



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
August 9, 2016**

## **Golf's International Stars to Descend on Calgary for Shaw Charity Classic**

*Jesper Parnevik, Jean van de Velde, David Frost, Carlos Franco, Esteban Toledo, Kenny Perry, Paul Broadhurst, Stephen Ames and Rod Spittle all book tickets to Calgary*

**CALGARY**—Calgary is once again luring an international audience as world-renowned golfers from around the globe will descend on Calgary for the 2016 Shaw Charity Classic at Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club, August 31 – September 4.

Jesper Parnevik (Sweden), Jean van de Velde (France), David Frost (South Africa), Esteban Toledo (Mexico), Carlos Franco (Paraguay), Kenny Perry (United States), and Paul Broadhurst (England) will join Canada's own Stephen Ames and Rod Spittle in Calgary.

"Calgary has an uncanny ability to attract international stars from all areas of sport, and the Shaw Charity Classic is no different," said Sean Van Kesteren, executive director, Shaw Charity Classic. "Most of the guys on the PGA TOUR Champions peg our tournament on their calendars early in the year, and the reason for that extends far beyond the golf tournament. The beauty of the Rocky Mountains, world-class fishing and activities on the Bow River, unique cowboy culture, first-class restaurants, friendly hospitality and a giving spirit all play a critical role in attracting the top senior golfers from well beyond North America."

Jesper Parnevik will make his first trip to Calgary since turning 50 one year ago. The colourful Swede, who was a five-time winner on the PGA TOUR before battling a series of injuries, captured his first PGA TOUR Champions win earlier this spring at the Insuperity Invitational.

"There was a time I wouldn't touch a club for up to seven months because I had so many injuries, so I have been really looking forward to this Tour, and getting out here and competing. My body feels so good now so I can practice a lot," said Parnevik following his victory at the Insuperity Invitational. "I thought I was never going to win again. There were times I didn't even think I'd play again, but then all of a sudden I got better, and I am really enjoying myself on this Tour. I look forward to getting up to Canada again, and having a great week in Calgary."

There will be no shortage of interesting storylines at Canyon Meadows with the addition of Jean van de Velde into this year's field. The esteemed Frenchman, who turned 50 on May 29th, is a two-time European Tour winner, but is most known for his dramatic collapse in the 1999 British Open at Carnoustie. He played flawless golf until the 72nd and final hole where he blew a three-shot lead, and eventually lost in a playoff.

"I am delighted to have the opportunity to compete at the Shaw Charity Classic. It has been a long time since I competed in Canada and I am excited to return. I always have particular affection for Canada given its ties to France," said van de Velde.

Carlos Franco, who grew up in a one-room, dirt-floor home, became a hero in his native Paraguay after being named the PGA TOUR's Rookie of the Year in 1999. Franco won four times on the PGA TOUR, and 19 times around the world.

Flights from six other countries will be transporting many of the top names in the game for a return trip to Calgary later this month.

South Africa's David Frost will make his fourth straight start in Calgary. A winner of 10 events on the PGA TOUR, and six times on the senior circuit, Frost is highly regarded around the world where he has regularly played on both the top American and European Tours.



Fan-favourite Esteban Toledo of Mexico will bring his four PGA TOUR Champions titles with him to Calgary. Toledo enjoyed a breakthrough season in 2013 with two victories, including winning the Montreal Championship. He fired his way back into the winner's circle at the 2016 Allianz Championship.

Kenny Perry will join a large contingent of Americans making the trip north to Canada. A 14-time winner on the PGA TOUR, Perry has won eight times, including three major titles, since teeing it up on the PGA TOUR Champions in 2013.

England's Paul Broadhurst, who is fresh off his win at the Senior Open Championship in Carnoustie, will be making the trip across the pond with previously announced World Golf Hall of Fame Members, Bernhard Langer (Germany) and Colin Montgomerie (Scotland).

Fans will be waving the Canada flag outside the ropes while cheering on their fellow Canucks: Stephen Ames and Rod Spittle.

Stephen Ames will make his third start in the tournament he helped bring to his hometown four years ago. One of Canada's most renowned golfers, Ames is no stranger to the winner's circle having captured four PGA TOUR victories during his illustrious career where he has racked up nearly \$20 million in earnings. Still searching for his first PGA TOUR Champions title, Ames finished in the top-10 58 times on the main TOUR, and is recognized most for his dominant win at The Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass in 2006.

Born in St. Catharines, Ont., Spittle is the lone Canadian to win a PGA TOUR Champions event since joining the 50-and-over Tour in 2005. A three-time finisher in the top-10, Spittle, recognized as one of the nicest guys on Tour, captured the 2010 AT&T Championship in San Antonio, TX.

Tickets, hospitality and sponsorship packages for the Shaw Charity Classic are available online at [www.shawcharityclassic.com](http://www.shawcharityclassic.com). Youth 17-and-under are admitted free with a ticketed adult. For more information on the sponsorship and hosting opportunities at the 2016 Shaw Charity Classic August 31 – September 4, please visit [www.shawcharityclassic.com](http://www.shawcharityclassic.com).

### **About the Shaw Charity Classic**

The Shaw Charity Classic will host some of the greatest names in the game of golf in Calgary at the Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club, August 31 – September 4, 2016. The field, which will consist of 81 stars on the PGA TOUR Champions, will compete for US \$2.35 million in a three-round, 54-hole stroke-play tournament. The winner will receive US \$352,500 and 352 Charles Schwab Cup Points. The only annual PGA TOUR Champions stop in Canada will showcase Calgary to the world through its broadcast on the Golf Channel. Led by a philanthropic Patron Group including Tournament Chairman – Clay Riddell, Vice Chairman – Allan Markin, Keith MacPhail, Jim Riddell, Guy Turcotte, Gary Peddle and PGA Tour Professional – Stephen Ames, along with title sponsor, Shaw Communications, the Shaw Charity Classic won the PGA TOUR Champions prestigious President's Award in 2015 and 2014. The Tournament has raised more than \$8.5 million in its first three years, with a PGA TOUR Champions record setting donation of \$3,942,712 raised in 2015 that was distributed amongst 99 youth-based charities in Alberta. For more information on the event, please visit [www.shawcharityclassic.com](http://www.shawcharityclassic.com). Follow the Shaw Charity Classic at [facebook.com/shawcharityclassic](https://facebook.com/shawcharityclassic) and on Twitter @shawclassic. The Shaw Charity Classic is managed by Bruno Event Team and Shaw Communications Inc.

### **For further information, please contact:**

Chris Dornan  
Shaw Charity Classic  
T: 403-620-8731