



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Canada's top soldier to lead expanded Military presence at Stampede

Calgary, AB – The Calgary Stampede is pleased to announce that Canada's Chief of the Defence Staff, General Rick Hillier, will participate as an Honorary Parade Marshal in the 2006 Stampede Parade on Friday, July 7. General Hillier will also lead an expanded and enhanced military presence at this year's Stampede.

"It is a great honour to have our soldiers, sailors, airmen and airwomen at the Calgary Stampede to showcase the capabilities of the Canadian Forces," says General Hillier. "I truly believe it is important for Canadians, and other visitors from around the world, to see what our military can do, understand how they do it, and the excellent equipment we have to accomplish our missions. We'll also be highlighting the great opportunities the Canadian Forces offer the young men and women of our nation. We are proud of our partnership with the Calgary Stampede - showcasing Canada to the world."

During the Stampede Parade, General Hillier, along with several senior military officers, will be watching a large contingent of servicemen and women who will be marching in the parade. The parade will feature a flyover by the Snowbirds, the world famous Canadian Forces Precision Aerobatic Display team, as well as a display of Leopard Tanks, and a sizeable delegation of military personnel, mounted troops and marching bands.

"We're very proud to be paying a special tribute to our men and women in the Canadian Forces at this year's Calgary Stampede," says Steve Allan, chairman of the board and president of the Calgary Exhibition & Stampede. "The servicemen and women come from communities all across our nation and are the everyday heroes who represent the very best our country has to offer."

As part of the Stampede's 'Celebration of Canada,' General Hillier will join an assembly of more than 40 other inspiring Canadians serving as Honorary Parade Marshals – a group that includes RCMP Commissioner Giuliano Zaccardelli, the Right Honourable Beverly McLachlin, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, world steer wrestling champion Lee Graves and Olympic and Paralympic medallists from across Canada who

competed in the Turin games. Hillier, Zaccardelli, McLachlin and the athletes will also be honoured in the opening ceremonies for this year's Grandstand Show, which commemorates the spirit of national unity, in 'Canada, Moments in Time.'

Canadian cross-country skier Sara Renner and Norwegian national cross-country ski team coach Bjørnar Håkensmoen will serve as this year's Parade Marshals.

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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For more information, please contact:

Brenda Hanchar

Media Relations Manager

Calgary Exhibition & Stampede

Bus. (403) 261-0277

Cell. (403) 585-4105