

MASRC NEWSLETTER



2025 MANITOBA INDIGENOUS SUMMER GAMES

The Games are back,
and bigger than ever!
Details inside, including
sports and the two host
communities!

MASRC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES & MAJOR AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED!





April 2024 Event Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 MASRC Coach's Corner	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 MASRC Coach's Corner	11 Muay Tigers Kids' Muay Thai	12	13
14 Train to Perform 1-2PM	15	16	17	18 Muay Tigers Kids' Muay Thai	19	20
21 Train to Perform 1-2PM	22	23	24 MASRC HOF & Induction Ceremony	25 Muay Tigers Kids' Muay Thai SSD Community Visit to Dauphin River FN for Volleyball	26 SSD Community Visit to Dauphin River FN for Volleyball	27 Aboriginal Coaching Modules
28 Train to Perform 1-2PM	29	30	Blue = Outside of Winnipeg Green = Inside Winnipeg Yellow = Team Manitoba NAHC/NAIG Pink = Province-wide Red = Cancelled Grey = MASRC Offices Closed			

May 2024 Event Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Athlete & Community Champion of the Month nominations close on the 25 th of every month.			1 MASRC Coach's Corner SSD Community Visit to Fisher River Cree Nation	2 Muay Tigers Kids' Muay Thai	3	4
5 Train to Perform 1-2PM Women & Children Wellness Day in Brokenhead Ojibway Nation	6 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships	7 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships SSD Community Visit to Birdtail Sioux FN for Basketball	8 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships SSD Community Visit to Birdtail Sioux FN for Basketball	9 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships SSD Community Visit to Birdtail Sioux FN for Basketball Muay Tigers Kids' Muay Thai	10 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships Winnipeg Girl's Fastball Clinic	11 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships Winnipeg Girl's Fastball Clinic
12 Train to Perform 1-2PM Winnipeg Girl's Fastball Clinic	13	14 SSD Community Visit to OCN for Basketball	15 SSD Community Visit to OCN for Basketball	16 SSD Community Visit to OCN for Basketball Muay Tigers Kids' Muay Thai	17	18
19 Train to Perform 1-2PM	20 Victoria Day – MASRC Offices Closed	21	22	23	24	25
26 Train to Perform 1-2PM	27	28	29	30	June 1 2002 NAIG Legacy Scholarship Applications Close Bike Applications Close (WPG ONLY)	June 2
Program details can be found on our website at www.masrc.com/events.php .						

2025 MANITOBA INDIGENOUS SUMMER GAMES

**NORWAY HOUSE CREE NATION
JULY 9-14, 2025**

**SAGKEENG ANICINABE NATION
AUGUST 17-23, 2025**

LEARN MORE AT WWW.2025MISG.COM



**MANITOBA INDIGENOUS
SUMMER
GAMES 2025**
NORWAY HOUSE CREE NATION / SAGKEENG ANICINABE NATION

Presented By



Hosted By





MASRC Unveils Logo & Announces Hosts, Dates, and Sports for the 2025 Manitoba Indigenous Summer Games

March 18, 2024 - The Manitoba Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Council Inc. (MASRC) has proudly unveiled its ambitious plans for the Manitoba Indigenous Summer Games 2025 (MISG), marking a significant milestone in the journey towards empowering Indigenous youth through sports and cultural celebration.

The event, attended by esteemed dignitaries and leaders from Indigenous communities across Manitoba, showcased the host communities, dates, and sports lineup for the MISG. Norway House

Cree Nation will host the games from July 9 to 14, 2025, featuring sports such as badminton, volleyball, soccer, and more. Sagkeeng Anicinabe Nation will follow from August 17 to 23, 2025, offering sports including archery, basketball, and lacrosse. These events will also include special celebrations to honor the historical participation of communities in specific sports.

Athlete eligibility criteria were also announced, requiring participants to be permanent residents of Manitoba and of First Nations, Inuit, or Métis descent, born on or after January 1, 2009.

The event was graced by MASRC Board of Directors Mike Sutherland and Wendy Creed, and Board Co-Chairs Jaymie Leary-Balfour and Daphne Titterson. Mike served as our MC of the event, and Elder Paul Guimond of Sagkeeng Anicinabe Nation blessed the event with an opening prayer and an honor song.

