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# ARYNA SABALENKA, COCO GAUFF, JESSICA PEGULA AND IGA SWIATEK SET TO HEADLINE THE 2025 NATIONAL BANK OPEN IN MONTREAL

 WTA Tour's top players are set to compete at IGA Stadium as tournament expands to 12-day format
Canadian Fernandez earns direct main-draw entries; Mboko and Andreescu receive wild cards

**[MONTREAL, QC] July 3, 2025–**Tennis Canada unveiled Thursday the entry list for the 2025 National Bank Open presented by Rogers (NBO) in Montreal, which includes the top 68 players and four players making comebacks, having chosen to use their protected ranking. This marks the largest player field in the tournament's history, as it enters a new 12-day format with a 96-player main draw.

Headlining the field are the world's top four players: Aryna Sabalenka (No. 1), Coco Gauff (No. 2), Jessica Pegula (No. 3) and Iga Swiatek (No. 4).

Sabalenka, a three-time Grand Slam champion, has posted a 44-8 record so far in 2025, winning titles in Miami and Madrid and reaching the final at Roland-Garros. Gauff, who defeated Sabalenka in that French Open final for the second Grand Slam title of her career, currently holds a 31-10 record this season. Pegula, the two-time defending NBO champion, became the first woman to win back-to-back titles at the event since Martina Hingis in 2000. She has added titles in Charleston, Austin, and most recently Bad Homburg to her résumé this season, marking the first time she has won three tournaments in a single year. As for Swiatek, while she has yet to capture a title in 2025, she continues to demonstrate remarkable consistency at the highest level, having reached the semifinals at both the Australian Open and Roland-Garros, and recently made a deep run in Bad Homburg, reaching the final.

In addition to these four players, the remainder of the Top 10 – Jasmine Paolini (No. 5), Qinwen Zheng (No. 6), Mirra Andreeva (No. 7), Madison Keys (No. 8), Paula Badosa (No. 9), and Emma Navarro (No. 10) – are all set to take part in the Canadian event. Other notable names include Elina Svitolina (No. 13) and Belinda Bencic (No. 35), the 2017 and 2015 NBO champions, respectively; and the last three Wimbledon champions, Barbora Krejcikova (No. 16) Marketa Vondrousova (No. 73 using a protected ranking) and Elena Rybakina (No. 11). In total, 12 Grand Slam champions will be part of the action in Montreal, one of the deepest fields of contenders ever showcased at IGA Stadium.

"The 2025 National Bank Open will mark a turning point in the history of tennis in Montreal and Quebec, as our tournament – already one of the most prestigious in the world – promises to be one of the most exciting editions ever," said Valérie Tétreault, Tournament Director of the National Bank Open, Montreal. "The quality and depth of the women's field this year is simply exceptional – from Grand Slam champions to rising stars, nearly every top WTA player will be in Montreal this summer. With the expanded format, fans will get even more opportunities to witness world-class tennis and discover the incredible talent



driving the women's game forward. We can't wait to welcome fans from across Canada and around the world to experience what Montreal has to offer as a top tennis destination." The full Montreal entry list is available <u>here.</u>

### Two wild cards already confirmed for Canadians players

Canadian fans will have plenty to cheer about as several homegrown talents get set to compete in this year's tournament — including one Canadian who secured direct entry into the main draw. Leading the charge is Leylah Annie Fernandez (No. 38), Canada's top-ranked singles player, returning to Montreal for her sixth NBO appearance. A fan favourite, Fernandez has reached the quarter-finals at two events this season and will be eager to make a deep run on home soil, having previously advanced to the third round the last time she competed in Montreal.

Tennis Canada has also announced today that two main-draw wild cards have been awarded to Canadians Victoria Mboko and Bianca Andreescu.

At only 18 years old, Mboko (No. 97) is set to make her main-draw debut in Montreal after an impressive start to the season that included a Canadian record 22-match winning streak and a third-round showing at Roland-Garros. Andreescu (No. 148), Canada's first Grand Slam singles champion and the 2019 NBO winner in Toronto, returns as a wild card for her seventh appearance at the tournament. After missing the first three months of the 2025 season due to injury and illness, she returned to competitive action in April. Most recently, Andreescu reached the quarter-finals of the Libéma Open in June, where she fell to Elena-Gabriela Ruse.

#### Victoria Mboko:

"I am so excited to have been awarded a Main Draw WC into the National Bank Open in Montreal later this summer. This year has been full of highlights for me so far already and being able to compete in one of the biggest events outside of the Grand Slams is something I am looking very much forward to. As a Canadian, there is nothing more thrilling than to play at home and I therefore hope to see many of you out here in Montreal this summer!"

#### **Bianca Andreescu:**

"I'm very grateful to Tennis Canada for the Main Draw Wild Card at the National Bank Open presented by Rogers. Playing in front of my home crowd is always a privilege that I look forward to. See you soon in Montreal!"

#### **Additional Information**

- The first NBO under the tournament's new format begins with qualifying on Saturday, July 26. Main-draw play runs from Sunday, July 27, through Thursday, August 7, at IGA Stadium. The top 32 seeds will receive first-round byes and will begin play on Tuesday, July 29, or Wednesday, July 30.
- Six additional main-draw wild cards are still to be announced, including the winner of the <u>Road to</u> <u>the NBO</u> competition, Tennis Canada's new initiative supporting emerging Canadian talent. They will be revealed closer to the start of the event.



- This year's tournament also marks a significant step toward gender equity. As part of its <u>Game</u>. <u>Set</u>. <u>Equity</u>. commitment, Tennis Canada is increasing prize money for women players as both draws expand to 12 days. In 2025, WTA prize money will rise to nearly 60% of the ATP purse, on track for full parity by 2027. At that time, total WTA prize money is projected to reach nearly \$10 million USD, an increase of 350% over four years.
- Other events will also take place throughout the tournament, as the NBO transforms into the <u>Tennis Playground</u>. These include the return of <u>IGA Family Weekend</u>, <u>TennisFest Montreal</u> on August 2 and 3, the first-ever Montreal Edition of <u>UNMATCHED</u>: <u>Gender Equity in Sports</u> <u>Conference</u> on August 6, and the culmination of it all, <u>Championship Week</u>, running from August 4 to 7.

For the Ultimate Guide to Visiting IGA Stadium, click <u>here.</u> Fans can also buy tickets for the National Bank Open by following this link: <u>Tickets</u>

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

The National Bank Open presented by Rogers is a world-class tournament owned and operated by Tennis Canada. In 2025, the event enters a new era with an expanded 12-day format that features a 96-player main draw. As a Hologic WTA 1000 and ATP Tour Masters 1000 tournament, it will showcase the world's top tennis players in Montreal and Toronto from July 26 to August 7. The women's event, celebrating more than 130 years of history, will take place at IGA Stadium in Montreal. The men's event, celebrating more than 140 years of tradition, will be held at Sobeys Stadium. 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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