



Press release

## **Young skaters get ice time with their Olympic idols**

Canada's speed skating team gives two local young skating groups a practice they won't soon forget

**Montreal, Saturday, March 6, 2010** – It's the dream practice for a young speed skater: to train alongside Olympic medallists. Two local clubs got to experience that today at Montreal's Maurice Richard Arena, as club members from Longueuil and Saint Hyacinthe not only watched members of Canada's Olympic speed skating team train, but also had the chance to skate with them.

The national team's short-track speed skaters, who thrilled Canadians with 5 Winter Olympic medals in the recent Vancouver games, made time to be with the youths and showed the aspiring Olympic athletes some of what helped them get to the podium. The budding competitors also got to hear stories from the Olympians who know all too well what it's like to get up for early morning skating practice. For the lucky club members, this practice would go down as one of the best.

The event was organized by Intact Financial Corporation, in collaboration with Speed Skating Canada. The special day is part of Intact's ongoing effort to help the team and to support youth at all stages of the sport. "The skaters are our best ambassadors for a sport that requires such determination, tenacity and drive. We're happy to give these young people the opportunity to share the ice with their idols – athletes who can offer such inspiration," said Intact Financial Corporation's Ginette Paquin, the insurance company's vice-president of sales and business development.

"In a speed skating relay, a skater physically pushes their team member for added momentum. Today, it was as if our elite athletes pushed these young competitors to go that much further and dream a little bigger," said Jean Dupré, the director general of Speed Skating Canada. "I want to thank Intact, which has been a premier partner of the Canadian speed skating team since 2006, for this great idea."

As a committed partner, Intact Financial Corporation is also promoting speed skating through its *Intact On The Edge Program*, which brings speed skating to the classroom and helps increase awareness of the sport, and its *Speed Skating Challenge*, an online video competition that seeks to select Canada's best speed skating story.

## **About Intact Financial Corporation**

Intact Financial Corporation (<http://www.intactfc.com>) is the largest provider of property and casualty insurance in the country with over \$4 billion in premiums. Its 7,000 employees offer home, auto and business insurance under the Intact Insurance, Novex Group Insurance, belairdirect and Grey Power brands.

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