Distinguished guests included Sagkeeng Anicinabe Nation Chief EJ Fontaine, Norway House Cree Nation Chief Larson Anderson, and family members of the late Joe Keeper. Support from community leaders such as Deputy Chief Edward Albert of Norway House Cree Nation, Keewatin Tribal Council Grand Chief Walter Wastesicoot, and the Honourable Ian Bushie, MLA of Keewatinook, and the Deputy Minister of Sport, Culture, Heritage, & Tourism Jeff Hnatiuk highlighted the profound impact of the MISG on Indigenous youth.

Olympian Justina Di Stasio, and 1967 Pan-Am Games frontrunner Patrick Bruyere added their voices to the chorus of encouragement and empowerment, reaffirming their commitment to championing Indigenous excellence in sports.

The event also saw the presence of numerous dignitaries and leaders, including the Mayor of Lac du Bonnet Gordon Peters, underscoring the widespread community support for the MISG and its mission to inspire, empower, and celebrate Indigenous youth.

As MASRC embarks on the journey towards the 2025 Manitoba Indigenous Summer Games, they extend their heartfelt gratitude to all who graced the event, emphasizing a journey of unity, resilience, and celebration, with a focus on honoring the past, empowering the present, and shaping a brighter future for Indigenous youth in Manitoba and beyond.





2025 Manitoba Indigenous Summer Games General Info

Since its inception in Opaskwayak Cree Nation in 1999, the Manitoba Indigenous Games (MIG) has served as a platform for Indigenous youth in Manitoba to showcase their sporting excellence while strengthening their ties to their culture.

Host Communities, Dates, & Sport

Norway House Cree Nation, July 9 - 14, 2025

Sports

- Badminton
- Volleyball
- Beach Volleyball
- 3X3 Basketball
- Soccer
- Canoe
- Softball
- *Wrestling**
- *10,000 metre foot races**
- *York Boat races**

Sagkeeng Anicinabe Nation, August 17 - 23, 2025

Sports

- Archery
- Athletics
- Basketball
- Ball Hockey
- Golf
- *Lacrosse**

**Communities will host special celebrations to honor their historical participation in specific sporting events.*

Athlete Eligibility

To participate, athletes must be:

1. Permanent residents of Manitoba;
2. First Nations, Inuit, or Metis;
3. Born on or after January 1, 2009.



Competition Venues, Tryouts, & Team Information

Competition Venues: TBA Spring of 2025

Tryout Information: TBA Fall/Winter 2024

Team Information: TBA Fall/Winter 2024

Social Media & Website Information

All information on the upcoming 2025 Manitoba Indigenous Summer Games can be found on the following sites!

Facebook: 2025 Manitoba Indigenous Summer Games

Instagram: @2025misg

Website: www.2025misg.com

Contact

Robyn Cruz, Major Games Manager

Phone: [204-925-5737](tel:204-925-5737) Email: robyn.cruz@masrc.com



IMPORTANT NOTE:
Athletes **MUST** have
a valid (not expired)
Indian Status card,
Manitoba Metis
Citizenship card, or
be a member of a
recognized Inuit
community to play!



Regional Managers Needed for the 2025 Manitoba Indigenous Summer Games

Volunteer Opportunity - Regional Manager Roles & Responsibilities

Functions and Responsibilities

The Regional Manager oversees the Manitoba Indigenous Summer Games program in their region. The Regional Manager supports their Region with the implementation of all tasks (planning, logistics, communications, etc.) to ensure the coaches, managers, and athletes have success navigating the Games environment. The role is a voluntary position. There are eight Regional Manager positions available, one per region. Preference will be given to qualified Indigenous applicants who reside within their respective region. All successful applicants must complete the MASRC Screening Policy.

Pre-Games

- Works closely with the Major Games Coordinator at the MASRC
- Review and be familiar with the sport technical packages, sport schedules, policy and procedures, and communicate potential issues to the Major Games Coordinator in a timely manner.
- Support the MASRC Major Games Coordinator and Host Societies with tasks, such as;
 - Collecting participant forms
 - Assisting with online registration
 - Uniform distribution & exchanges
 - Planning the travel to and from the tournaments
- Communication with all regional Games partners and participants (including families) and providing information to participants and parents as needed
- Attend and/or support the Games meetings either in-person or virtually
- Ensure that all team members follow the rules, regulations, and policies of the 2025 Manitoba Indigenous Summer Games for the duration of the event.

