

The Hockey Conference 2025

In the Echoes of Reckonings

Program Guide

www.thehockeyconference2025.ca @thehockeyconf



Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that we are gathered on Treaty One Territory, the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Ininiwak, Anisininewuk, Dakota Oyate and Dene, and on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

We acknowledge that our water is sourced from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation.

The Hockey Conference is committed to working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in the spirit of truth, reconciliation and Collaboration. The schedule that follows is a reflection of this commitment.

Conference Theme: In the Echoes of Reckonings
echoes, “sound repeated by reflection”; reckoning, “a settling of accounts”

Hockey continues to experience reckonings. While some incidents have garnered more media attention than others, questions about hockey’s deeper purpose abound: How might we, individually and collectively, reckon with a history of hockey that has contributed to acts of misogyny, violence, racism, homophobia, classism, and ableism? How might we reckon with realizing our entanglements and vulnerabilities in the context of hockey culture? In what ways are we implicated in narratives of hockey culture?

People have begun to trouble the inheritances of hockey culture, and to recognize that the way the game has been understood and performed is not inevitable. We have witnessed these challenges through academic scholarship, through investigative journalism, through the activism of players, through the practical changes made by coaches, and through the policy changes enacted by leaders. Through this conference, we aspire to open up conversations and to cultivate conceptions of ice hockey that do not yet exist.

Committee Members

Martine Dennie
Shannon Moore
Stefan Lewis
Cheryl MacDonald

Kristi Allain
 Sarah Teetzel
 Jamieson Ryan
 Teresa Fowler
 Tim Skuce
 Kyle McCallum
 Seth Garcia
 Jonathon Edwards
 Christine O'Bonsawin
 Brent Poplawski

Special Thanks

Thank you to everyone who made the Twelfth International Hockey Conference possible. To the organizers, presenters, keynote speakers, journalists, and volunteers—your work, insight, and dedication created space for bold and necessary conversations. To our attendees and participants—thank you for your presence, your questions, and your commitment to reimagining the game we love. Special thanks to the artists and photographers, including Alana Paterson, whose powerful imagery helped shape the visual identity of this conference. And to all who support this kind of gathering—your belief in critical, inclusive dialogue helps move hockey forward.

With gratitude,
 The Hockey Conference Committee

DAY ONE (June 17)

Day One of the conference brings together voices from across Turtle Island to reflect on the powerful intersections between hockey, Indigenous resurgence, systemic change, and collective healing. From morning keynotes on reconciliation and resiliency to in-depth discussions on racism, wellness, and representation, today's sessions challenge us to think critically and creatively about the future of the game and the communities it touches.

8:00-9:00	BREAKFAST PROVIDED Welcome From The Hockey Conference Committee	Grand Ballroom
9:00-10:00 Grand Ballroom	KEYNOTE EVENT <i>Sharing Stories of Resiliency and Reconciliation</i> Kevin Chief, moderated by Niigaan Sinclair As a sought-after speaker, Kevin draws on his humble beginnings as an Indigenous youth in Winnipeg's North End to working alongside business, community, and government leaders. Through sharing personal stories of resiliency, possibility, and hope, he is	Grand Ballroom

	able to engage diverse crowds into inclusive and healthy conversations about reconciliation Kevin Chief is a dedicated community leader, educator, and advocate. With a career spanning public service, business, and community engagement, Kevin has continuously championed initiatives for reconciliation and positive change. He currently serves as Principal of Chief Partnerships Manitoba Incorporated, Community Ambassador for the Southern Chiefs' Organization, and Senior Advisor at True North Sports and Entertainment. Kevin will share his journey from Winnipeg's North End to influential leadership roles. His stories of resilience, possibility, and hope will inspire inclusive conversations about reconciliation and community building. Join us in celebrating the power of sport to connect and uplift communities! Dr. Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair is Anishinaabe and originally from St. Peter's (Little Peguis) Indian Settlement near Selkirk, Manitoba. He is an award-winning writer, editor and activist who was named one of Monocle Magazine's "Canada's Top 20 Most Influential People" and he won the 2018 Canadian columnist of the year at the National Newspaper Awards for his bi-weekly columns in The Winnipeg Free Press. His creative work can be found in books such as The Exile Edition of Native Canadian Fiction and Drama, newspapers like The Guardian, and online with CBC Books: Canada Writes. He is also the co-editor of the award-winning Manitowapow: Aboriginal Writings from the Land of Water (Highwater Press, 2011), Centering Anishinaabeg Studies: Understanding the World Through Stories (Michigan State University Press, 2013) and The Winter We Danced: the Past, the Future and the Idle No More Movement (Arbeiter Ring Press, 2014). Currently at the University of Manitoba, Niigaan teaches courses in Indigenous literatures, cultures, histories, and politics and is a proud Treaty One member.	
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10:00-10:15	BREAK	Grand Ballroom
10:15-10:30	Remarks on the Keynote Marian Jacko & Eugene Arcand	Grand Ballroom

10:30-11:30	PLENARY SESSION: “Grassroots to Goals: Navigating, Cultivating, and Nurturing Hockey with the MASRC” A session on the Manitoba Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Council and the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships featuring Taylor McKee, Mel Whitesell, and Nick Lacoste Moderator: Janice Forsyth (University of British Columbia) Abstract: An examination into grassroots and elite hockey administered by a Provincial and Territorial Aboriginal Sport Body, what are the challenges and more importantly, what are some lessons that the rest of the Canadian hockey community can learn from Manitoba? Speakers from the Manitoba Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Council and their collaborators from Brock University’s Department of Sport Management will discuss: • What processes, policies, and practices have led to the success of Team Manitoba at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships? • How does the MASRC administer hockey programming without allowing it to dominate the mission and vision of their organization? • What lessons can the broader hockey community learn from Manitoba’s Indigenous hockey history and present?	Grand Ballroom
11:30-1:00	LUNCH & LEARN (LUNCH PROVIDED) A book-launch session featuring Janice Forsyth and their new co-authored book, <i>Beyond the Rink: Behind the Images of Residential School Hockey</i>. Janice will be joined by Richard Bull who will be representing his father, Kelly Bull, one of the three survivors that the authors worked with while writing this book. In 1951, after winning the Thunder Bay district championship, the Sioux Lookout Black Hawks hockey team from Pelican Lake Indian Residential School embarked on a whirlwind promotional tour through Ottawa and Toronto. They were accompanied by a professional photographer from the National Film Board who documented the experience. The tour was intended to demonstrate the success of the residential school system and introduce the Black Hawks to “civilizing” activities and the “benefits” of assimilating into Canadian society. For some of the boys, it was the beginning of a lifelong love of hockey; for others, it was an escape from the brutal living conditions and abuse at the residential school. In <i>Beyond the Rink</i>, Alexandra Giancarlo, Janice Forsyth, and Braden Te Hiwi collaborate with three surviving team members—Kelly Bull, Chris Cromarty, and David Wesley—to share the complex legacy behind the 1951 tour photos. This book	Grand Ballroom

	reveals the complicated role of sports in residential school histories, commemorating the team's stellar hockey record and athletic prowess while exposing important truths about "Canada's Game" and how it shaped ideas about the nation. By considering their past, these Survivors imagine a better way forward not just for themselves, their families, and their communities, but for Canada as a whole. · <u>Book Sale and Signing</u>: University of Manitoba Press	
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1:00-2:00	PLENARY SESSION <i>The Hidden Shame in Canada's National Game: Anti-Indigenous Structural Racism in Ice Hockey</i> A session on anti-Indigenous systemic racism with focus on Manitoba: featuring Moss Norman in conversation with Sonny Albert and Marcel Fontaine of KJHL. Moderator: Sam McKegney Abstract: Hockey in Canada is often uncritically celebrated as a unifying cultural practice, providing diverse peoples with a common language and experience. Less often acknowledged, however, is the way that hockey also divides and excludes. This panel discussion examines anti-Indigenous structural racism as one prominent form of division and exclusion, pointing to the all-too-frequent occurrence where Indigenous Peoples and teams are pushed out of the game they are passionate about. Panelists will consider what anti-Indigenous structural racism is and how it plays out in hockey, the consequences has for Indigenous Peoples, communities, and the sport, as well as what changes need to be made to address this form of racism. The panel will bring awareness to the issue of structural racism by exploring the experiences of the Keystone Junior Hockey League (Junior B) and the Beardsley's Blackhawks (U-18 AAA). The panel features hockey scholars and representatives from the Keystone Junior Hockey League.	Grand Ballroom
2:00-2:15	BREAK & SET UP TIME FOR CONCURRENT SESSIONS	

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1 (2:15-3:45) Choose From 1A, 1B, or 1C

2:15-3:45	PANEL 1A: Health & Wellness <i>Exploring the Mental Health Experiences of Women of Colour in Ice Hockey</i> Priya Dhaliwal: Abstract: Sport is essential for the mental health and well-being of	Gateway
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	women and girls. While more girls are participating in sports than ever before, they continue to face barriers to their participation and experiences of inclusion and belonging. As a woman of South Asian descent who grew up playing ice hockey, I have witnessed the gender and race disparities within this sport. My experience and the lack of research on this topic are what fuels me to seek improvement for future generations. The purpose of my study will be to explore the topic of mental health among women of colour with experience in elite hockey. <i>Circumstance Matters: Systematic Factors in Concussion Experiences for Indigenous Women who Play Competitive Ice Hockey</i> Niya St-Amant Abstract: I will present Indigenous women's hockey and concussion experiences to demonstrate the importance of the Social Determinants of Indigenous Health (SDoIH) in shaping athlete's decision-making and recovery experiences regarding their concussion experiences. Presenting Indigenous women's experiences will highlight the protective (and risk) factors that play a role in influencing concussions in ice hockey, demonstrating how particular SDoIH can protect athletes from underreporting concussions, downplaying symptoms or prolonged recoveries. Particularly, this presentation will explore the role of (1) social support systems both on and off the ice, (2) socio-economic factors, such as parental income and insurance, and (3) education, such as level of concussion education, in influencing Indigenous women's ice hockey and concussion experiences. Understanding these dynamics is essential for improving concussion management and recovery practices, particularly within marginalized communities. Ultimately, by exploring the role of social determinants of health, this presentation aims to promote more culturally relevant, inclusive approaches to concussion care that acknowledge the unique experiences of Indigenous women in competitive ice hockey. <i>Physical Capabilities of a Modern (Dance) Hockey Goalie</i> Caroline Bentley Abstract: A commonality observed in ice hockey goalies is the frequency of overuse hip and groin injuries (Wörner et al., 2019). A study reported that 69% of all elite Swedish ice hockey goalies in the Swedish Women's Hockey League, Swedish Hockey League, and HockeyAllsvenskan experienced hip and groin issues in a single season (Wörner et al., 2019). The butterfly technique is suspected to be a primary cause for these injuries in goalies due to the repetitive, extreme range of motion demands using internal	
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	rotation of the hip joints (Wörner et al., 2021). To combat overuse hip and groin injuries, two recommendations are combination training of both agonist and antagonist muscle groups in alternation (Baker & Newton, 2005), and the development of underused muscles in the torso and around the pelvis (Short et al., 2021). This could be achieved by Martha Graham modern dance technique training, which is centred around the use of core muscle strength and active flexibility using external rotation of the hip joints (Giguere, 2014). For my Masters thesis project with York University, I am positioning a supplemental training program based on the Martha Graham modern dance technique to prevent overuse hip and groin injuries in hockey goalies. In this study, I will use existing published research to evaluate the current methods of hockey goalie training, how the Martha Graham technique pertaining to the needs of goalies could prevent overuse hip and groin injuries, and propose exercises to do so	
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2:15-3:45	PANEL 1B: Racism and Colonialism <i>Examining Indigenous Influences & Experience in the NHL via Hockey Cards</i> Naim Cardinal Abstract: Education, particularly with and about Indigenous Peoples, is not always centred around good relations and living together in ethical ways and has contributed to further marginalization of Indigenous Peoples within education and sport. In pursuit of pathways toward being in good relation and living together in ethical ways, my project draws upon my lived experiences and career (including education, Truth and Reconciliation, and nehiyaw worldview on relationality) to examine the decolonial potential of education engaged with Indigenous hockey histories. For the last decade, I have been dedicated to collecting the trading cards of National Hockey League (NHL) players with Indigenous ancestry while publishing biographies that share individual players' accomplishments, experiences, and ancestry on my website (https://www.indigenousrookiecard.com/). There are layers of story within hockey cards that provide deeper insight into how hockey and colonialism are intertwined and Indigenous players responses to this interrelation. The narrative created by hockey cards can provide guidance for decolonization and indigenization efforts and can be a vital conduit for narrating encounters with colonialism, making them much more than items that are commodified.	Grand Ballroom
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Hockey cards convey perspectives that provide educational and historical contexts. Firstly, they represent the individual player, their accomplishment, histories, lived experience, and culture. Secondly, especially vintage with hockey cards, they hold the collective experience of Indigenous Peoples and values of dominant society during their time period. Moreover, paralleling the cultural impact of photographs where, according to McKee & Forsyth (2019), “offer a socially constructed view of the world...shapes what people believe to be real and true; and...these socially accepted truths influence a whole range of decisions that go well beyond the photograph itself.” (p. 179). Narrative analysis research methods will allow me to investigate the histories on hockey cards, texts, documents, and quantitative interviews with Indigenous hockey players, their family members, and other participants.

