl believes that Canadian curiosity will peak with full Olympic recognition. If it occurs, Olympic qualification tournaments are expected to be held in 2025. "A major goal of our Federation is to deepen the field of international-level athletes that will compete for Canada. For the men, moving into Group A in just two years will mean having to play against countries that have tens of thousands of players to choose from. For the women, the goal is also to win B Group gold in 2022 and for that we also want to continue player development. Anyone who is interested in playing this sport at a competitive or recreational level is welcome to contact us through [www.icestockcanada.com](http://www.icestockcanada.com)."

++

### **About the Canadian Ice-Stock Federation**

The Canadian Ice-Stock Federation is the governing body for the sport in Canada. In Canada there are two types of clubs. There are clubs that are a part of the Canadian Federation and hobby clubs. The Federation-recognized clubs take part in local, provincial and national tournaments. The members that are a part of these clubs have the opportunity to play for Canada in international competition.

The sport is described as a mix between bocce and curling and has been played for over 600 years. Players slide a stock along the ice and aim for a target in the house, 27 metres away. After eight turns the team with stocks closest to the target gets points. Repeat that five more times and you have played a game. Different types of plates allow the sport to be played in summer months on asphalt or concrete.

Stocksport is a highly inclusive sport that encourages camaraderie amongst people of all ages, genders, and many special needs. Because accuracy and placement are as important as speed and strength, entire families can participate and be active together – parents and grandparents do not just have to watch, they can play along.

At its most competitive, our clubs send their best men and women to the world championships every two years. In between those years, we participate in the America Cup. The sport is on the shortlist for inclusion in the 2026 Winter Olympics that will be held in Milan and Cortina, Italy.

-30-

For more information contact:

Jennifer Mayrl

President

Canadian Ice-Stock Federation

(705) 331-3463

[canadianicestockfederation@gmail.com](mailto:canadianicestockfederation@gmail.com)