

## Tour of Alberta Community Rally to be held August 19

For Immediate Release  
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WETASKIWIN, ALBERTA – The City of Wetaskiwin is holding a Community Rally on Monday, August 19 to build excitement for the Tour of Alberta, which will be speeding through the City on Thursday, September 5.

The Rally will be held at 50 Street and 51 Avenue starting at 12 noon. It will consist of a kids bike parade, Mayor's family bike ride, food, entertainment, and more. Representatives from the Tour of Alberta Street Team will be on hand as well.

"The Tour of Alberta – which is modeled after the Tour de France – is the first race of its kind in Western Canada" explains Kevin Lucas, Director of Community Services for the City of Wetaskiwin. "Participants are elite cyclists who will travel almost 900 km from Edmonton to Calgary through all kinds of terrain. Cyclists will be passing through the City of Wetaskiwin – which has been selected as a sprint location - around noon on Thursday, September 5. Being a sprint location means increased exposure for the City, and a more exciting experience for spectators. We're holding this rally because we want to get the word out about this great event and get the community engaged in what we think will be a fantastic experience".

Mayor Bill Elliot encourages everyone to come out on August 19. "It'll be fun, I think. The kids can decorate their bikes, and they'll be prizes for the winners. It's a great opportunity to come out on what we hope will be a hot summer day, get some exercise, and learn more about the Tour of Alberta."

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*Background:*

The Tour of Alberta will be a six-stage race, starting in Edmonton on Tuesday, September 3 and ending in Calgary on Sunday, September 8, with stage routes traveling throughout rural Alberta, villages, towns and small cities, which rarely, if ever, have had the benefit of seeing, let alone hosting, major international sporting events in their communities.

The Race

- The Tour of Alberta is a six-day professional bicycle race promoted under Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) rules.
- The approximate total distance of the Tour of Alberta will be over 850 kilometres (530 miles).
- As a sanctioned UCI 2.1 Pro Stage Race, the event is expected to draw up to 16 elite cycling teams, including up to eight international Pro Teams – some of the same teams that compete in the Tour de France — and up to eight Pro Continental, Continental, and National teams from around the world. Each team will consist of up to eight riders.
- The race will cover terrains including open prairies, rolling foothills and the majestic Rockies.