“Hockey’s Fun”: Joy, Escape, and the Potential for Change via Rural Beer League Hockey
Darren Zanussi

Abstract: Building from a multi-year ethnographic study exploring rural men’s recreational hockey as a site for considering settler responsibilities toward reconciliation, this presentation examines the potential for rural beer league hockey to affect political change via play. As my own experience and participant interviews suggest, recreational hockey can offer joy and senses of escape for players. These feelings are interrelated—felt both in game play, and the social interaction and community building off the ice. As one participant expressed, “We mostly have kids, we’re all married, or have spouses, doing grown up stuff. So, it’s nice to go and dick around with the guys, y’know what I mean? Just have a fun experience and blow off some steam—hockey’s fun.” While “fun” is what draws players in, it also risks compromising the sport’s potential as a site of social change. Political questions like those around reconciliation bring the outside world into the hockey dressing room, where men step away from the rigors of everyday life. However, the sport’s ties to Canadian identity indicate that notions of hockey as apolitical are an illusion. As Courtney Szto asserts, “If hockey is Canada and the Canadian nation-state is inherently racist, then by extension the institution of hockey is also inherently racist.” My presentation grapples with the desire of rural millennial beer league players to retain this apolitical illusion and the possibility that “fun” and “escape” might actually be leveraged in the service of necessary political change, particularly as it relates to Indigenous rights and reconciliation.

Hockey Arenas As Dying Colonial Outposts

Howard Ramos

Abstract: Hockey arenas are scattered through Canada’s major cities and offer affordances that shape social interaction. Based on ethnographic and observational research this paper examines the contradictions of where arenas are located, the cultural markers that they house, and the people who use them versus walk past them. Increasingly hockey arenas are located in racialized and ethnic minority neighborhoods that are disconnected from both the arenas and the game of hockey. This is not to mention those who play the game. Sharing insights from arenas in Toronto, Ontario, hockey arenas are examined as dying colonial outposts that represent a romanticized version of “Canadian” culture and as spaces that maintains hegemonic myths and nationalism. Observations inside arenas are contrasted with those outside them and social and demographic measures of the people living in the neighborhoods the house them. The paper argues that hockey arenas can be seen as dying colonial outposts and that the future of the game in Canada rests on changing them to more inclusive neighborhood spaces

Race-Related Discrimination in Hockey Canada Sanctioned Programming: A Multi-Level Analysis

Nathan Kindrachuk & Kevin Mongeon

Abstract: Discrimination within amateur hockey remains a significant concern, reflecting broader societal challenges with inclusivity and equity. Despite increasing awareness of the need for safe sport environments, incidents of maltreatment—particularly those involving discriminatory behaviors—continue to arise across Canadian sports (Ewing, 2018; Parent et al., 2023). Safe Sport has become a policy priority for national organizations, including Hockey Canada, emphasizing the importance of fostering respectful and inclusive environments.

Section 11 of Hockey Canada’s rulebook was introduced in 2021 as a key part of the organization’s efforts to address maltreatment in the sport, promoting values of safety, respect, and inclusivity. This section targets a range of harmful actions, including abuse, harassment, bullying, and discrimination, providing guidelines for penalties and disciplinary actions to ensure accountability. Central to this effort is Rule 11.4 – Discrimination, which explicitly addresses verbal taunts, insults, or intimidation based on discriminatory grounds such as race, gender, sex, sexual orientation, religion, and ability. Rule 11.4 infractions include a

	strict minimum suspension of five games. Hockey Canada tracked and reported on Rule 11.4 incidents from 2021-22 to 2023-24. This study focuses on analyzing data specific to race-related incidents reported under Rule 11.4 of Hockey Canada’s rulebook. The analysis examines demographic factors including age, role (player or coach), and organizational characteristics like competition level. A multi-level approach is employed to explore contributing factors. At the individual level, characteristics such as age, role, and ethnicity are analyzed to identify patterns associated with reported incidents. At the interpersonal level, team composition and player-coach dynamics are evaluated to understand their influence on discriminatory behavior. At the organizational level, factors such as competition level and regional variations are examined. Statistical modeling is used to assess relationships across these levels, identify key predictors of race-related incidents, and provide a detailed understanding of the contexts in which discrimination occurs.	
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2:15-3:45	PANEL 1C: Communicating Hockey <i>“Ain’t a Sheet of Ice North of Fargo I Ain’t Played”</i>: Chris Hannah, Auto-Ethnography, and “Dear Coach’s Corner” Ryan Shuvera Abstract: In March of 2009, notorious punk and metal band, Propagandhi, released their fifth full-length album called Supporting Caste. The fourth song on that album has become a staple of their live shows and a favourite among fans. The song, “Dear Coach’s Corner,” is written as a letter to Ron MacLean, the former host of the segment that aired Saturday nights after the first intermission and during the playoffs on CBC. In the letter, Chris Hannah, the lead guitarist and vocalist of the group, asks Ron if someone will explain the deep militarization of the NHL and experience of viewing NHL games and the potential difference between this and other military propaganda. Later, Hannah notes that he does not want to waste MacLean’s time, but he can’t help but feel “some spiritual connection” because they “both love this game so much [they] can hardly fucking stand it.” My interest in this paper is not in exploring the militarization of the NHL or rehashing the history of Coach’s Corner. As a writing studies lecturer and a part-time musicologist with a deep obsession with the game of hockey, I am interested in the way that fans continue to negotiate their relationship with the sport of hockey and communicate this renegotiation with others through writing. I am	La Verendrye
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interested in analyzing Hannah's work in "Dear Coach's Corner" as one publicly available case of this process and hope to unpack the potential value of this writing process regarding the settling or unsettling of a collective relationship with the sport.

The Bender-Sieve Dictionary: Identifying and Defining Hockey's Unique Lexicon

Andrew Bray

Abstract: Bray (2015) examines how hockey slang terminology is established by players, introduced to their teammates, incorporated or rejected by the team, and then diffuses throughout the larger hockey community. As part of this research, a dictionary of just over seventy-five hockey-specific slang terms was compiled.

While the central focus of that thesis was on establishing the hockey community as an interconnected linguistic community of practice, this paper seeks to continue research into slang terminology specifically by establishing a comprehensive and exhaustive hockey-specific lexicon based on player usage. Collegiate, junior, major junior, and professional players throughout the United States and Canada were recruited to complete a Qualtrics survey focused on identifying and defining all the hockey-specific terms that they either use or that they hear being used by their teammates frequently. Additionally, players provided demographic information about themselves including age, gender, and ethnicity and race to assess the impact of these social factors on the terms that they identified. Additionally, players identified their hometowns and current leagues of play to account for any regional variation that might be present within the hockey community.

Preliminary results suggest that the lexicon provided by Bray (2015), while insightful at the time, is insufficient in explaining the current state of the hockey lexicon. Specifically, the impact of regional variation is completely absent. An example of this regional variation can be found in the term 'breezers,' which denotes the pants worn while playing hockey, used by players from the Upper Midwest but rarely attested in other regions. This research is the first step of a larger research agenda focused on establishing a hockey-based linguistic persona used by players. It is highly plausible that hockey slang provides a vehicle for diffusion of this

	dialect throughout the sport. <i>From Slap Shots to Moon Shots: What Happened When I Wrote a Book about Hockey and Imagination</i> Jamie Dopp Abstract: Recently I published a monograph called <i>Hockey on the Moon: Imagination and Canada's Game</i> with Athabasca UP. The book uses imagination as a unifying theme to offer in-depth analyses of important literary texts about hockey, beginning with Ralph Connors' 1902 novel <i>Glengarry School Days</i> and ending with Richard Wagamese's 2013 novel <i>Indian Horse</i>. The title of the book comes from my memory of the backyard rink I made each winter as a boy. While I built and maintained my rink, I often fantasized that its ice was the surface of the moon. This fantasy, it seems to me, hints at the powerful (and often surprising) connections between hockey and imagination—connections that are the primary focus of the now rather substantial body of imaginative literature in Canada about hockey. An unexpected thing happened when I wrote my study: I discovered that a number of the literary texts themselves linked hockey and the moon. The link between the moon and hockey was most powerful in Roch Carrier's "The Hockey Sweater," Paul Quarrington's <i>King Leary</i>, and Richard Wagamese's <i>Indian Horse</i>—and the moon images in (or associated with) each of these texts spoke directly to the imaginative possibilities in hockey. In this paper, then, I'd like to explore briefly the unexpected moon images I discovered as a way to set out the basic argument of my study of hockey and imagination. <i>Indigenous Feminist Futurities in Hockey Spaces</i> Jamie Ryan Abstract: "Indigenous Feminist Futurities in Hockey Spaces" begins by discussing the tendency towards "white feminism" in elite women's hockey and the often performative inclusion of women's hockey in men's hockey literature and sports media. My paper proposes that women's hockey literature and culture is often future oriented—in comparison to the nostalgia of men's hockey culture and literature—but that this orientation is not enough and that an investment in an Indigenous feminist futurity offers a reorientation toward a more accessible and safer future. I argue that Indigenous feminist theories disrupt the knotting together of settler colonialism, white supremacy, hockey normativity, and nostalgia that is often implicit within the temporality of dominant hockey culture. This paper is based on the interviews conducted by the Indigenous Hockey Research Network with elite level Indigenous	
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	women's hockey players. I argue that these players engage in acts of "generative refusal" that refuse to accept the present reality of settler colonialism in hockey while also generating Indigenous hockey futurities through their commitment to their past, present, and future relations (Simpson, <i>As We</i> 178). Thus, the Indigenous feminist futurities modelled by elite level Indigenous women's hockey players offer a healthier, alternative vision of futurity in women's hockey. This paper is based in Indigenous Studies and Black Studies, and draws primarily from writers like bell hooks, Aileen Moreton-Robinson, Eve Tuck, and Leanne Betasamosake Simpson	
3:45-4:00	BREAK	
4:00-5:15	KEYNOTE EVENT <i>The Future of Brain Health in Hockey</i> Dr. Ann McKee, one of the world's leading experts on neurodegenerative diseases and sports-related brain trauma, will be the keynote speaker at the Hockey Conference 2025! Dr. McKee's groundbreaking research has reshaped our understanding of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) and its impact on athletes, military veterans, and beyond. Her work has not only identified CTE in hockey players but has also raised urgent questions about player safety, brain health, and the future of contact sports. What insights will she bring to this year's conference? • How do repetitive head impacts contribute to long-term brain damage? • What can be done to protect hockey players at all levels? Don't miss the chance to hear from one of TIME's 100 Most Influential People in the World!	Grand Ballroom
5:15-5:30	DAY ONE CLOSING REMARKS	Grand Ballroom

DAY TWO (June 18)

Day Two deepens the conversation by confronting the systemic challenges and transformative potential within hockey culture. The panels and keynotes consider exclusion and silence alongside equity and social change, addressing issues such as gender-based violence and institutional accountability, while also highlighting Queer histories, Black trailblazers, and grassroots inclusion.

