



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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## **Fred Couples Rounds Out 2018 Shaw Charity Classic Field**

**—Six World Golf Hall of Fame members, 15 PGA TOUR major winners highlight deep international field—**

**CALGARY**—Boom Boom is coming back to Calgary!

Fred Couples, who is the sixth World Golf Hall of Fame member confirmed to tee it up in Calgary at next week's Shaw Charity Classic, added some additional firepower on Thursday to one of the deepest fields on the PGA TOUR Champions calendar.

The uniqueness of the city, the surrounding area and the connection with Calgary golf fans pulls the 2014 Shaw Charity Classic champion year-after-year to Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club. He is sure to once again thrill the more than 40,000 golf fans expected to line the fairways, August 27 – September 2.

“Calgary has been a very enjoyable place for me. I have always said, as long as I'm healthy I plan on coming here every year,” said Couples. “The people at Shaw are incredible. The crowds are huge. The course is always in great shape and I feel like I can play it well. There is nothing more a player could ask for. I look forward to getting back there.”

A crowd favourite since the tournament's inception in 2013, Couples won the 2014 event in thrilling fashion after a career-best final round 61 that included a chip-in eagle on the 54th hole. He got sized up for a white cowboy hat after winning the first playoff hole over Billy Andrade. It was the lone playoff in the award-winning event's short history.

Couples has not won since capturing his 13th victory on the PGA TOUR Champions last year at the Chubb Classic, American Family Insurance Championship. A winner of 15 PGA TOUR events, the smooth swinging bomber is remembered most for his 1992 triumph at the Masters Tournament. Once graduating to the senior swing, he made an immediate statement. Finishing second in his first start, he went on to win his next three events, becoming the first player ever to win three of his first four tournaments. Couples has two major championship victories on the PGA TOUR Champions: 2011 Senior Players Championship, and The Senior Open Championship in 2012.

Couples joins fellow World Golf Hall of Fame members already committed including: Bernhard Langer, Davis Love III, Colin Montgomerie, Mark O'Meara and Vijay Singh.

“Adding Freddy to this incredible line up of athletes who have all been a part of some of the greatest and most memorable moments in the game delivers a boost of excitement for us heading into tournament week,” said Sean Van Kesteren, tournament director, Shaw Charity Classic.

Just days removed from their 50th birthdays, a couple of well-known young guns on the PGA TOUR Champions in Darren Clarke and Chris DiMarco, will be determined to put the pressure on the vets.

“This impressive list confirmed to play bring 15 PGA TOUR major title wins, 46 PGA TOUR Champions titles, and 55 players in the field have combined to win 309 times on the PGA TOUR. Even more special is we are now going to have all five of the Shaw Charity Classic's champions on the tee sheet,” added Van Kesteren.

The four other champions joining Couples on the flight to Calgary include: Rocco Mediate (2013), Jeff Maggert (2015), Carlos Franco (2016), and defending champ, Scott McCarron (2017).

Other notables include: Fred Funk, Jesper Parnevik, Miguel Angel Jimenez, Steve Flesch, Lee Janzen,



along with Canadians Stephen Ames and Rod Spittle.

Having raised more than \$22 million for Alberta children's charities in its first five years, the Shaw Charity Classic has set a fundraising goal of \$10 million for this year's tournament, which will support 182 children's charities across Alberta. This effort is made possible thanks to renewed support from Shaw Communications and AltaLink for Shaw Birdies for Kids, presented by AltaLink.

### **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 27 – September 2, 2018. The field, which will consist of 78 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. The annual PGA TOUR Champions stop in Canada showcases Calgary to the world through its broadcast on the Golf Channel. Led by a philanthropic Patron Group including Tournament Chairman – Clay Riddell, Allan Markin, Keith MacPhail, Jim Riddell, Guy Turcotte, Gary Peddle, Mike Culbert and PGA Tour Professional – Stephen Ames, along with title sponsor, Shaw Communications Inc, the Shaw Charity Classic won the prestigious President's Award as the top event on the PGA TOUR Champions in 2017, 2015 and 2014. The Tournament has raised more than \$22.1 million in its first five years, with a PGA TOUR Champions record setting donation of \$8,391,413 raised in 2017 that was distributed amongst 159 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.

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### **For More Information:**

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

This year at the Shaw Charity Classic, we have new and improved accessible seating venues on-site. They are twice as large, and on the 18<sup>th</sup> green venue is now with the public bleacher and has paved access!