



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Back from Tokyo, Audrey Leduc to start at Courons Gatineau

First media availability in Canada since the World Athletics Championships

Gatineau, September 15, 2025 – Courons Gatineau is back in full force for its 2nd edition on Saturday, September 27, with the presence of Audrey Leduc.

The Olympian from Gatineau, Canadian record holder in the 100 m and 200 m, will be back in the country for less than 24 hours following her participation in the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo.

** A press conference will be held with her presence (see invitation at the end of this release).

“We are honored that Audrey has agreed to reprise her role as spokesperson for *Courons Gatineau*. She embodies excellence and inspires our youth. Her presence will bring tremendous energy to this 2nd edition,” said Philippe Lebel, President of Gatineau Loppet, the organization behind the event.

Audrey will take part in the 2 km race, where she will walk and run alongside families. She will also sign autographs and present medals.

“*Courons Gatineau* is a unique event where I saw stars in the eyes of children. I hope to inspire them to believe in their dreams!” she said.

New races and Gold-certified courses



This year, in addition to the 2, 5, and 10 km races, Courons Gatineau will also feature 1 km and 15 km options to meet the ambitions of all participants. Athletics Québec has awarded Gold certification to the 5, 10, and 15 km courses, a guarantee of quality and safety.

“Receiving Athletics Québec’s highest certification for our 5, 10, and 15 km courses is a source of immense pride. It is a wonderful recognition of the quality of our organization and motivates us to continue raising our standards,” said Jérôme Poulin, Executive Director of the Gatineau Loppet.

A festive program and a tribute to our rivers



Starting at 1:00 p.m., entertainment will be provided by Ensemble Terrato, DJs, and Folklore Outaouais. The event will also pay tribute to the Gatineau and Ottawa Rivers, highlighted by the race routes and by kiosks from the Symmes Inn Museum and *Garde-rivière des Outaouais*, a nonprofit supported through donations collected during online registration.

Accessibility and inclusion



The site will welcome families, beginners, children, seniors, and people with reduced mobility in a friendly and open atmosphere. The inclusive component of the event continues to grow this year. Paralympian Jacques Bouchard will act as spokesperson for the adapted races, which enable people living with disabilities to participate thanks to co-racing wheelchairs and the support of skilled, dedicated volunteers.

“I am very proud to be the initiator and coordinator of such an important project. Too often, people with disabilities are excluded. This initiative shows that everyone has a place and can take part,” said Marie-Pier Bouladier, consultant in universal accessibility and disability inclusion.

Strong support from Gatineau and ID Gatineau

The Gatineau Loppet is pleased to announce \$21,250 in financial support from ID Gatineau, granted through the Social Economy Business Development Fund. This contribution supports the first phase of a new business model, of which Courons Gatineau is a flagship component. The organization also wishes to thank its main partner, the City of Gatineau, along with all sponsors supporting the event.

“ID Gatineau is proud to support the Gatineau Loppet in evolving its business model, a process that will allow it to diversify its activities and strengthen its contribution to the economic and social vitality of Gatineau and the greater Outaouais region,” said André Landry, Chair of the Board of ID Gatineau.

Gatineau Mayor and proud event participant, Maude Marquis-Bissonnette, added: “This unifying event highlights not only citizen participation but also the beauty of our landscape

and the commitment of our community. The City is proud to once again support Courons Gatineau and the Gatineau Loppet, two events that showcase our city beyond its borders.”

Registration

Online registration continues until Sunday, September 21 at 11:59 p.m., when early bird rates end. On-site registration will also be available in the backyard of À La Dérive – Brasserie artisanale:

- Friday, September 26, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Saturday, September 27, from 11 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
(subject to availability depending on the race)

👉 To register: www.couronsgatineau.ca

Interview requests

For media requests, please email communication@gatineauloppet.com or contact Lorianne St-Jean at 819-209-5300.

Source:

Communications Team – Gatineau Loppet

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Media Invitation – Press Conference

Where: Quai des Cageux, Jacques-Cartier Street, Gatineau

(Reserved parking available at 1091 Jacques-Cartier Street for accredited media who confirm by Friday, September 26 at 4:00 p.m.)

In case of rain, the press conference will be held on the 2nd floor of À La Dérive – Brasserie artisanale (1015 Jacques-Cartier Street, Gatineau).

When: Saturday, September 27, 2025, 1 p.m.

Who:

- Audrey Leduc, Olympian and Courons Gatineau spokesperson
- Philippe Lebel, President of the Gatineau Loppet

What:

- Media will be invited to ask questions about *Courons Gatineau* and Audrey Leduc’s journey.
- One-on-one interviews and photos will be available after the press conference.
- This will mark Audrey Leduc’s **first media availability in Canada** since competing at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo.

R.S.V.P.

Please confirm your attendance no later than Friday, September 26 at 4 p.m. at communication@gatineauloppet.com

About Gatineau Loppet

Gatineau Loppet is the nonprofit organization behind *Courons Gatineau* and the Gatineau Loppet. The Gatineau Loppet is the largest cross-country ski event in Canada and the Canadian stop of the Worldloppet, a circuit of premier races in 19 countries. Each year, more than 2,500 skiers from around 20 countries take part. Held in Gatineau Park, the event offers distances suited to all levels of ski enthusiasts.

About Courons Gatineau

Courons Gatineau is a popular running event open to newcomers, experienced runners, and walkers. Organized by Gatineau Loppet, it pays tribute to the rivers of the Outaouais under the theme "From one river to another." Now in its second edition, the event is expected to attract nearly 1,000 participants this year.

About Audrey Leduc

Spokesperson for *Courons Gatineau*, Audrey Leduc is an Olympian from Gatineau who competed at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Holder of the Canadian records in the 100 m and 200 m, she reached the semifinals in both events and the final of the 4x100 m relay. Audrey is representing Canada once again at the 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo (September 13–21).