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Kingston, Ont., to host 2019-2022 Canadian Men's and Women's Individual Chess Championships

Kingston has been awarded the 2019 & 2021 Canadian Men's Individual Chess Championships, and the 2020 & 2022 Canadian Women's Individual Women's Chess Championships (also known as the Canada Men's and Women's Zonal). Canada is one of the few nations worldwide that remains one of the founding "Zones" of the World Chess Federation (FIDE).

The 2019-2022 Canadian Men's and Women's Individual Chess Championships will be held at Four Points by Sheraton Kingston over Easter Weekend during a four-year cycle. Players from across Canada will compete to win international chess titles, and go on to represent the Canada Zone at the Men's and Women's World Cup. The winner of the World Cup earns a championship head-to-head match against the reigning World Champion.

Aris Marghetis, Eastern Ontario Chess Association (EOCA) President says, "We felt that Eastern Ontario is uniquely positioned geographically to attract players from both of the huge chess cities of Toronto and Montreal. Then in researching for actual locations, we were very pleasantly impressed with the research work that Tourism Kingston was putting in for us, and the many local hotels that were very welcoming to our ideas and proposals."

EOCA will organize each national championship and anticipates 100 players in the first year.

"Kingston truly is a welcoming destination for all levels of sport competitions", states Megan Knott, Executive Director of Tourism Kingston. "Following the momentum of the 2019 Canadian Men's Individual Chess Championship, Kingston will host the 2019 North American Youth Chess Championships (NAYCC) this summer".

In addition to the top section that will serve as the national chess championship, there will be three other full sections for recreational players (rated U2200/U1900/U1600). All players in all sections will be rated both nationally and internationally.

To register for the 2019 Canada Zonal & Easter Sectionals (U2200/U1900/U1600), please visit <u>eoca.ca</u>.

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Aris Marghetis	Brooke Lenser
President, EOCA	Sport Tourism Manager, Tourism Kingston
Tel : 1-613-720-7138	Tel: 1-613-548-4415 ext. 7240
arismarghetis@rogers.com	brooke@tourismkingston.com