



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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**Three PGA TOUR Champions Rookies David Toms, Steve Flesch, Jerry Kelly Target YYC  
—New star on PGA TOUR Champions Toms adds to list of major winners in 2017—**

**CALGARY**—A major winner, a lefty and one of golf's most successful journeymen have all booked their tickets to Calgary for the 2017 Shaw Charity Classic, August 30 – September 3, 2017.

David Toms, the winner of the 2001 PGA Championship, will lead a trio of rookies on the PGA TOUR Champions including Steve Flesch and Jerry Kelly, who will all be searching for their first victory against the 50+ crowd when they hit the first tee at Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club.

"One of the most compelling characteristics of the PGA TOUR Champions is golf's big names turn into rookies on our Tour each year," said Sean Van Kesteren, tournament director, Shaw Charity Classic. "This year is no different with another strong rookie class led by David, Steve and Jerry. They still have a lot of game in them, and are great additions to the field."

Toms, Flesch and Kelly are no strangers to the winner's circle. Together they bring 20 PGA TOUR titles with them to Canada. Toms heads up the rookie class of 2017. The three-time U.S. Ryder Cup Team member has racked up 13 career titles on the PGA TOUR, including his major triumph in 2001.

"My first thoughts on this Tour are that these guys still play really good golf. All of them have been able to win multiple golf tournaments around the world so they know how to get the job done. Playing against that type of field each week makes it even more difficult to win," said Toms. "I have really enjoyed my first year on the PGA TOUR Champions. I'm playing a lot of golf courses I've never played before and that is the same for Calgary. I focus on my goals and preparation like I have my whole career on the PGA TOUR. I treat it as a big deal, work at it and go out there and enjoy it and see where it gets me at the end of a tournament."

Steve Flesch has also been plugging away in search of his first PGA TOUR Champions title. One of a handful of left handers in the game, Flesch has had success as a rookie on golf's biggest stage – winning the 1998 Rookie of the Year honours on the PGA TOUR. Flesch, who was in contention at last week's Senior Open Championship, went on to win four times on the regular TOUR.

"I only played a handful of events over the last five years so this year has been about getting back into that competitive mode," said Flesch. "I'd love to come out here and expect to win and make a big impact, but I can't put that pressure on myself yet. The guys on Tour talk a lot about the Shaw Charity Classic. I'm excited to get up to Canada and experience it myself."

Known as one of golf's best grinders, Jerry Kelly rounds out the trio of 50 year olds that will battle for the White Stetson in Calgary. The three-time winner on the PGA TOUR calls himself a "successful journeyman." Kelly was not always at the top of the leaderboard, but his name was never hard to find. Mixed in with his three titles, the ever-expressive Kelly had at least one top-10 in each of his 21 seasons on the PGA TOUR, and three or more top-10s 15 times. Now on the back nine of his career, Kelly hopes to reel in a few titles on his new Tour.

"I like the idea of coming out here and competing to win tournaments every week," said Kelly. "But I have learned that people have no idea how good these guys on the PGA TOUR Champions really are. Go through the list of the great names coming to this tournament alone – Montgomerie, Couples, Singh, Parnevik – you put them in their element on a golf course and the champions they are come out. I think it is a missed opportunity if people don't take advantage of getting out to the course to watch these guys play in their communities. I know it will be another great show in Calgary as it is each week with these guys teeing it up."



### **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 30 – September 3, 2017. 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 will showcase 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 2015 and 2014. The Tournament has raised more than \$13.8 million in its first four years, with a PGA TOUR Champions record setting donation of \$5,217,713 raised in 2016 that was distributed amongst 124 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.

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