8:00-8:45	BREAKFAST PROVIDED Welcome From The Hockey Conference Committee	Grand Ballroom
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CONCURRENT SESSIONS 2 (8:45-10:00) Choose From 2A, 2B, or 2C

8:45-10:00	PANEL 2A: Documentary: Breaking Down Barriers Bernice Carnegie Abstract: BEYOND THEIR YEARS tugs at your heart and soul, begging for an understanding of how Herb Carnegie (Canadian) and Buck O’Neil (American) maintained positive attitudes and continued to give back to society in the face of systemic racism. They were courageous risktakers willing to follow their dreams that ultimately opened doors for others to follow. Film Synopsis: Herb Carnegie (Hockey) and Buck O’Neil (Baseball) were trailblazers but were nonetheless excluded from playing in the highest professional leagues of the sports they loved because of their race. Instead of becoming angry and bitter, they channeled the injustice they both experienced into pioneering work that made their respective sports, and the world, more inclusive. “Beyond Their Years” captures the effort put forth by amazing allies of all races who worked in unison towards the long overdue recognition of these two remarkable lives. The film ties together their legacies and what they mean today in a verité style feature that teaches, heals and humanizes. Sneak Peak: Beyond Their Years Trailer A post panel discussion with audience/participants enhances the learning experience by: ● Providing historical context of how past experiences can help us in the present ● Exploring how racism is not confined to any one country or sport: it’s a societal issue ● Opening the door for safe and authentic social justice conversations ● Introducing family members to help digest and personalize the messaging ● Planting the seeds for positive change by introducing thought provoking next steps	Gateway
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8:45-10:00	PANEL 2B: Social Change & Activism <i>Creating Sports' Most Inclusive Brand – The Pride Tape Story</i> Jeff McLean Abstract: “Imagine a player feeling so unwelcome in their favourite sport, they’re thinking of taking their own life?” This quote from a Provincial Junior Hockey Coach led us down a journey to create a badge of support from the hockey world to the 2SLGBTQ+ Community. It quickly extended beyond hockey to other sports globally, becoming sports' universal symbol for acceptance and inclusion. Pride Tape has become that all important conversation starter, that seeks to make the sports we love, love us back. Pride Tape has now shipped to over 80 countries, letting conscientious ambassadors speak up for inclusion without using words. Our presentation will inform, inspire and enlighten the audience through stories of support and how our eight year journey, enabled us to work with our partners at the NHL to overturn their Pride Tape ban in 10 days in October. Thanks to the power of a grassroots, global movement, one roll and six colours at a time. <i>“Hockey for all”: Assessing the Potential for Social Change in Canadian Ice-Hockey</i> Lloyd Wong, Martine Dennie & Stefan Lewis Abstract: The term “hockey for all” – refers to a desired objective for hockey to be diverse and inclusive – devoid of various forms of discrimination and oppression, including racism, sexism, homophobia (heterosexism), and transphobia. We assess how the sport of Canadian hockey may be transformed so that it truly has diversity, equity, and inclusion. In order to assess the potential for fundamental social change this presentation argues that ice-hockey needs to be conceptualized as social space, or as a Bourdieusian “field” where there are multiple social agents (groups and institutions) in various sub-fields with different functions and relative positions of power. In the broader context of safety and well-being in the social field of ice-hockey, and the framing of social change as “from above” or “from below”, we examine some of the equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives/programs that have emerged across multiple overlapping sub-fields in recent years to make the game more inclusive. It is in this context that the actual potential for social change can be assessed. Overall we assess whether the conjecture of all these initiatives and programs is really a watershed moment for social change in Canadian ice-hockey. We end the presentation with some discussion on how the current anti-DEI movement and crusade, promulgated primarily by far-right	La Verendrye
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	conservatives in the United States, might be a further barrier or obstacle against social change in Canadian ice-hockey. <i>The Only Barrier Should Be the Boards - How Free Grassroots Hockey Programs are Changing the Lives of Newcomer and Sidelined Kids and Teens</i> Moezine Hasham Abstract: When I launched Hockey 4 Youth Foundation in fall 2015, I knew that the game could impact newcomer kids and teens in a positive way. At that time, the Institute of Canadian Citizenship had just released a report on newcomers and sport. The most compelling statistic was that 71% of new citizens expressed an interest in playing hockey but only 1% had an opportunity to play the game. This report coupled with my own story of playing hockey as the child of South Asian refugee parents from Uganda compelled me to create a free, safe, inclusive and fun program that would remove all barriers to accessing the game. At Hockey 4 Youth Foundation, our mission is to foster social inclusion for newcomer and sidelined kids and teens through free ice hockey while providing valuable off-ice life skills development through our T.E.A.C.H. program (Technology, Entrepreneurship, Arts, Community-giving, Healthy-active living). We have worked with over 1,000 students representing 42 countries of origin including: Syria, Ukraine, Jamaica, Afghanistan, Philippines, Haiti, Cuba, Brazil and Mexico. We started with one program in Toronto and now have programs in: Montreal (x2), Toronto (x2), Ottawa (x4), Windsor, Vancouver (Surrey), Prince George, Vernon, Victoria and Sooke. In 2019, we launched our first girls only programs and this season 10 of our 13 programs will be for girls only. In 2023, we co-launched a campaign to have Larry Kwong inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame with Chad Soon, author of the Longest Shot. Larry was the first Asian (born in Vernon) to play in the NHL and we started a new hockey program in Vernon in his honour with support from the Vancouver Canucks. In 2025-2026, we are looking to expand to New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Alberta. Also, we are getting ready to launch our Check The Racism website in partnership with the Canadian Race Relations Foundation. It will focus on combating racism in the game through education. Here is a link to a CBC News Story about our Ottawa Girls Programs year end gathering from April 2024. It highlights our ability to positively impact newcomers and barriered girls. https://hockey4youth.org/media/2024/4/22/hockey-charity-helps-ottawa-teens-get-in-the-game-cbc-news-ottawa	
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	<i>Hockey for All: Building Belonging Through Programming, Equity and Innovation</i> David Sattler, Allan Chan, Ganni Maan & Ron Cantiveros Abstract: Hockey for All Centre is redefining access to hockey by responding to Winnipeg’s evolving demographics. Through initiatives like <i>First Shift</i> and <i>Second Shift</i>, the centre directly engages underrepresented communities—Asian, South Asian, and Filipino,—breaking down barriers of cost, culture, and visibility. By involving leaders from these communities, the programs offer not just access, but empowerment through representation. The program’s success, filling up through word-of-mouth alone, proves the deep demand for inclusive hockey experiences. Designed for first-time players, <i>First Shift</i> and <i>Second Shift</i> prioritize fun, accessibility, and cultural relevance, offering equipment, coaching, and off-ice mentorship. True North Sports + Entertainment’s commitment to inclusion is not a passing trend—it’s a core mission spanning from grassroots programs to elite training, including sledge hockey and support for women’s leagues. “This is our Stanley Cup,” says GM David Sattler, underscoring a vision where success is measured by building belonging, not just winning games. <i>Hockey for All: Building Belonging Through Ice, Equity, and Innovation</i> captures the heart of a movement that is transforming hockey through intentional design, leadership, and long-term investment.	
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8:45-10:00	PANEL 2C: Advancing Girls’ and Women’s Hockey 1 <i>The Mothers’ Reckoning: Analyzing Media Narratives of Queer and Heterosexual Hockey Playing Mothers</i> Willa Hladun Abstract: Women’s professional ice hockey has seen a significant growth in media coverage, particularly surrounding the 2021 Winter Olympic Games, and the formation of the Professional Women’s Hockey League in 2023. Some of the players with high profile status are also mothers, providing a glance into the media narratives surrounding athlete motherhood. These narratives reveal tensions related to gender equity and sexism in professional hockey (Hladun et al., 2024). Some mothers are also queer, providing a further opportunity to examine the intersections of gender and sexuality in motherhood, represented by the sport media (Waldron & Mullin, 2023). Scholars in sport sociology have identified sport media as a site for the creation and circulation of socio-cultural narratives concerning elite athlete mothers (McGanon et al., 2024; Scott et al., 2023). While motherhood used to signal the end of a sport career (Dashper, 2018), this narrative has shifted, with athletes continuing their sport careers, or becoming involved as activists and leaders to	Grand Ballroom
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	address gender inequity and homophobia in ice hockey. In this presentation we examine how hockey athlete mothers' multifaceted identities are constructed in sport media narratives, using an intersectional lens to show how motherhood status and sexuality interact to conform to, or resist, dominant narratives surrounding athlete motherhood. Findings from a focused case study of North American athlete mothers (n=7), presented as two media narratives, stand up, and a new generation, will be discussed. These narrative themes demonstrate novel representations and reckonings of athlete motherhood including a new ethic of care, the fight for maternity benefits and gender equity, and the diversifying of the hegemonically masculine and heterosexual organizational structure of elite level hockey. Recommendations are made regarding policies for elite hockey mothers, gendered identity representation, and future research directions concerning mediation of hockey mothers. <i>Playing With Pride? A Queer History of Women's Ice Hockey</i> Kat Rice Abstract: This study examines queer women's experiences in recreational hockey from the 1980s to present day through oral history interviews and written questionnaires with five research participants to explore how hockey and Canadian national identity intersect through the lens of gender and sexuality. I asked the following questions: (1) What are/were the experiences of queer women in women's recreational hockey? (2) How does/did hockey continue to "other" queer women and reinforce notions of exclusion based on gender and sexuality? (3) How does/did their involvement in hockey impact their sense of belonging within Canada's national community? I identified four themes of experience: (1) involvement in boys' hockey; (2) the persistence of homophobia despite increased queer visibility; (3) the production of gender performance; and (4) hockey as a conduit of national belonging. I argue that a complex contradiction exists in recreational women's hockey. While hockey's masculine hegemony has enforced a heteronormative environment which impacted the expression of gender and sexuality among players, queer women have actively challenged hockey's masculine hegemony and utilized the sport to find belonging within the national community. However, queer women's resistance is paradoxically weakened by their reproduction of the gender binary, which positions athleticism in opposition to femininity and ultimately sustains heteronormativity. I conclude that women's hockey operates as a battleground for queerness. It is a place of kinship, identity and expression, but also a forum of alienation, closeting and heteronormativity. Queer women have built communities within hockey, often under a promise of concealment; however, this veil has thinned over time, leading to greater queer	
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	visibility in women's hockey. However, increased visibility does not necessarily lead to the systemic change required to challenge heteronormativity and homophobia within hockey. <i>Women's Hockey in Canada During the Summit Series Era</i> Olivia Lester Abstract: During the 1970s, hockey in Canada became increasingly defined by the international achievements of Canadian men's hockey. The 1972 Summit Series in particular reaffirmed not just the superiority of Canadian hockey, but also of Canadian masculinity. In mainstream media, Team Canada was praised for their exceptionally rough and inherently masculine style of hockey. This discourse presented the style of hockey that Team Canada played as distinctly Canadian and masculine, reaffirming the notion that 'true' Canadian hockey was an exclusively male endeavour. In reality, Canadian hockey was not—nor had it ever been—an exclusively male endeavour. Canadian women's hockey had flourished in the 1920s and 1930s and although it almost entirely disappeared in the immediate postwar era, by the early 1970s, women's hockey had been growing steadily for at least a decade. However, in an era dominated by the achievements of men's hockey, the growth of women's hockey received little attention. In my research I will draw on the oral histories of Canadian female hockey players from this era to understand the following question: where did women's hockey go during the 1970s? <i>"This is the story that I want to help tell:" Indigenous Girls' Hockey, Cultural Identity, and Relational Accountability</i> Ryan Francis, Jay Laurendeau, and Carly Adams Abstract: In this paper we consider Indigenous girls' hockey development pathways in Mi'kma'ki against the backdrop of the gendered politics of settler colonialism on lands claimed by Canada. Drawing on an oral history interview between two of the authors as well as lead author Ryan Francis' own journey as a hockey player, coach, and organizer, we theorize Indigenous girls' hockey as a vital space for the refusal of dominant narratives of Indigenous girl- and womanhood and a reimagination of the gendered politics of recognition. We put these hockey journeys in conversation with the realities of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people to interrogate the relationship between sport, cultural identity, and gendered violence. Further, we illuminate the place of relational accountability in Indigenous sport and scholarship about Indigenous sport. Our analysis draws attention to the importance of both the stories told and untold, as well as the <i>ways</i> in which stories are told (or not) in both hockey spaces and hockey scholarship.	
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10-10:15	BREAK	Grand Ballroom
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CONCURRENT SESSIONS 3 (10:15-11:45) Choose From 3A, 3B, 3C or 3D

