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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLAYER FIELD UNVEILED FOR 2026 SAGUENAY NATIONAL BANK CHALLENGER; KAYLA CROSS SET TO BE TOP-RANKED CANADIAN

The event will take place at the Club de tennis intérieur Saguenay from October 18-25, 2026

[TORONTO, ON] October 8, 2026 – On Thursday, Tennis Canada announced the player field for the 2026 Saguenay National Bank Challenger. The event is a World Tennis Tour W75 tournament offering total prize money of \$60,000 and will take place from October 18 to 25 at the Club de tennis intérieur Saguenay.

"Saguenay has been an important part of the Canadian tennis landscape, giving fans the opportunity to watch world-class tennis while providing the next generation of Canadian players with valuable experience on home soil," said Francis Milloy, Manager, Professional and National Events in Quebec at Tennis Canada. "We're proud to celebrate this milestone with another strong player field, and we're looking forward to welcoming some of the world's best players to Saguenay – from established veterans and rising stars to talented Canadians ready to compete in front of their home crowd."

The player field for the 2026 Saguenay National Bank Challenger is comprised of exceptional talent and has attracted world class players to compete for the title. All 18 main draw slots feature players with a singles ranking of World No. 315 or higher, making this year's tournament one of the strongest showcases to date. The event will feature Germany's Tatjana Maria (No. 84), who reached a career-high ranking of No. 35 in 2025 after winning her maiden WTA title at the WTA 500 Queen's Club Championships. Maria advanced through qualifying before defeating four Top 20 players en route to the title. She will be joined by American Elvina Kalieva (No. 117), who recently achieved her career-best singles ranking of World No. 113 in September of 2026 following an appearance in the semi-finals of the 2026 Memphis Classic and appeared in her first career Grand Slam main draw after advancing through qualifying at the 2026 US Open.

"We wanted to redouble our efforts to introduce the Saguenay National Bank Challenger to new audiences. After all these years, it is almost incredible to realize that many people in the region are still unaware of this tournament and the quality of the tennis on display. Our goal is therefore simple: to reach out to these potential fans, entice them to walk through our doors, and let them experience the unique atmosphere of a professional tournament right here in Saguenay. We are convinced that once you attend, you'll want to come back!" notes tournament director Caroline Delisle.

Fans will have several Canadian players to cheer for, including next-generation talents Kayla Cross (No. 166) and Cadence Brace (No. 249), as well as two-time Saguenay champion Katherine Sebov (No. 223). Earlier this season, Cross and Sebov impressed at the National Bank Open presented by Rogers (NBO) in Toronto, where both won their first-round matches. Brace made her NBO debut but fell in the first round. Cross has also enjoyed a breakthrough season, winning the Granby National Bank Championships for the biggest singles title of her career.

The 2026 Saguenay National Bank Challenger will feature a 32-player singles qualifying draw. Click [here](#) to view the full list of players scheduled to participate in the 2026 Saguenay National Bank



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Challenger. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.tenniscanada.com/national-bank-challengers/saguenay.

MEDIA NOTES

- Canadians have won the tournament six times, including three singles titles, two of which were won by Katherine Sebov (2018, 2023).
- Saguenay is the 16th professional tennis event held in Canada so far this year.
- The event is the fourth of five National Bank Challengers taking place across Canada in 2026.
- Canadian players are also taking part in the [*Road to the NBO*](#), a points race for a main-draw wild card into the 2027 National Bank Open presented by Rogers.
 - Emma Dong currently leads the women's race with 21 points.

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 premier National Bank Open presented by Rogers WTA and ATP Tour events, it financially supports 15 other professional tournaments in Canada, as well as operating more than 60 events nationally across junior, wheelchair, university and Masters tennis categories. Tennis Canada is a proud member of World Tennis, 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 masters tennis national teams. Tennis Canada invests its surplus into tennis development. For more information on Tennis Canada please visit our website at: www.tenniscanada.com and follow us on LinkedIn, X, Facebook and Instagram.

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