

SPOTLIGHT STORY CFL player Brad Smith picked to be first star in Canadian version of TV series

Bachelor just 'a simple guy'

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Get ready to meet your inaugural Bachelor Canada bachelor: CFL wide-receiver Brad Smith.

Citytv announced Tuesday that the CFL player will star in the reality-TV show, ending weeks of speculation.

"I'm extremely honoured to be chosen as Canada's first bachelor," Smith said in a statement. "I take this experience very seriously, and I truly believe in the process. I can't wait to meet all the wonderful Canadian women who have put their lives on hold to experience all of this with me. I hope I can live up to their expectations, as I know they'll absolutely exceed mine."

The 28-year-old is the son of former CFL commissioner and current Canadian senator Larry Smith.

"All I can say is we're proud and very supportive," Larry Smith told *The Gazette* Tuesday. "This is another adventure. At this stage, with your kids as adults, each child has a path and you support them."

"I'm excited for him. It's about Brad, not us."

Brad Smith, a hockey-loving football player, grew up in Hudson and graduated from Queen's University before starting a career as a wide receiver for sever-

al CFL teams, including the Edmonton Eskimos, the Alouettes and the Toronto Argonauts.

A free agent (in more ways than one), Smith now lives in Toronto.

As for his ideal partner, Smith said he's attracted to independent, intelligent women who are "just as confident in a ponytail, sweatpants and sweatshirt as they are all dressed up for a night out on the town."

"A sense of humour is a turn-on," he told Citytv. "Someone who is high-maintenance turns me off!"

"Brad is the full package: a quintessentially Canadian, down-to-earth man," Claire Freeland, *The Bachelor Canada*'s executive producer, said in a statement.

"He is completely committed to this experience and in it for the right reasons. It's Canada's turn to find love with *The Bachelor Canada*, and we could not have hoped for a more well-rounded and genuine person to kick off the first season."

With the long casting process complete, production on the nine-episode reality series is underway.

The *Bachelor Canada* will premiere on Citytv this fall. Additional details, including the identity of the host and the 25 bachelorettes, will be announced at a later date.

Smith answered a few questions from Citytv.

Question: What is the most romantic date you've ever been on?

Smith: "Romance is what you make of it. I think that anything from dinner and a movie to an extravagant night out on the town can be romantic, as long as you're with the right person."

What's your secret skill/talent?

"I am self-proclaimed awesome at trivia and trivia game shows."

How could a girl impress you on a first date?

"Just by being herself – or taking me to a hockey game."

What is your Zodiac sign?

"Libra."

What's your favourite sport?

"Hockey."

Describe your ideal woman?

"Someone with a sense of humour, drive, intelligence, beauty, a willingness to go with the flow and who is athletic or loves sports."

What do you do to impress someone on a first date?

"I try to break the ice and be as funny as I can. I try to make it easy for her to just be herself. I'm more impressed by personality than something extravagant. I'm a simple guy."

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"Someone who is high-maintenance turns me off!"
Brad Smith says.

DARREN GOLDSTEIN DSG PHOTO

Why do you deserve to be Canada's first Bachelor?

"I know I am genuinely sincere towards this process. I know that the end point of this process - finding someone - is what I want. I feel like I've come a long way and deserve love."

If you had to choose, what would be the theme song to your life?

"Soldier On by Temper Trap."

Boxers or briefs?

Boxer briefs.

What is your favourite exotic travel destination?

"Crane Beach, Barbados."

If you had to cook for a woman, what dish would you make?

"Seared Ahi tuna in a chili ginger sauce, with sweet goat

"She broke up with me in front of my parents and I was devastated."

BRAD SMITH
ON HAVING HIS HEART BROKEN

cheese mashed potatoes and collard greens."

Are you a dog or a cat person?

"I'm a dog person."

What's your favourite holiday?

"Any holiday that involves getting my entire family together."

Vanilla or chocolate?

"Vanilla, but only with brownies and hot chocolate sauce!"

What are some of Canada's most romantic date destinations?

"The lookout on Mont Royal in Montreal, anywhere in Lake Louise, Alta., and the Banff Upper Hot Springs!"

Have you ever had a broken heart?

"Of course. It was my first serious relationship. It was hard because she broke up with me in front of my parents and I was devastated."

Are you from a small town or a big city? Which do you prefer?

"I have small town roots but I love living in a big city. It's the best of both worlds."

If you could make one wish, what would it be?

"To send my parents on a trip around the world. My dad has worked so much that they've never had the ability to enjoy their free time."