10:15-11:45	PANEL 3A: <i>The Coloured Hockey League of the Maritimes: Pedagogical Reckonings</i> Andrea Medovarski, Sosun Usso, Tafari Tyrell, Shaun Deen, Filicia J. Hamilton, Clifton Grant Abstract: This roundtable will reflect on some of the teaching, learning, and pedagogical reckonings that take place in my fourth-year course, “Black Athletes and Sporting Resistance” in the Department of Humanities at York University. Specifically, it will focus on students’ various experiences when they encounter the history of the Coloured Hockey League of the Maritimes for the first time, and the epistemological shifts that take place when they confront its attendant legacies of historical erasure. This course begins with a theoretical framing of the social construction of ‘the Black athlete’ through both academic writing and expressive culture, and then examines a history of Black sporting resistance from the early twentieth century (Jack Johnson, the Coloured Hockey League of the Maritimes), to the Civil Rights movement (the OPHR, Muhammad Ali), and into the contemporary context (Colin Kaepernick, LeBron James, Serena Williams, Naomi Osaka, the WNBA, Simone Biles, etc.), with particular attention to the ways athlete activism is mediated and/or attenuated by neoliberalism, capitalism, and misogynoir. In a Canadian context, the most important historical pillar of this course is the Coloured Hockey League of the Maritimes, which operated from 1895-1925, predating the NHL by twenty years. Athletes in the CHL were responsible for significant sporting innovations that have shaped hockey as we know it today, such as the development of the slapshot and the butterfly technique utilized by goalies, yet these developments are often attributed to white players decades later. Despite the profound significance of the CHL to hockey and to Canadian history more broadly, very few students have even heard of it before encountering the CHL in my course. We explore the history of the CHL by reading excerpts from George and Darril Fosty’s important book, <i>Black Ice: The Lost History of the Coloured Hockey League of the Maritimes, 1895-1925</i>, and by watching Hubert Davis’ important 2022	Gateway
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	documentary <i>Black Ice</i>, which traces a trajectory of racism within hockey from the nineteenth century to the present. When students encounter this material for the first time, their responses range from shock and astonishment, to bafflement, to anger. They marvel at the fact that they have never learned about the CHL before, and our classroom space inevitably becomes a site of reckoning about the broader issues of historical erasure. The erasure of the CHL also invites students' reflections about anti-Blackness in Canada. We know that hockey is profoundly intertwined with dominant national narratives. If the Coloured Hockey League has been so marginalized and invisibilized, students ask, what does that say about the spaces – or lack thereof – for Blackness within the Canadian national imaginary? Thus, this roundtable will offer students in the course an opportunity to reflect and present on their various encounters with the Coloured Hockey League in a manner that speaks directly to the theme of this year's conference. It will also be a valuable opportunity for emerging scholars to present their work in an academic context. Several of the students on the panel will be continuing their research in Black Studies at the graduate level, and as such this roundtable offers them an important avenue for professionalization. It is our collective hope that this panel will enrich existing conversations about the history of hockey in Canada and foster important dialogue about race and inclusivity, both within sport and in broader Canadian contexts.	
10:15-11:45	PANEL 3B: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence <i>Unsportsmanlike Conduct: Players' Perceptions of Sexual Violence in Hockey</i> Hana Georgoulis Abstract: The last several years have seen an increase in reported incidents and allegations of sexual violence in hockey. These cases involve various individuals associated with the sport, including coaches and players. Players are in the unique position of potentially being an alleged perpetrator and a victim. Despite the increasing prevalence of such cases, there is limited research focusing on sexual violence in hockey specifically. Using a qualitative approach, a thematic analysis of interviews with elite hockey players provided insight into what players thought about sexual violence in the sport. Participants expressed their dissatisfaction with the media portraying all players as problematic and sexually violent, as many were adamant they would never engage in such behaviours. Players also commented on the need to	Grand Ballroom

	have more thorough education on consent and sexual practices, including education targeting young athletes and ongoing teaching from coaches and older players in the dressing room. Policy implications and avenues for future research are discussed. <i>“It’s Almost Like They Weren’t Even Human Beings”: Male Athlete Peer Groups, Sexual Violence, and Hockey Culture</i> Stacy Lorenz Abstract: This presentation explores the connections between male athlete peer groups, sexual violence, and hockey culture by drawing upon the theoretical framework for understanding male athlete violence developed by sociologist Michael Messner and the investigations of Canadian junior hockey carried out by journalists such as Laura Robinson. Messner identifies three forms of violence that are often encouraged and rewarded on male sports teams: violence against an athlete’s own body (in the form of playing through pain and injury), violence against other men, and violence against women. From a young age, male athletes are socialized into a culture of sport and masculinity where these violent acts are accepted, even required, and empathy for others is discouraged. For example, rather than seeing girls and women as equals, boys and men frequently treat them as potential objects of sexual conquest and as vehicles for performing heterosexual masculinity in front of male peers. Within the team, there is also an expectation of conformity and a culture of silence around inappropriate behaviour. In junior hockey, in particular, players are local celebrities with an elevated status in their communities. Violence is embraced as a crucial part of the game, and, as Laura Robinson details in her 1998 book, <i>Crossing the Line: Violence and Sexual Assault in Canada’s National Sport</i>, this sometimes extends off the ice in the form of hazing rituals and the mistreatment of the young women who surround these “young gods.” Robinson persuasively connects a range of violent actions and behaviours committed by and against junior hockey players to a culture of exploitation and abuse that leads these athletes to become both perpetrators and victims of sport-related violence. I will argue in this presentation that a full understanding of the acts of sexual violence committed by players – including the charges of sexual assault that have been brought against five members of the 2018 Canadian men’s World Junior hockey team – requires a deeper examination of the dynamics of the male athlete peer group and the structure and culture of hockey, especially junior hockey.	
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	<i>Framing of Gender Based Sexual Violence in News Coverage of the 2022 Hockey Canada Scandal</i> Munya Haddara & Daisy Raphael Abstract: Our paper analyzes news coverage of the Hockey Canada sexual assault scandal. In 2022, Hockey Canada came under intense public scrutiny for its handling of an alleged group sexual assault case in June of 2018 involving eight members of the 2018 Canadian junior team. After news broke of allegations against the players in May 2022, then Minister of Sport, Pascale St-Onge, ordered an audit of Hockey Canada. Next, the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage questioned officials on their handling of the investigation, where testimony revealed that Hockey Canada did not require the accused players to participate in their third-party investigation. Further, the organization had used \$7.6 million accrued from athletes' fees to settle 21 alleged sexual assault cases. Informed by scholarly literature on media coverage of gender-based sexual violence (GBSV), hegemonic masculinity, cultural studies of sport, and hockey's role in shaping Canadian national identity, we analyze print news coverage of the scandal, focusing on how journalists describe the nature of the problem and frame the victims. The results of our critical discourse analysis illustrate that news coverage tends to define the problem in vague terms, as the result, for example, of a "toxic culture", often failing to directly name the issues of GBSV and misogyny. Relatedly, news coverage describes Canadians in general, especially hockey players and hockey parents, as the primary victims, eliding a robust discussion of the impacts of GBSV on victims/survivors. Ultimately, we contend that news coverage of the Hockey Canada scandal risks perpetuating the very power dynamics that lead to GBSV in the first place. <i>Bowman is Back: How NHL Media Makes "Redemption" Easy</i> Brett Parady Abstract: Just under three years after being suspended indefinitely by the NHL for failing to handle the sexual assault of a player by a member of Chicago's coaching staff, Stan Bowman was hired back to a General Manager role in the NHL with the Edmonton Oilers. Despite in 2021 hockey media largely promising to do better in the wake of how Chicago covered up this crime, Bowman's return was largely framed by a redemption narrative. This presentation uses a discourse analysis to contrast what the media said they would do in 2021 versus when they had a clear chance to hold the Oilers accountable. Particularly I focus on how Bowman's "redemption" focused on his alleged leadership in developing sexual assault policy and training for the WHL, which follows a long pattern in the NHL where people who failed in their role to	
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	make hockey safe skip a learning process and almost immediately become "leaders" in addressing the very problems they caused. <i>A History of the Present: Hockey, Sexual Abuse, and Canadian Culture</i> Macintosh Ross Abstract: Historians remain hesitant to engage in current events, even when their areas of expertise represent the foundation upon which a news story is unfolding. This has always been the case, but in sport history circles it became particularly obvious when allegations of members of the U20 national hockey team sexually assaulting a woman known as E.M. became public. According to E.M., eight players sexually assaulted her at a London, Ontario, hotel in 2018. After police, admittedly, failed her, E.M. filed a lawsuit, resulting in a 3.5-million-dollar settlement from Hockey Canada. Reactions online ranged from outright victim blaming to calls for justice and transparency. The words of scholars in sociology, psychology, and management provided important analysis of the ongoing situation. But historians seemed less involved. I argue this need not be the case. Unveiling the historicity of current issues, particularly the deep social, political, and economic roots of the here and now, is central to the pursuit of real, meaningful change. In this paper I use Stuart Hall's concept of the "history of the present." For Hall, this is not a catalogue of current events, though there is value in such efforts, but rather a conjunctural analysis to understand how social forces, shaped by history, intersect at specific moments in time to create our contemporary status quo. Nothing emerges from a vacuum; we have arrived at this moment due to a complex interplay of historical and social dynamics that serve specific, normative agendas, which in turn reinforce prevailing power relations across Canadian society. When politicians tell the public that the persistence of sexual assault in Canadian hockey is not a reflection of the nation's values, they're being disingenuous. I will argue that our decisions and priorities, at the national, provincial, and municipal levels, nurtured this status quo. But resistance is possible.	
10:15-11:45	PANEL 3C: Moments in Hockey History <i>The Puck and the Nation: Hockey as a Reflection of Canadian State-Building and Cultural Identity</i> John Bessai Abstract: Hockey has long served as a defining symbol of Canadian identity, operating as more than just a sport—it embodies	La Verendrye