At Games Time

- Serve as the head of their region as the key communication link between regional team and the Host Society including:
 - Notifying teams of any changes regarding events and schedules.
 - Works with the Games Staff (as per discipline policy) for any code of conduct and Manitoba Indigenous Summer Games rule infractions.
 - Supports the Coaching Staff and Team Managers in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities
 - Attend daily Host Society meetings and communicates daily with Regional Team Coaches and Managers.
 - Assists with team operations and logistics including accreditation, accommodation, food, transportation, medal, and opening/closing ceremonies, planning for team “down-time”, arrival/departure, village check in/out, etc.
 - Attend daily Manitoba Indigenous Summer Games meetings each morning.
 - Coordinate all roles and responsibilities for your region.
 - Promote the 2025 Manitoba Indigenous Summer Games, including the spirit of the Games, and have fun!

Post Games

- Complete post evaluation interview with the MASRC Major Games Manager



Important Meetings & Event Requirements

All listed meetings and or events are considered critical attendance for all Regional Managers to attend.

Meeting or Event	Date(s)	Location
Regional Manager Online Orientation	June 1, 2, 3, 2024	Online / Zoom
Regional Manager Tour	September 30, 2024	Sagkeeng & Norway House
General Communication (monthly to biweekly meetings)	May 2024 to August 2025	Online / Zoom
Week 1 of MISG	July 9-14, 2025	Norway House Cree Nation
Week 2 of MISG	August 17-23, 2025	Sagkeeng Anicinabe Nation

Major Responsibilities Include

- Coordinate qualifying tryout events for all 13 MISG Sports in your region
- Develop plans for travel, accommodation, feeding for the entire contingent in your region
- Promote MISG and all future events

Qualifications

- Must have experience working at a regional or national multi-sport games
- Administration diploma, degree or related experience
- Computer proficiency in MS Office
- Proven skills in human resource management
- Diplomacy, tact and judgement
- Resourceful and self-motivated
- Marketing, communications and fundraising skills
- Excellent written and oral communication
- Current and clear Driver's License and ability to travel for extended periods
- Criminal Record Check & Child Abuse Registry

Application Procedure

Interested applicants may send a resume and cover letter addressed to Robyn Cruz, Major Games Manager by email at robyn.cruz@masrc.com, or by fax at 204-925-5716 before April 20, 2024 at 4:00PM CST. Preference will be given to applicants that are Indigenous and those that have a background in sport management.

Pickup Your Copy of *The Summer of Excellence!*



Get ready to dive into the amazing achievements of Manitoba's athletes in our special edition: *The Summer of Excellence!* Explore interviews with key figures, stunning photos, and stories behind the scenes. Grab your copy for \$20.

Don't miss out—email us at info@masrc.com to get your copy and relive the pride, passion, and victories of Manitoba's summer in Indigenous sports. Get ready to be inspired!



Aboriginal Coaching Modules to be hosted April 27th, 2024

In order to educate and promote the value of the NCCP and to establish meaningful participation of Indigenous peoples in this national program, the ASC embarked on a multi-year process to develop supplemental training material for Indigenous coaches taking NCCP workshops. The result of this process is the Aboriginal Coaching Modules (ACM), which responds to the need for a national training curriculum with content that reflects the uniqueness of Indigenous cultures, values, and lifestyles. The ACM is a professional development training tool for Indigenous and non-Indigenous coaches who coach Indigenous athletes, as they become certified through the NCCP.

The material in the ACM has been developed to meet the following learning objectives:

- Understanding the role of sport in Indigenous communities;
- Understanding and positively influencing the community in which you coach;
- Coaching the whole person; coaching beyond the physical to include the mental (intellectual and emotional), spiritual and cultural;
- Responding to racism in sport;
- Establishing a code of behaviour for your team that respects differences and addresses racism;
- Helping those you coach make healthy lifestyle choices.

To register for the ACM, please contact Cadin at 204-925-5737, or at cadin.dupasquier@masrc.com. You can also register online by visiting www.masrc.com/events.php.

MASRC Urban Bike Program Applications Are Now Open!

This program addresses our goal of providing independent, reliable, and safe transportation to Indigenous youth that have moved from rural and/or remote communities to live in Winnipeg for school or for work.

