

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****SIXTEEN CANADIANS TO COMPETE IN PRE-QUALIFYING TO
SECURE FINAL NATIONAL BANK OPEN QUALIFYING WILDCARD IN
TORONTO**

Pre-qualifying will run from Tuesday, July 30 to Friday August 2

[TORONTO, ON] Friday, July 26, 2024 – Sixteen Canadians will compete in the pre-qualifying draw in a bid to secure the final qualifying wild card for the 2024 National Bank Open presented by Rogers in Toronto next week.

Beginning on Tuesday, July 30, match play will run until Friday, August 2 at Sobeys Stadium.

“The pre-qualifying event provides these players with an opportunity to experience relevant and high stakes competition,” said Guillaume Marx, Vice-President of High Performance at Tennis Canada. “This tournament continues to deliver high-quality matches and exceptional tennis, giving players the invaluable experience and motivation to secure that coveted wild card entry to qualifying for a WTA 1000 event on home soils. It would mean so much to any of them to take part in the National Bank Open presented by Rogers.”

Competing in Toronto are the likes of Stacey Fung, who reached the semi-finals at the Granby National Bank Championships last week, as well as Emma Dong, Jada Bui, Ariana Arseneault and Mia Kupres, who claimed the doubles title in Granby.

Bianca Fernandez, younger sister of Leylah Annie, is another a standout name on this entry list. A UCLA athlete, Bianca is among the top Canadians in the NCAA rankings, alongside Kupres of Texas A&M University. Kupres reached a career-high doubles ranking of No. 3 this May, earning the title of top-ranked Canadian in their division.

For the champion of the pre-qualifying event, there is the prospect of facing 2018 NBO runner-up and 2017 US Open Champion Sloane Stephens, 2020 Australian Open Champion Sofia Kenin, and 2021 US Open Champion Emma Raducanu, who headline the qualifying entry list, alongside Canadians Katherine Sebov, Carson Branstine, and Eugenie Bouchard.

The full list of players competing in pre-qualifying is below:

Stacey Fung	BC
Keira Blackbeard	AB
Dasha Plekhanova	ON
Bianca Fernandez	QC
Scarlett Nicholson	ON
Mia Kupres	AB
Jada Bui	ON
Gabriella Vannessa Lindgren	BC
Summer Curtis	ON



Isabella Marton	ON
Clemence Mercier	QC
Emma Dong*	BC
Ariana Arseneault	ON
Alexandra Vagramov	BC
Martyna Ostrzygalo	AB
Nadia Lagaev	ON

* Indicates a player is a Tennis Canada National Tennis Centre presented by Rogers athlete

PRE-QUALIFYING CAMP PART OF FIVE-WEEK SUMMER TOUR FOR YOUNG CANADIANS

In preparation for the four-day pre-qualifying event, the players have been training on the second annual summer tour in Canada which, by its conclusion, will have spanned five weeks having started in mid-July. The first week of the tour featured a stop in Granby, Québec, for an ITF W75+H championship, closing out on July 21 before players travelled to Toronto.

Week two is highlighted by a camp in Toronto, allowing players to practice together and familiarize themselves with the courts at Sobeys Stadium, with guidance from Tennis Canada High Performance staff and fitness experts. The following week leading up to the NBO is dedicated to the pre-qualifying tournament, with the tour wrapping up with a tournament in Saskatoon in the middle of August.

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 130 years of the women's event from August 4-12 at Sobeys Stadium in Toronto and over 140 years of the men's event from August 3-12 at IGA Stadium in Montreal. 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.

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