	the nation's values, struggles, and narratives. This presentation explores how hockey functions as a cultural institution, akin to a public service, reflecting Canada's broader dynamics of state-building and national cohesion. Drawing on Albert Murray's notion of the "stylization of experience," this analysis considers how the sport's narrative and aesthetic dimensions intersect with public service ideals, influencing Canadian self-perception and the country's cultural diplomacy. This paper delves into key moments in hockey history, examining the sport's role in shaping national identity through collective memories of triumph, rivalry, and perseverance. By situating hockey within the context of cultural production, this study analyzes how the sport contributes to the ongoing project of Canadian nationhood, revealing a complex interplay between sport, cultural policy, and state-building initiatives. Furthermore, I will explore how the narratives surrounding hockey are mediated through film, media, and public engagement, drawing comparisons to other forms of cultural expression that fuse artistic style with public accountability. This presentation will contribute to the discussion of how Canadian culture, mainly through the lens of hockey, operates as a vehicle for both internal unity and external representation. Through a critical analysis of hockey's narrative power, I aim to offer insights into its role in reflecting and shaping the Canadian state, extending its influence beyond the rink and into the heart of national consciousness. <i>Hockey Priest: The Enduring Conscience of Canadian Hockey</i> Matt Hoven Abstract: Father David Bauer (1924-1988) is widely known for establishing Canada's National Team in men's ice hockey. A member of the Order of Canada and the Hockey Hall of Fame, Bauer's contribution to hockey is often underappreciated or overlooked because his stances stood in contrast to those held by the game's powerbrokers. This presentation will review his major contributions to Canadian and international hockey, as documented in <i>Hockey Priest: Father David Bauer and the Spirit of the Canadian Game</i> (CUA Press, 2024). David Bauer's life spans the major periods of ice hockey history. The roots of his sporting life lie in his prominent sporting family from Waterloo, Ontario, and the sporting tradition of the Basilian Fathers. After winning the junior hockey's Memorial Cup as both a player and coach, he assembled players from across Canada for the	
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	inaugural National Team. He became deeply immersed in the politics of Canadian hockey. This included being the longest serving board member of Hockey Canada Corp. and engaging other national sport organizations over his lifetime. This presentation explains Bauer’s lasting contribution in the face of his disagreements with the most influential people in hockey. Most visibly, he established a hockey alternative to professionalized, corporate sport. His efforts dragged the National Hockey League into international hockey, as realized in the formation of Hockey Canada. Also, his longtime relationship with Japanese hockey challenged ethnic divisions in the sport. Bauer’s hockey speeches and formal reports uncover his pragmatic-yet-idealistic sport philosophy: he promoted an athlete-centered, values-driven sport. In sum, Bauer became the enduring conscience of hockey in the late 20th century and is surely an invaluable foil to some of today’s problems in hockey. <i>The Kingston Church Athletic League, 1949-2024: A Case Study of one Minor Hockey League</i> Peter Bush Abstract: The study of hockey in Canada has paid little attention to minor hockey. The few studies that do exist have explored the role of gender in minor hockey or tell a larger national story. Very few studies explore a single community’s minor hockey association over a seventy-five-year period. This paper proposes to do that, using the Kingston [Ontario] Church Athletic League (KCAL). This independent, grassroots minor hockey league, with roots in the early 1950s, has remained independent even as it has evolved. While there is a minor hockey league in Kingston, Kingston and Area Minor Hockey Association, which is linked to the Ontario Minor Hockey Association, the Kingston Church Athletic league claims in 2024 to have over 1,100 players in 70 teams. By the early 1960’s, KCAL was able to mobilize the resources, including both provincial and municipal support, to build its own arena in the Portsmouth area of Kingston. In 2010 the Kingston Memorial Center became KCAL’s home rink for all its teams. The league is deeply rooted in the fabric of the Kingston community. A mythology has arisen that minor hockey with games and practices on Sunday mornings killed attendance in Sunday School – a context for congregation’s forming faith in children. This narrative has led to ministers in some communities lobbying to ban Sunday morning hockey. KCAL’s roots in church sponsorships and being built on “religious values” challenges the narrative of conflict between church and hockey. Through reading the extant archival records and the Kingston	
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	Whig-Standard focused attention on one community's minor hockey league light can be shed adding to the understanding of minor hockey in Canada. <i>The Influence Of The Quiet Revolution On Sports Organizations: The Case-Study Of The Minor Hockey In Québec During The 1960s</i> Michel Vigneault Abstract: From 1960-61 to 1970-71, the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association had an increase of membership from 130,000 to 432,000 members. A steady increase of 15,000-20,000 new members per year happened up to 1967-68, but then the numbers increased by almost 50% between 1967-68 and 1969-70, from 264,000 to 414,000. Why this sudden increase? One of the answers is from the province of Québec. The membership in that province went from 53,000 in 1967-68 to 130,000 in 1969-70. Then what did happen in Québec? Before 1968, most of the Québec hockey minor players were not affiliated to the CAHA, like many other sports in the province not being affiliated to any sport federations under the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada (AAUofC). The reason being from sport organizations affiliated to the Catholic Oeuvre des Terrains de Jeux (OTJ), put in place since the 1930s. With the Quiet Revolution of the 1960s, almost all social organizations put up the by the Catholic Clergy disappeared to let the place to secular organizations under the Québec government. Sports were also into this new social development. In 1965, the Confédération Otéjiste Provinciale (the federation of the regional OTJs) was replaced by the Confédération des Loisirs du Québec, which took under its umbrella all Québec sports federations. For example, the Québec branch of the CAHA, that represented mostly English hockey associations, was taken over by the French Montreal hockey association that outnumbered the Québec branch in 1968. Later, all other regional French associations joined in, which explained the sudden increase of the Québec branch in 1968-69 and 1969-70, This paper will explain in some details how the Québec hockey organizations changed drastically in the 1960s from two parallel organizations (OTJ and CAHA Québec branch) into one new organization later known as Hockey-Québec	
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10:15-11:45	PANEL 3D: <i>Determining Intent to Injure: Potential Lessons from Law in Assessing Match Penalties in Hockey</i> Brandon Trask, Martine Dennie, Tréchelle Bunn and Mark Wilson Abstract: This presentation examines the relationship between the rules of ice hockey – both written and unwritten – and Canadian legal principles, with a focus on intent, provocation, and accountability. It explores the referee’s discretion in calling penalties and how this compares to legal standards for assessing intent in Canadian criminal law. The discussion also considers hockey’s informal “code” of violence and retaliation, and whether such cultural norms should influence legal or disciplinary outcomes. Key questions include whether provoked players should be judged differently, how star status or injury history may affect disciplinary decisions, and whether the “win-at-all-costs” mentality justifies harmful conduct. The presentation concludes by asking: what is the test for intent, and how should it apply within the unique socio-cultural environment of Canadian hockey?	Selkirk
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11:45-1:15	LUNCH & LEARN (LUNCH PROVIDED) <i>Skating to Inclusion</i> Alyssa White Alyssa, a Team Canada para ice hockey forward, will share her inspiring journey in her presentation, "Skating to Inclusion." She'll take us through the triumphs and challenges of being a woman para ice hockey athlete—highlighting both personal and team achievements, as well as the barriers and inequalities still faced in the sport. As part of a global movement for inclusion, Alyssa is advocating for women in para ice hockey to be recognized and compete at the highest level of the Paralympics. Alyssa’s passion, perseverance, and advocacy for women in para ice hockey is a story you don’t want to miss! Join us as she shares her powerful message of inclusion and recognition at the hockey conference 2025.	Grand Ballroom
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1:15-1:30	BREAK	
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CONCURRENT SESSIONS 4 (1:30-2:45) Choose From 4A, 4B, or 4C

1:30-2:45	PANEL 4A: Black Trailblazers <i>Before Willie: Black Hockey in Boston to 1958</i> Andrew Holman Abstract: This paper examines how race and anti-Black racism was practiced in Boston in the 60 years between the staging of the first games of Montreal-rules ice hockey and the breaking of the National	La Verendrye
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	Hockey League's color barrier by Boston Bruin Willie O'Ree in 1958. It consists of three parts, each of which explores the centrality of whiteness in ice hockey and what that has meant for the racially marginalized. The first part traces the landscape of New England hockey, from the introduction of the sport in elite, white colleges and private schools in the late 1890s to its gradual expansion beyond ivied walls to working-class, multi-ethnic clubs and communities in the interwar years. The second part pieces together scattered evidence of individual Black hockey players who played on largely white teams and measures how the press presented their exceptionality. Part three narrows the focus further, examining the games and press coverage of the "Colored Panthers," an all-Black team that played in the amateur Bay State Hockey League for two seasons, 1928 and 1929. This section explores the backgrounds of team members, a collection of talented multi-sport athletes—some of them locals, some of them transplants from Atlantic Canada whose family members played in the (now) lauded Coloured Hockey League of the Maritimes. Beyond this prosopography, the final section also examines how local newswriters used ridicule in their coverage of the Panthers as a tool to enforce racial boundaries and reassert whiteness as a key component of the sport's brand. <i>"Carter, You Should Cut Your Hair": "Colour-Bland" Racism and the Policing of Blackness in Hockey Culture</i> Stacy Lorenz & Braeden McKenzie Abstract: This presentation examines constructions of whiteness and Blackness in hockey culture, particularly the ways in which the National Hockey League (NHL) disciplines and polices the conduct of the young Black male athletes under its control. The study focuses on how racialized constructions of Black hockey players as "flashy" outsiders with "attitude problems" and potential "gangsters" in need of discipline draw upon long-standing stereotypes of Black athletes as "thugs" and criminals, in contrast to respectful and respectable white athletes. The polite, modest "hockey masculinity" epitomized by superstar players such as Gordie Howe, Wayne Gretzky, and Sidney Crosby has been mobilized to marginalize and police the behaviour of Black players who have not played hockey "the right way" – which is synonymous with "the white way." Players like Anson Carter, Ray Emery, and P. K. Subban, for instance, have been criticized for their actions, on and off the ice, when they refused to conform to the traditional norms of (white) hockey culture. The presentation uses the concept of "colour-bland racism" to explain the NHL's double standard for white and Black players,	
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	under the guise of “tradition,” “attitude,” and “professionalism.” In hockey culture, “blandness” is often a virtue: the expected style of leadership is unassuming, even boring. The frame of colour-bland racism builds on the theory of “colour-blind racism,” which has been used to challenge notions of a “post-racial” society, and the idea of “gender-bland sexism,” which has been used to explain the lack of media coverage of women’s sport. Colour-bland racism is therefore a “new racism” practice that functions as a hockey-specific explanation and justification for why Black players are treated differently within the culture of hockey. In this study, we will apply the lens of colour-bland racism to several recent examples of media narratives of Black and white players in the NHL. <i>Herb Carnegie's Legacy: Courageous Journey</i> Bernice Carnegie Abstract: Hear firsthand from the Carnegie Family the historical journey of the Black Canadian hockey trailblazer Herb Carnegie and how his contributions paved the way for other ethnic players. Someone must open the door to being the first. Herbie Carnegie, Ossie Carnegie and Manny McIntyre broke the colour barrier by playing with predominantly White semi pro teams in the 1930s, 40s and 50s. The Black Aces were an anomaly that excited fans as the first all-Black line in history. This presentation highlights the journey of Herb Carnegie whose story remains timely and timeless. Audiences are frequently awestruck by his accomplishments and how he navigated around racial and other roadblocks to carve out his own personal passage to fulfillment. Dr. Carnegie was intentional about his direction. He transferred the skills he learned from hockey into his personal, business and community life. More than 2000 articles/books/films carry his story. He has received eight medals including being a member of the Order of Canada. He is an inductee in 14 Halls of Fame and has a street, a school and an arena named in his honour. He is credited with establishing the first registered hockey school in Canada in 1955 that also taught character and life skills. You will learn some of his secrets from creating a movement that jumped from hockey into the education system and ultimately influenced more than a million youth. His reckoning came when after 70 years he was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame Class of 2022 as a Builder.	
1:30-2:45	PANEL 4B: Masculinity	Grand Ballroom