Applicants Must Be:

- Indigenous (First Nations, Metis, or Inuit).
- Youth between the ages of 16-24.
- From a rural or remote community.
- Now living in Winnipeg.
- Have no reliable mode of transportation.
- Applications open April 12th, 2024 at 9:00am

To Apply:

1. Complete the online application form [www.masrc.com/masrc-sports-equipment-bank]
2. Applicants must provide an unofficial transcript or a letter of enrollment/letter of employment.
3. Applications that are submitted without these documents will not be considered.

Note: Bikes are distributed to those that 1) apply first and 2) meet all of the criteria. Completing an application form does not guarantee that we will have a bike for you.

For more information, please contact info@masrc.com or 204-925-5737.



Train to Perform Has Been Extended!

Get ready to take your athletic ability to new heights with the MASRC's "Train to Perform" program! Hosted by the Manitoba Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Council, this high-performance training initiative is designed for Indigenous youth of all genders, aged 15-19, who are eager to enhance their skills and reach their peak potential.

About the Program:

Led by the accomplished Michelle Braithwaite of BMHOP Fitness, this non-sport specific dry land and weight training program is your ticket to unlocking your full athletic potential. Whether you're an aspiring athlete or just looking to elevate your fitness game, "Train to Perform" is tailored to meet your needs.



Key Details:

Who: Indigenous youth of all genders, ages 15-19

What: High-performance non-sport specific dry land and weight training

When: Sundays, 1-2 PM, until the end of June.

Where: Canlan Sports, 1871 Ellice Ave, Winnipeg, MB R3H 0B9

How to Register:

Simply fill out our Registration Form to secure your spot in this transformative program. Visit www.masrc.com/events.php to access the form and take the first step towards reaching your athletic goals.

Limited spots are available, so act fast and invest in your growth. "Train to Perform" is not just a training program; it's a commitment to your personal development and a pathway to realizing your true potential. For inquiries or more information, contact Tia at 204-942-6615, or at tia.murdock@masrc.com.

Let's make 2024 the year you train, perform, and excel!

Nomination Alert! Celebrate Indigenous Excellence!

Do you know an outstanding Indigenous athlete or community champion making waves in their community? It's time to shine the spotlight on their achievements! Whether they've demonstrated exceptional skills on the field or gone above and beyond to uplift their community, we want to hear about them!

Nominate someone who embodies resilience, dedication, and community spirit. Help us recognize and honor those making a positive impact in Indigenous communities. Together, let's celebrate the remarkable achievements of our athletes and champions!

Nominate now at <https://www.masrc.com/monthly-awards> and be a part of honoring Indigenous excellence. The deadline for submissions is the 25th of every month. Don't miss this chance to highlight the incredible stories within our community!



**MANITOBA ABORIGINAL
SPORTS & RECREATION
COUNCIL INC.**

NAIG 2002 LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS

APPLICATIONS OPEN APRIL 1ST, 2024!

Applications close June 1st, 2024.

ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a graduating grade 12 Indigenous student-athlete OR
- An Indigenous coach in any year of post-secondary studies;
- Must be First Nations, Métis, or Inuit;
- From Manitoba;
- Enrolled in post-secondary in the 2024/2025 academic year.



FOR MORE INFO

 204-925-5622

 www.masrc.com/scholarships

 rhonda.bernabe@masrc.com



The MASRC Announces the Class of 2024 Inductees for the Manitoba Indigenous Sports Hall of Fame

With great pride, the Manitoba Aboriginal Sport & Recreation Council (MASRC) is thrilled to announce the esteemed individuals joining the ranks of the Manitoba Indigenous Sports Hall of Fame. As an organization dedicated to the promotion of Indigenous sport and recreation, our objective aligns with the Trust and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 87th Call to Action. We aim to showcase Indigenous talent and skill in a manner that honors the resiliency, dedication, and consistency of Indigenous Peoples across Canada.

For us, this endeavor is more than just recognizing athletic achievement. It's about using sport as a platform to empower Manitoba's Indigenous communities, demonstrating that success is not only attainable but also purposeful. By celebrating the achievements of our inductees, we highlight the invaluable contributions of Indigenous Peoples to our society and nurture the emergence of future leaders within these communities.

