



**SOBEYS STADIUM**  
1 Shoreham Dr, Suite 100  
Toronto ON M3N 3A6  
T. 416.665.9777

**STADE IGA**  
285, rue Gary-Carter  
Montréal QC H2R 2W1  
T. 514.273.1234

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **VENUS WILLIAMS RECEIVES WILD CARD TO PLAY AT NATIONAL BANK OPEN PRESENTED BY ROGERS**

*The 43-year-old American gears up for her 12<sup>th</sup> appearance on Canadian soil*

**Montreal, July 10, 2023** — Tennis Canada today announced that former World No. 1 and seven-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams has been awarded a wild card into the main draw of the National Bank Open presented by Rogers in Montreal. The tournament is scheduled to take place from August 4 to 13, as the world's best players are set to face off for the prestigious National Bank Open title.

Williams, widely regarded as one of the greatest players to ever step foot on court, will be making her 12<sup>th</sup> appearance at the Canadian event. Her best result came in 2014 when she defeated her younger sister, Serena, to reach the final in Montreal. The 43-year-old American has captured 49 singles titles and reached 83 finals in her career – the most among any active female players.

“We are excited and honoured to announce that for the first time since 2018 Venus (Williams) will be back in Montreal to play in front of our incredible fans,” said Valérie Tétreault, Tournament Director of the National Bank Open in Montreal. “Venus continues to inspire the tennis world with her relentless effort and determination to getting back to the top of her game, and we are eager to witness her extraordinary talent on the IGA Stadium courts.”

The wild card that Williams was awarded – a Top 20 Wild Card – is reserved for players who were former World No. 1's, ranked inside the Top 20 in 2022, or have previously won a Grand Slam, WTA Finals, or a WTA 1000 tournament in singles.

This is the second wild card given for this year's tournament, as Williams now joins Caroline Wozniacki as the first two players in the field for the 2023 National Bank Open. On July 13, the National Bank Open organizing committee will be unveiling the remainder of its entry list for the WTA event in Montreal. Additionally, three tournament wild cards that will be awarded to Canadian players are set to be distributed closer to the start of the tournament.

### **About the National Bank Open presented by Rogers**

The National Bank Open presented by Rogers is a Tennis Canada owned and operated world-class tournament celebrating over 129 years of the women's event from August 4-13 at IGA Stadium in Montreal and over 140 years of the men's event from August 5-13 at Sobeys Stadium in Toronto. As a Hologic WTA 1000 and ATP Tour Masters 1000 tournament, the National Bank Open presented by Rogers will showcase the world's best players. The National Bank Open presented by Rogers is the third-oldest title in tennis, behind only Wimbledon and the US Open. For more information and tickets visit [www.nationalbankopen.com](http://www.nationalbankopen.com).

### **About Tennis Canada**

Founded in 1890, Tennis Canada is a non-profit, national sport association with a mission to lead the growth, development and promotion of tennis in Canada and a vision to be a world-leading tennis nation. We value teamwork, passion, integrity, innovation and excellence. Tennis Canada owns and operates the



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premier National Bank Open presented by Rogers WTA and ATP Tour events, four professional ATP and ITF sanctioned events and financially supports four other professional tournaments in Canada. Tennis Canada operates junior national training centres/programs in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. Tennis Canada is a proud member of the International Tennis Federation, the Canadian Olympic Committee and the Canadian Paralympic Committee, and serves to administer, sponsor and select the teams for Davis Cup, Billie Jean King Cup, the Olympic and Paralympic Games and all wheelchair, junior and senior national teams. Tennis Canada invests its surplus into tennis development. For more information on Tennis Canada please visit our Web site at: [www.tenniscanada.com](http://www.tenniscanada.com) and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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#### **Media Contacts**

Patrick Steski  
Coordinator, Communications  
[psteski@tenniscanada.com](mailto:psteski@tenniscanada.com)  
613-818-6237