	<i>Cogs on Ice: The Iron Cage of Masculine Identity in Sport</i> Teresa Fowler Abstract: This presentation examines the "iron cage" of masculinity in elite men's ice hockey, drawing on data from a qualitative study with university athletes. Using Max Weber's (Douglass, 2018) metaphor of the iron cage as a theoretical framework, this presentation shares how societal structures and cultural practices create a system that constrains individual freedom and reinforces traditional masculine ideals. The findings highlight how the "mask of masculinity" serves as a survival mechanism within the hypermasculine environment of elite hockey. Athletes felt compelled to embody toughness, aggression, and emotional stoicism to align with the sport's dominant culture. These expectations resulted in significant personal costs, including the suppression of authentic identities, strained interpersonal relationships, and neglected mental health. Participants shared stories of how institutional structures, such as coaching practices and team hierarchies, reinforced the pressure to conform, further entrenching them in the "cage" of prescribed masculinity. This presentation extends Weber's critique of modernity with the lived experiences of these athletes. It reveals how the iron cage metaphor illuminates the broader societal constraints on men's identities by analyzing how the mask of masculinity perpetuates cycles of conformity and alienation. In the presentation, I will share the masks the team created to facilitate a discussion on why the iron cage remains a relevant metaphor for masculinity in sport. <i>Hockeynormativity: A Performance and a Feeling</i> Jamie Ryan Abstract: My paper will introduce my theory of compulsory hockeynormativity, which is the pressure to conform to and uphold a privileged white, able-bodied, masculine, settler, financially stable, heterosexual, cisgender, men's hockey identity. My concept of compulsory hockeynormativity is informed by Lauren Berlant and Michael Warner's "heteronormativity" ("Sex in Public" 548), Rosemarie Garland-Thomson's "normate" (Extraordinary Bodies 2), Adrienne Rich's "compulsory heterosexuality" ("Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Experience" 632), Robert McRuer's "compulsory able-bodiedness" (Crip Theory 8), and the work of sports sociologists, such as Carly Adams, Kristi Allain, and Courtney Szto. My paper will argue that hockeynormativity is the hegemonic identity and performance of dominant hockey culture, and that hockeynormativity is an ideology, a privilege, and a	
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	performance, but not a biological guarantee. Hockeynormativity can also be a form of code switching to be better accepted in hockey spaces, especially if one is considered an abject referent or outsider. Hockeynormativity is a privilege that often extends out into an ideology of what dominant hockey culture believes hockey is and should be. Compulsory hockeynormativity may be obvious as a concept, especially to those outside hockeynormativity, but it also so often goes unacknowledged. My paper will explore compulsory hockeynormativity in hockey literature texts, like R. Renee Hess's <i>Blackness Is a Gift I Can Give Her</i>, and how hockeynormativity is at once a feeling of "comfort" for those who inhabit it and an alienating affect for those outside it. My paper will argue that versions of hockey outside of hockeynormativity offer a different vision of what hockey (culture) is and could be. <i>Morning/Mourning hockey: A Reckoning of Elements of Hockey Culture</i> Tim Skuce Abstract: Canadians are often presented with idyllic images of grassroots hockey. It is in and through the playing of the game where children learn, unlearn and relearn excellences of being and becoming a boy/man. Further, fulfillment of these ends strikes participants with a sense of pride, meaningfulness and joy. Children come together in community, in fellowship, in manifest harmony. However, these idyllic images tell only a partial tale. Despite the claims that the culture of hockey fosters admirable and praiseworthy aims, recent media stories and research findings (Moore, Fowler & Skuce, 2022) reveal acts of misogyny, sexual assault allegations, player-to-player violence, racism, homophobia, and stoicism that act as persistent reminders that hockey continues to experience reckonings. To explore the culture of hockey, this proposal draws broadly on the philosophical hermeneutics of Hans-George Gadamer (2004) and specifically on his notion of insight. Gadamer observes that insight "is more than the knowledge of this or that situation. It always involves escape from something that had deceived us and held us captive" (pp. 364-65). Moreover, insights are thrust upon us, beyond one's wanting and doing. Insights may trigger the collapse of ideals contributing to disillusionment or even a shattering of oneself. Indeed, within the context of hockey, one is at a loss not simply because one may have participated in acts of violence but because one identified with it; albeit, often in the midst of praise and adulation. The world has become poor and empty as one is at a loss about what to do, what to feel and what to think. In short, one may suffer the unexpected pain and loss of a piece of oneself—of one's	
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	soul. Freud’s notion of mourning explores how one might overcome disillusionment and the shattering of oneself. Freud locates the capacity to mourn at the center of human well-being. Further, he argues that the refusal to mourn entrenches despair—"a resoluteness in hopelessness" (in Lear, 2022, p.10). It is through mourning where the energy may be taken out of despair. Mourning allows one to bid adieu to an ideal, or a set of ideals. In the context of hockey: How might it be possible to foster a mourning environment that also facilitates a mourning process? Perhaps in doing so, boys and men may take responsibility for the death of a way of being—a way of life. Perhaps this is where hope sits—a hope that invites and enables an opportunity to flourish, to reframe and to reimagine possibilities as to how the game might be experienced in the future.	
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1:30-2:45	PANEL 4C: “Data-driven change”: How Hockey Canada is Using Research and Data to Help Inform Action Irfan Chaudhry, Nathan Kindrachuk, Kevin Mongeon, Scott Furman, Denise Pattyn This panel examines how Hockey Canada leverages research to drive meaningful change across multiple facets of the sport. By grounding its strategies in data and evidence, Hockey Canada seeks to address some of the most pressing challenges in hockey today, from maltreatment and player retention to education and equity. The panel will explore how research informs Hockey Canada’s approach to maltreatment, highlighting efforts to create safer environments for players and to implement accountability measures that support cultural transformation. It will also delve into strategies for growth and retention, examining how data is used to identify barriers to participation and to develop initiatives that encourage lifelong engagement in the sport. In addition, the panel will discuss the role of research in shaping learning and development programs, with a focus on equipping players, coaches, and administrators with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed both on and off the ice. Finally, it will address Hockey Canada’s commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), demonstrating how evidence-based practices are helping to build a more inclusive and welcoming hockey community.	Gateway
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	By showcasing Hockey Canada’s data-driven approach, this panel highlights the critical role of research in shaping the future of hockey. Attendees will gain insights into the organization’s efforts to bridge the gap between knowledge and action, offering a model for how research can inform progress in sport and beyond our answer.	
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2:45-4:00	KEYNOTE EVENT Dr. Colin Howell Distinguished Lecture: <i>The Don Cherry Divide: Masculinity, Populism, and Canadian Identity</i> Dr. Kristi Allain An expert in sport, identity, and culture, Dr. Allain will present her groundbreaking work, “The Don Cherry Divide: White Working-Class Masculinity and Canadian Identity.” Don Cherry remains one of the most polarizing figures in Canadian sports culture—loved by some, dismissed by others. But what does his lasting influence reveal about gender, nationalism, and right-wing populism? How has his rhetoric shaped the way Canadians think about violence in sport, immigration, and identity? At a time when populist movements and cultural divides are shaping politics both in Canada and beyond, Dr. Allain’s talk will critically examine how Cherry’s brand of hockey masculinity and working-class pride connects to broader social and political movements. What does this tell us about the past, present, and future of hockey and Canadian identity?	Grand Ballroom
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4:00	MIX & MINGLE (LIGHT SNACKS PROVIDED) Cash Bar	
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5:30	KEYNOTE EVENT <i>We Breed Lions: Hockey’s Moment of Reckoning</i> Rick Westhead Westhead will be discussing his groundbreaking new book, <i>We Breed Lions</i> , which offers a hard-hitting and powerful look at hockey’s moment of reckoning in Canada. His work has ignited national discussions about accountability, justice, and the need for change within the game. In <i>We Breed Lions</i> , Westhead gives voice to survivors and explores the systemic issues that have allowed a toxic culture to persist. He examines the role of league officials, team	Grand Ballroom
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	owners, and governing bodies in perpetuating the status quo, while also highlighting those who are working to change hockey for the better. His reporting does not just expose the dark side of the sport—it also presents a vision for a more inclusive and respectful future. This is a keynote session you won’t want to miss.	
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DAY THREE (June 19)

Day Three centers on transformation through inclusion, accountability, and critical reflection. Throughout the program, participants challenge dominant narratives in hockey by amplifying underrepresented voices and interrogating long-standing structures within the game. Sessions highlight how hockey intersects with gender, race, colonialism, law, safety, and identity. Presenters share lived experiences, community-based research, and policy critiques that reveal both the barriers that persist and the possibilities for meaningful change. This collective work pushes hockey beyond tradition, imagining a sport rooted in belonging, care, and structural transformation.

8:00-8:30	BREAKFAST PROVIDED	Grand Ballroom
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CONCURRENT SESSIONS 5 (8:30-9:45), Choose From 5A, 5B, or 5C

