



Back to The Bachelor, the Canadian version, coming to Citytv

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Canada, will you accept this rose?

The popular reality series *The Bachelor* is getting a homegrown version on Citytv this fall.

U.S. host Chris Harrison made the announcement in Toronto Monday morning on Breakfast Television.

The ABC show, now in its 16th season, features one man attempting to choose a future wife from 25 contenders. Those invited to stay in the competition week to week are asked by the Bachelor to accept red roses, until the pool is narrowed down to two finalists.

Rogers Media says preproduction has already begun on the nine-episode *The Bachelor Canada* with principal photography to start this spring. It's being produced by Vancouver-based Force Four Entertainment.

"The Bachelor has long been a fan favourite on Citytv and we look forward to putting a Canadian spin on this thriving franchise," said Claire Freeland, director of original programming for Rogers Canada, in a news release.

"Canada is brimming with eligible bachelors and bachelorettes, and we're excited to offer them the opportunity to embark on their own quest for love through this entertaining series."

In fact, Canadians have regularly been cast on the U.S. show, something Harrison commented on last year.

"I think with the Canadians, our show is hugely popular up there," he told reporters last January. "The second thing is Canadians need love, too. That's been proven. It doesn't hurt (that we had) Jillian as our Bachelorette."

The Jillian in question is Albertan Jillian Harris, an interior designer who's been featured on *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* and hosts *Canada's Next Handyman*. She got her start as a reality TV star on Season 13 of *The Bachelor*. Although she didn't find love then, she returned as the one doing the choosing in the Bachelor spinoff *The Bachelorette*.

Another Canadian, Jessie Sulidis, an Oakville model and TV host, competed on *The Bachelor* and another one of its spinoffs, *Bachelor Pad*.

She also figured in a scandal when she blew the whistle on Justin Rego, a Toronto man who walked off *The Bachelorette* when it was revealed he was still dating a woman at home. He later competed on *Bachelor Pad*.

Some fans of Rego have suggested via Twitter and Facebook that they'd love to watch a season of him looking for love, which brings us to the question of who will be Canada's Bachelor.

Rogers says it will announce those casting details later but, in the meantime, the search is on nationwide for "rose-loving bachelorettes." Go to www.Citytv.com/BachelorCanada for eligibility details.

Current U.S. episodes of *The Bachelor* air Mondays at 8 p.m. on ABC and OMNI Television.



Canada is getting its own version of the Bachelor, U.S. host Chris Harrison announced Monday, Jan. 23.

Mark Brendel/THE CANADIAN PRESS

