

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROGERS PLACE HOSTS YOUTH CHARITY TENNIS EVENT FOR 400 STUDENTS!

Canadian Tire Jumpstart and Edmonton Little Aces team up for disadvantaged youth

Edmonton, November 16th, 2016 – Youth Tennis organization Edmonton Little Aces has once again teamed up with Jumpstart Charities and the Edmonton Public School Board for their fifth annual tennis program, getting disadvantaged youth outfitted and into tennis for another round of fun.

Students are from some of Edmonton's toughest central west neighborhoods and have little chance to engage in extra-curricular activities, "We are drastically short of indoor tennis courts in Edmonton, so for these kids to have an opportunity to play on portable courts in Ford Hall at Rogers Place, paid for by the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation, is just amazing! It shows me that the arena is really opening its doors to members of the community who would otherwise not have the means to come." - Mary Manley, Executive Director of Edmonton Little Aces.

Although only the Grade 5's & 6's are coming to this event, the program provides about 1000 Grade 3 to 6 students the opportunity to participate in the 6 week in-school fall program and receive a Babolat tennis racquet and ball, thanks to corporate donors and Babolat. All 10 participating schools also received a classroom equipment kit.

The wind up event takes place on Thursday December 1st, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m at the new Rogers Place Arena in Ford Hall.

"Tennis provides our students in central west Edmonton with sport involvement and learning that may not otherwise be possible. Considering the positive future impact on our children is what drives the tennis opportunities through Little Aces and Jump Start! " - Janet Laddish, Inglewood School Principal and school liaison for the program.

"The Little Aces Event is a shining example of what can be accomplished when Local Chapters partner with Jumpstart to get kids in the game" - Ray Engelbertink, owner of Kingsway Canadian Tire

For winter program information, please visit <http://alberta.tenniscanada.com/> and click on "Little Aces".

This event could not have come about without the incredible support of our sponsors and donors: Canadian Tire Jumpstart, Oilers Community Foundation, Rogers Place Arena, Metegrity, Babolat, Boudreau Developments, Don Wheaton, Brandon Kot, Edmonton Community Foundation, Ogilvie LLP, Cushman & Wakefield, Chrisen Realty, Hangar Developments, Ian Barrigan, Stephen Mandel, Savvia, Protostatix, Greg Gardner, Allan Robertson. Also a big thank you to our partners – Tennis Alberta, Tennis Canada, Ever-Active Schools, Royal Glenora Club

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Edmonton Little Aces is a recreational kids' non-profit tennis association. It offers after-school and weekends learn to play tennis programs at: Terwillegar Rec Centre, Meadows Rec Centre, Kinsmen Sports Centre, S Bruce Smith School. It operates their programs in recreation centres and school gymnasiums because the two tennis clubs in Edmonton, Royal Glenora Club and Saville Community Sports Centre, are for members only and are over burdened with players. Little Aces players have no where else to play. Tennis Alberta is currently looking for land to build a new public tennis facility as demand is so high.