8:30-9:45	PANEL 5A: Advancing Girls’ and Women’s Hockey 2 <i>“Are You Still Here?” Reflections of 25+ Years of Senior Women’s Hockey in the OWHA</i> Claire Senior Abstract: The Ontario Women’s Hockey Association, or OWHA, describes itself as an organization that “promotes, provides and develops opportunities for girls and women to play female hockey in Ontario.” And, while this assertion is true in many ways, the attention paid to grown-up women – unless they happen to be destined for international glory – has always been a bit of an afterthought. In a “career” that has spanned nearly thirty years, as player, manager, and now coach, across six different teams and innumerable games and tournaments, the author invites you to join her for a wild ride through the highs and lows of the A, BB, B, C, and even the sadly-now departed D levels of Senior women’s hockey. Unlike every first game in a tournament featuring younger age groups, this session will, ideally, not start at 10PM. <i>Participation in Women’s-Specific Learn to Play Hockey Programs: Preliminary Findings.</i> Erin Morris	Grand Ballroom
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	Abstract: Physical activity and sport participation provides health and well-being benefits across the lifespan. However, women are less likely to participate in adult recreation sports than men, and are less likely to have learned certain sports, like hockey, as children because they were coded as male sports. In recent years there has been a marked increase in girls' participation in hockey. Additionally, there has been a recent trend of creating adult learn to play hockey programs aimed specifically at women. Some of these programs are aimed at hockey mom's, some at women fans of NHL teams, and some more generally marketed. Despite this increase in girls and women's participation in hockey, there remains limited research on the topic. Most of the research that does exist focuses on youth and elite levels of the sport, with only one study looking at women's participation in adult, recreational hockey. Learning to play a sport like hockey as an adult has many unique challenges as compared to other adult recreational sports like softball or basketball leagues. Therefore, this study sets out to understand the motivations, constraints, and outcomes of participants in Women's Learn to Play Programs across the United States. A mixed methods approach, utilizing qualitative interviews and quantitative surveys of participants and organizers of these programs will give a greater understanding of the women who participate in these programs and why they choose to do so. This presentation will discuss preliminary findings of this research. <i>A Fierce Female Hockey Movement: Driving Change Through Community</i> Amy Doerksen Abstract: "We teach the girls what really being fierce means. It means that you have the courage to embrace and show the world who you truly are without any hesitation. We create an environment where every girl can be their true selves no matter who they are, where they come from. We make them feel like they belong." - Nadia Nickel, Fierce Female Hockey Volunteer and Adrian College Women's Hockey Team Member Created spring of 2022, Fierce Female Hockey fills a programming gap that exists in Manitoba's hockey community. Owner Amy Doerksen created Fierce to meet the unique needs of female hockey players and coaches. Through her own lived experiences as a player, coach and hockey association board member, Doerksen faced a reckoning herself with the sport she loves. Compelled to grow the female game differently, she took on a weekend/evening passion project to boldly address inequities and reduce challenges females face in hockey.	
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	This presentation tells the story of how Fierce came to become a growing movement across Manitoba. Fierce delivers fun-based hockey camps to female grassroots players. Camp instruction is 100% female and integrates multi-generational mentorship through an extensive volunteer network to help reduce financial access barriers. The mission of Fierce is creating safe and engaging spaces for females to learn and grow in the sport of hockey, both on and off the ice, as players and coaches. In its first year in 2022, Fierce delivered one camp in Brandon, MB. Fast forward three years, Fierce has now delivered ten camps in communities across Manitoba with over 400 registrations in 2024 alone! This is all supported by a network of almost 100 volunteers. This presentation demonstrates how Fierce delivers a truly unique experience that celebrates female athleticism and fosters the amazing power of female leadership. <i>Decolonizing "Canada's Game": Exploring the use of personal, arts-based media archives to explore identity and meaning in the women's division at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC)</i> Jaydlin Spooner Abstract: This study aims to explore how Indigenous female hockey athletes navigate their intersectional identities through arts-based media elicitation methods. Hockey has been studied as both a tool of dominant colonial hypermasculinity (Allain, 2015; Szto, 2020) and a contested site for decolonization through ‘dual-track’ Indigenous hockey tournaments such as the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC), which intertwines Indigenous cultural events and practices with elite competition (Forsyth et al., 2021; Hauck, 2020). However, existing research has largely focused on the men’s division of these tournaments, leaving a gap in understanding how athletes in the women’s division negotiate their identities in such contexts. Utilizing Indigenous feminist methodology, this research thematically analyzes the personal media archives of four adult Indigenous women’s experiences of identity and meaning at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships through semi-structured, conversational interviews. As a former player in the women’s division at the NAHC, I believe my own lived experiences will help build trust and rapport with the participants, who may be anywhere from one to several years removed from their experiences. Through McLuhan’s (1964) theory of media as extensions of human capabilities, I argue that the long-term management of personal	
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	media archives reflects the emphasis placed on event experiences. Implementing a participatory photo-elicitation approach, participants are invited to delve into their personal media archives and share photographs or videos that evoke meaningful, long-lasting memories and embodied experiences. Through this process, I aim to counterweight the mainstream emphasis on athletic, quantitative success with participant-led stories that underscore the cultural impacts of the tournament. By addressing the scarcity of qualitative Indigenous stories in mainstream sports archives, this study advocates for the inclusion of Indigenous-centered narratives in these spaces. Additionally, this work supports the growing body of literature on arts-based media methods as a powerful means to understand embodied experiences at sports events and their capability to elicit meaning, past experiences, and negotiations of intersectional identities.	
8:30-9:45	PANEL 5B: <i>The Legal Landscape of Hockey: Exploring Employment and Labour Law</i> Mark Alward, Amy Clayton, and Austin Sutherland Abstract: This presentation explores the complex relationship between the NHL, its players, and officials, with a focus on collective bargaining, player contracts, and discipline. It examines the termination of Standard Player Contracts (SPCs) due to material breaches and related grievances, highlighting the complex legal dynamics in professional hockey. Additionally, this presentation will touch on the ongoing issue of performance-enhancing substances, related suspensions, and their impact on player careers and league reputation. Presenters will then explore the awkward role the National Hockey League Players Association finds itself in, as it seeks to promote player safety, while also defending those accused of dangerous acts on the ice. The presentation will then shift into an area often alluded to but usually by mere speculation – disciplining referees, and lessons learned from the Tim Peel incident and its future implications, before transitioning into a discussion on referee supervision, selection, and ranking within the context of the unionized National Hockey League Officials' Association. This presentation will conclude with a discussion on the emerging legal battles within junior hockey, focusing on lawsuits surrounding employment rights and player compensation. This presentation explores the legal concepts of tort law in hockey, specifically, assault, battery, and negligence, focusing on incidents such as hits from behind, egregious slashing, intent to injure and wrongful penalties. It will examine how actions both on and off the	Gateway

	ice can give rise to legal claims, with implications for players, referees, and the sport as a whole. The presentation will delve into existing cases to highlight how courts in both Canada and the United States have addressed claims of assault and battery related to on-ice incidents. The discussion will then explore the challenges of proving negligence, briefly touching on defenses such as consent and assumption of risk that are frequently raised. By focusing on notable cases, this presentation will provide a deeper understanding of the intersection between tort law and hockey, offering insights into the legal consequences of misconduct in the sport and the evolving responsibilities of players, officials, and governing bodies.	
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8:30-9:45	PANEL 5C: Structure and Regulation <i>Rethinking Access: A Gender Equity Lens on Ice Allocation Policies in Canada</i> Lindsey MacIntosh Abstract: Hockey's legacy in Canada is rooted in community participation, yet remains inaccessible to many due to restrictive ice allocation policies disproportionately affecting marginalized groups, especially women and girls. This study, led by the Future of Hockey Lab, examines ice allocation policies across Canada to address these inequities, focusing on how policies shape access for underrepresented groups. This study reveals how traditional booking systems, municipal policies, and ingrained practices sustain inequalities in ice access. Data collected across urban and rural regions show policies often favor established, male-dominated leagues, creating barriers to women's hockey programs and community initiatives. A gender equity lens uncovers disparities and identifies policy modifications to foster greater access for underrepresented groups. The presentation will discuss: Project Approach: Collaborative research with policymakers and stakeholders to analyze ice allocation data across communities. Findings on Gender Disparities: Evidence of structural biases limiting ice time for women and girls, particularly in community and non-sanctioned leagues. Pathways to Policy Change: Recommendations for reimagining ice allocation to support equitable access, challenge legacy practices, and broaden participation. Aligned with the theme "In the Echoes of Reckonings," this presentation confronts deep-rooted inequities in Canadian hockey culture, calling for a re-evaluation of how the sport's resources are shared. Through policy change and advocacy, the Open Ice Project envisions a future where hockey's cultural value is matched by	La Verendrye
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	inclusivity, enabling greater access and opportunity for all Canadians. <i>Penalty Decision-Making Abilities of Elite Ice Hockey Referees</i> Dan Hanoomansingh, David Hill & Maria E. Gallo Abstract: The most prominent conversation in the sport officiating community is whether it is possible to quantify the performance of officials. Ultimately, the best officials make the correct decision most often, but there is no accepted metric or methodology for making this determination. Even at the top levels of the amateur and professional game, the assessment of ice hockey officials relies wholly on the judgement of expert evaluators. The growth of the game necessitates advancements in all areas, including officiating. This analysis examines 28 top ice hockey referees, officiating the International Ice Hockey Federation's (IIHF) Men's and Women's World Championships, and assesses the accuracy of their penalty decision-making. Their penalty calls (523 from 86 games) were assessed via video by a panel of experts and the data collected was compared with how referees progressed in the tournament (1 – final assignment, 2 – semi-final assignment, 3 – quarter-final or preliminary round). This analysis found that referees in Groups 1 & 2 were correct in 82.5% of their penalties called ($SD \pm 5.0\%$), with a significant difference as compared to Group 3. This indicates a clear benchmark for referees who were entrusted with a semi-final or final assignment at the top level of international hockey. This analysis also found that referees in men's and women's hockey made correct penalty decisions at the same rate, indicating that, despite the differences in rules and style of play, the evaluation of a referee's judgement does not change based on gender. This this project is the first to propose benchmarks for referees' judgement, which can be utilized as a baseline for future research, against which other metrics can be tested, and moving forward, practitioners can utilize these benchmarks in situations where referees are evaluated as being equal in other categories. <i>Explaining the Participation Gap in Women's Hockey between Quebec and Ontario</i> Thomas Soehl., Matthew Lange & Emma Hebert Abstract: Marie-Philip Poulin is the face of women's hockey and hails from the province of Quebec. Instead of being a sign of the strength of female hockey in Quebec, her exceptional status obscures a much less celebrated reality. Recent Canadian women's hockey teams have had only one or two players from Quebec, far fewer than expected given the province's population size. The popularity of youth female hockey, in turn, underlies this elite	
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	under-representation: There were 6,600 females registered for ice hockey in Quebec in 2020, while over 51,000 were registered in Ontario. Even when adjusting for differences in population size, there were 4.5 times as many females playing organized hockey in Ontario than in Quebec. Why did girls and women's hockey develop to be so much more popular in Ontario than in Quebec? As recently as the 1980s, there were very few women playing hockey in either Ontario or Quebec. So why this divergence? We believe that some "easy" explanations can be discarded. When it comes to the popularity of hockey, Quebec is not second to Ontario. Similarly, when it comes to gender ideology more broadly, Quebec is, if anything, more progressive than Ontario. This project sets out to understand these stark differences between provinces. We will present preliminary findings from our work which focuses on the different institutional arrangements – that many more clubs and leagues developed in Ontario and developed earlier than in Quebec channeling interest in women's hockey into participation in the sport. use historical sources and expert interviews to trace these developments and link our findings to sociological research on the structure of civil society more generally and the influence of institutional actors such as the Catholic Church.	
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9:45-10	BREAK	
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CONCURRENT SESSIONS 6 (10-11:30), Choose From 6A, 6B, or 6C

