



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Canada's spelling champion rides in the Stampede Parade

Calgary, AB – The Calgary Stampede is pleased to announce that Canada's top speller, Finola Hackett, will be a Special Guest of the Stampede and will ride in the 2006 Parade.

The 14-year-old Grade 8 student from Tofield, Alta. made Canadians proud by advancing to the finals at the world's most prestigious spelling event, the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. on June 1. Out of an international field of 275 qualified spellers, Finola finished impressively in 2nd place. She was the lone Canadian in the Championship rounds, although Jaclyn Chang of Calgary advanced all the way to the seventh round of the finals. Finola earned her trip to the Scripps National Spelling Bee by claiming her second straight CanWest CanSpell Canadian title in Ottawa earlier this year.

"We're thrilled that Finola will be one of our Special Guests in this year's Parade," says Steve Allan, chairman of the board and president of the Calgary Exhibition & Stampede. "As Canada's spelling champion, it's very fitting that she'll be a part of the Stampede's Celebration of Canada."

"The achievement of Finola and all the Canadian spellers both in the CanWest National Final in Ottawa and the international Scripps competition in Washington is a source of great pride for CanWest," says Bruce Leslie, Vice-President Community & Public Relations, CanWest Global Communications Corp. "We set out to celebrate academic achievement with CanSpell, and we are delighted that Finola Hackett and her accomplishments will be recognized by such a huge international event in her home Province."

The Calgary Exhibition & Stampede is a volunteer supported, not-for-profit community organization that preserves and promotes western heritage and values. The Stampede contributes to the quality of life in Calgary and southern Alberta through its world-renowned 10-day Calgary Stampede, year-round facilities, products and services and agricultural programs that foster understanding of the agricultural industry. All revenue generated is reinvested into our various programs and facilities.

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