10-11:30	PANEL 6A: <i>Pathways and Experiences from Youth Hockey to World Juniors and the NHL: A Panel of Perspectives on Men's Hockey in the US</i> Chaired by Kate Winter, presenters include: Collin Patterson & Kate Winter; Kerri Fowler; JoAnne Patterson; Kate Winter & Jay Fowler Jr. Abstract: This panel will present four papers related to pathways and experiences in men's hockey in the US from youth hockey to representing the USA at the 2024 IIHF WJC-20 and/or being drafted into the NHL. The first paper covers the pathways from Squirt (10U) and Pee wee (12U) competition through USHL/OHL and/or NCAA D1 competition to the 2024 WJC-20, focusing on the representatives of the gold-medal-winning Team USA from the 2024 IIHF WJC as compared to their 2023-24 teammates who were	
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	also born in 2004 and 2005 but did not represent USA in the 2024 IIHF WJC-20. The second paper presents an autoethnography of one hockey mom's experience from when her toddler son discovered hockey to his being drafted in the third-round by an Original Six NHL team and going on to a gold medal with Team USA at the 2024 IIHF WJC-20. The third paper will explore the influence of birth month and regional representation on selection and performance in world junior hockey teams, discussing the overrepresentation of early year birthdays and certain regions and offering suggestions to reform talent identification systems. The fourth paper combines 10 years of NHL entry draft data about players' amateur leagues with survey data from NCAA D1 men's hockey players about their motivations to play college hockey to explore the relative importance of college hockey on the pathway to the NHL for American players. Together, these papers are intended to offer insight into not only how players progressed to the 2024 WJC-20 and the NHL, but also their motivations and considerations at various points. Papers in this panel are predicted to be of interest to hockey coaches at various levels, parents of players, and talent scouts/recruiters seeking the next generations of talented players.	
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10-11:30	PANEL 6B: Learning and Development <i>Sample or Specialize? Pathways to "Success" in Hockey</i> Sarah Teetzel & Melanie Gregg Abstract: From investigations into CTE and toxic hockey culture, the risks young athletes take in pursuing success in ice hockey are increasingly well documented in the sociological, legal, and medical literatures, amongst others. Similarly, the risks of early sport specialization, generally, are thoroughly documented in the sport psychology and coaching literature, particularly as they pertain to burnout and overuse injuries. Yet the alternative to specialization, a multisport experience, known as diversification, where youth "sample" a variety of activities to gain a variety of sport skills and experiences, is far less studied. In partnership with Sport for Life Canada, this study investigated if young adults and adults who did not have multisport experiences prior to age 12 have the confidence, physical competence, and knowledge to continue to participate in sports and physical activities throughout their lives. Following the completion of a purpose designed questionnaire (n=392), Canadian residents aged 18-60 were invited to participate in a follow-up interview. In-depth, semi-structured interviews were conducted with a sample of 46 participants to gain insight into their personal sport and physical activity histories and physical literacy journeys. Results of this study suggest that everyday people's understanding	Gateway
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	of multisport and diversification differs from how these terms are used in the research literature. Particularly with respect to women who started playing hockey in adulthood, results of this study challenge common understanding of what it means to be a specialized athlete and suggest that physical literacy and the skills required for lifelong participation in sports may be fostered through myriad pathways. <i>Hockey School: Hockey Culture Requires An Educational Response</i> Shannon Moore, Teresa Fowler & Tim Skuce Abstract: Through our various research projects with elite level male ice hockey players our findings have demonstrated that issues of sexism, homophobia, narrow expectations of masculinity, commodification of players, hazing, racism, and a culture of silence persist (Fowler, 2023; Fowler et al., 2023; Moore et al., 2022; Skuce et al., 2020). These findings echo the scholarly literature in/on hockey culture (Allain, 2008; 2014; MacDonald, 2014; 2018; Miele, 2020; Sailofsky, 2022). These findings also demand an educational response. Deeply ingrained elements of hockey culture will persist if hockey associations and academies, at the very least, do not construct and enact curriculum aimed at unlearning and challenging these harmful elements. Although K-12 Physical and Health Education across Canada has started to construct curricula that reflects the current literature on comprehensive sex education, particularly around boundaries, consent and healthy relationships, these teachings cannot be isolated to formal schooling. Hockey associations and academies need to create curriculum that speaks to their specific context. Through this presentation we speak to the specific educational responses that are required for hockey players in order to respond to the issues specific to the culture. This includes pedagogy dedicated to: the mental health of athletes; concussion protection, warning signs, and long-term consequences; athlete advocacy; consent and sexual violence; hazing; healthy masculinity. <i>An Elephant Path for Learning & Development in Ice-Hockey</i> Teresa Fowler, Kristi Allain & Cheryl MacDonald Abstract: An elephant path is an informal route created through natural use, where individuals take more direct or efficient paths rather than adhering to designated or paved ones. These paths emerge organically, reflecting human behaviour and the need for preferred ways of navigating a space, even when they deviate from intended structures. Formal learning and development pathways—such as prescribed training modules—have been the standard in hockey. However, these formal routes have often failed to ensure a safe and positive experience, both on and off the ice.	
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	Instead, behaviours within the sport community have carved out troubling "elephant paths," leading to harmful outcomes related to maltreatment and unhealthy behaviours such as sexual violence. These issues echo a deeper reckoning—a call to confront and settle accounts of the cultural failures embedded in men's elite-level hockey and sport. This SSHRC-funded partnership with Hockey Canada explores how alternative approaches to learning and development might shift hockey culture. The metaphor of "elephant paths" resonates with the conference theme, In the Echoes of Reckonings, as it reflects the enduring patterns of behaviour within the sport and the need to confront the systemic failures they reveal. This presentation shares initial insights from semi-structured interviews with Hockey Canada members enrolled in non-certification training programs. These findings provide a foundation to reimagine learning environments and create pathways that address this cultural reckoning, fostering meaningful change in hockey culture and amplifying the echoes of transformation. <i>The Impact of Education on the Experiences Pregnant and Postpartum Officials</i> Dan Hanoomansingh Abstract: Officiating has an equity problem. Only 2% of the officials registered with Hockey Canada are adult women. At the elite level, women are better-represented — 11% of high-performance officials — but the number is still troublingly low. In the high-performance context, officials have a shared concern with elite women athletes in other sports: the expectations of high-performance sport are not designed to accommodate individuals who give birth. Women officials face additional barriers compared to other athletes within the Canadian sport system in that they are not formally designated as athletes and do not have access to Sport Canada-funded programs. However, it is not a given that interventions must be costly. A common complaint of pregnant and postpartum athletes is the lack of education regarding what is safe or advisable for them to do, without risking their health or that of their fetus. This is compounded by athletes feeling that they cannot discuss their pregnancy or plans to become pregnant without risking a loss of opportunity. These sentiments are reflected in research on women officials within hockey. This project focuses on the education of high performance officials within the Hockey Canada Officiating Program of Excellence	
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	(OPOE). This project consists of three interventions that will make education available to any official who may wish to become pregnant or start a family: knowledge translation sessions, expert resources, and peer mentorship networks. This project hypothesizes that by providing education and discussing pregnancy and family planning openly with program leaders, officials will report greater feelings of comfort and support in their decisions regarding family planning and will remain involved in the program for a longer period of time. If successful, this model can be used to shift the culture of officiating in Canada to be more inclusive and equitable and improve the experience of all officials. <i>Bodies of Knowledge: An Indigenous STS Approach to Sports Science Education and Research Capacity”</i> by Jessica Kolopenuk and Derek Wasyliw Abstract: This collaborative project brings together university researchers and the Canoe Lake Cree First Nation to co-create an innovative, community-centred educational module for Grade 10 physical education students. Grounded in the framework of Indigenous Science, Technology, and Society (Indigenous STS), the project addresses the priorities and knowledge systems of Indigenous communities, reimagining sports science education through the perspectives of Indigenous governance and sovereignty. Building on previous work that focused on the development of ice hockey athletes, this initiative moves away from extractive research models to prioritize community needs and support capacity-building. The project is guided by three areas of inquiry: how collaborations between Indigenous communities and academic researchers can enhance engagement with sports science; how Indigenous knowledge related to movement and the body can inform and reshape scientific curricula; and how Indigenous-led approaches to science and technology can foster self-determined research within and beyond the field of sports sciences. By co-creating a locally relevant digital learning module, this project aims to engage Indigenous youth as knowledge producers and future sports scientists, challenge colonial narratives of exclusion in STEM education, and create practical pathways for Indigenous-controlled curriculum design.	
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10-11:30	PANEL 6C: Asian Representation	Grand Ballroom
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“You don’t look like a hockey player”: Exploring Self-representations of East Asian Canadian Women in Recreational Hockey

Courtney Szto

Abstract: East Asian women have long been represented as the “tiger mom”, the “dragon lady”, the concubine, or the model minority in western popular culture. In turn, East Asian women have been stereotyped as “too” something: too weak or too passive to excel at contact sports or too overbearing to be loved. Rarely have East Asian women been allowed to represent themselves. As a result, this study amplifies how six East Asian women recreational hockey players would like the (sporting) world to see them. Using photovoice inspired methods, the research participants selected photos of themselves that relate to their love of ice hockey and completed written explanations about why they chose these photos, their favourite hockey memories, and the embodied experience of how it feels when they play hockey. These representations are contextualized against a media analysis of how elite East Asian women hockey players, such as Susie Yuen and Julie Chu, have been covered in sports media more broadly. Despite hockey serving as Canada’s national winter pastime, Asian hockey players are still considered abnormal in the hockey space; thus, this study will complicate the literature on Canadian multiculturalism, Asian diasporas, and notions of cultural citizenship

“I would return in a heartbeat to warm the benches:” Narrating Japanese Canadian Hockey Experiences in Postwar Southern Alberta

Carly Adams

Abstract: This paper draws on oral histories with Nikkei (individuals of Japanese descent) living in southern Alberta conducted as part of the Nikkei Memory Capture Project (NMCP), to understand the role of ice hockey in Japanese Canadian families. Many Japanese Canadian families were relocated to this region between 1942-1949 and many remained to rebuild their lives and communities during the postwar period. Through this project we aim to give voice to and record memories of everyday life from 1950 to the 21st century, a formative period when Nikkei communities, some of which were devastated by state-driven racist wartime persecution, were revitalized. Focussing less on elite-led post-war political activism, this project focuses on the culturally creative forms of integration and social innovation, such as sport and physical activity, which saw Nikkei endure and adapt. Historical research on sport and recreation in Japanese Canadian communities has mostly focused on the Asahi baseball team from Vancouver (see

	Jette, 2007), the emergence of baseball in the internment camps as teams were formed by some of the Asahi players who had been relocated, as well as judo and curling during the interwar years (see Dore, 2002; Adams and Aoki, 2020). This paper interrogates the cultural practices of hockey within Nikkei families as a means and representation of Japanese Canadian integration and civic engagement within the Canadian nation state and the simultaneous mobilization of sport as a vehicle for self-expression, belonging, community building and resurgence by Nikkei participants and spectators. <i>Larry Kwong: Hockey's Invisible Man</i> Chad Soon Abstract: How did the story of Larry Kwong disappear? He broke an NHL colour barrier 10 years before Willie O'Ree, but Larry's breakthrough has been largely ignored by the hockey establishment. More than a century after Larry's birth, the NHL's first player of Asian descent now has his own children's book. <i>The Longest Shot</i> is the result of 17 years of research and conversations with the man himself. But the echoes for me go back 40 years, to when my grandfather first told me about his hockey hero. For Larry to get even a minute in the NHL, considering the long-standing anti-Asian racism in North America, was a monumental triumph. For him to get only one minute at the highest level was an injustice. In this presentation I will trace back the echoes of Larry's legend and discuss reckonings that are long overdue. I'll present evidence, including testimony from hockey greats, that Larry had the ability to star in the NHL but was denied by a league that was opposed to such diversity. In hockey circles there is still resistance to giving Larry an honest account. I will make the case that Larry belongs in the Hockey Hall of Fame as a builder. He changed the face of the game. On the ice he was an innovator whose creativity people recalled when watching Gretzky decades later. Larry also went overseas to develop, popularize and grow hockey as a world sport. For Larry's 102nd birthday, I will be recounting his impossible climb up the hockey ladder. Larry pushed his sport and his society to be better, breaking barriers and stereotypes. The story of this unheralded hero is a timely one. There's still much work to do to	
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	make hockey more inclusive. Reckoning with Larry Kwong can help us continue to move forward.	
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11:30-12	CLOSING REMARKS Marian Jacko, Chico Ralf & Sam McKegney Marian Jacko is a proud Anishinaabe woman from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, a trailblazing lawyer, public servant, and advocate for Indigenous peoples and children. The first Indigenous woman appointed as Ontario's Children's Lawyer, she now serves as Assistant Deputy Attorney General of the Indigenous Justice Division, where she leads efforts to revitalize Indigenous legal traditions and improve access to justice. A dedicated mentor and community leader, Marian also champions Indigenous youth through health initiatives, sport, and cultural empowerment, including her work with the Little Native Hockey League and Hockey Canada.	Grand Ballroom
1-4	BALL HOCKEY University of Winnipeg	U of W Gym
After 4pm	OPPORTUNITIES TO SOCIALIZE: The Beer Can (Patio) Non Such Brewing (Patio) The King's Head Pub (Winnipeg Institution) The Common @ The Forks (Patio, on the River) Winnipeg Goldeyes Game: 6:30 pm	