As we unveil the Class of 2024 Inductees, we invite you to join us in celebrating their remarkable achievements and honoring their enduring legacy. Together, let us recognize and elevate the outstanding contributions of Indigenous athletes, coaches, and leaders who continue to shape the landscape of sports in Manitoba and beyond.



Terry Fox (Métis)

Terry Fox, born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, is a Métis athlete and cancer research advocate, who at eighteen, lost his right leg to cancer. In 1980, Fox began training for the Marathon of Hope, and ran 5,375 kilometers in 143 days to raise money for cancer research. In 1981, Terry Fox passed but not before raising 24.17 million for cancer research. That same year, the Terry Fox Run debuted in more than 750 locations, and in 1988, the Terry Fox Foundation was established, cementing Fox's legacy as a humanitarian and advocate for cancer awareness and research.



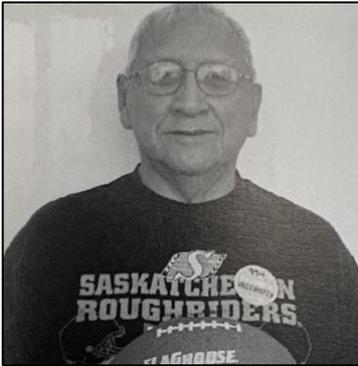
Ida Sutherland (Peguis First Nation)

Ida (Clemons) Sutherland played for the Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School Royals, one of the most successful high school volleyball teams in Manitoba's history. A member of Peguis First Nation, Sutherland rostered for Lord Selkirk between 1976 and 1978, and in her final season of play, led the team to a 58-0 record. In 1979, Sutherland was offered a scholarship to play volleyball at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), an NCAA Division 1 school. In her rookie year, UTEP made an appearance at the NCAA tournament, and by her third year, she was named captain.



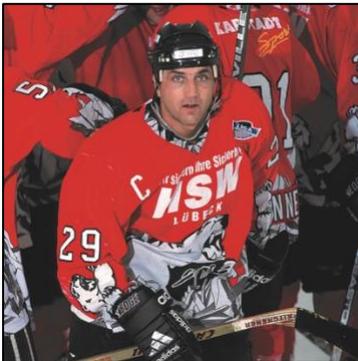
Kerrie Buchberger (Métis)

Kerrie Buchberger, a Métis volleyball athlete born in Russell, Manitoba, represented Canada at the 1996 Summer Olympics. From 1988 and 1991, Buchberger played for the University of Regina women's volleyball team where she was named a Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) All-star twice. Buchberger played for the Canadian National Women's Volleyball Team for eight seasons, competing in two Pan American Games and a World Cup. She also played five years of professional volleyball in Holland, Belgium, and France, and was inducted into the Saskatchewan Volleyball Hall of Fame in 2018.



Norbert Ross (Pine Creek First Nation)

Norbert Ross, a member of Minegoziibe Anishinabe (Pine Creek First Nation), has coached football, track and field, soccer, and hockey. He was an assistant coach with the Swan Valley Tigers, and coached the East Side Eagles football team, winning a few championships. Ross also served as a coach for the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG). He has frequented coaching seminars at the University of North Dakota and Bemidji State University, and traveled to England to learn soccer and middle-distance running, speed-skating in Amsterdam, and nutrition in Germany. Ross has committed his life to empowering Indigenous youth.



Kerry Goulet (Métis)

Born in Winnipeg, Kerry Goulet, a Métis athlete, played with the Winnipeg Grasshoppers who represented Manitoba at eight National Ball Hockey Championships, bringing home gold in 1989. Goulet also played ice hockey in Germany for sixteen seasons, and was also a general manager, and coach, where he earned 312 wins in 452 games. His jersey was eventually retired by the ETC Timmendorfer Eisbars. Goulet is the co-founder of StopConcussions, a platform dedicated to concussion awareness and education, and the organizer of the Australian Ice Hockey Classic, an initiative to support ice hockey around the world.

In conclusion, the induction of the Class of 2024 into the Manitoba Indigenous Sports Hall of Fame marks a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to celebrating Indigenous talent and promoting positive role models within our communities. These remarkable athletes not only excel in their sports but also embody the resilience, dedication, and spirit of Indigenous Peoples in Manitoba. As we honor their achievements, we also reaffirm our dedication to empowering Indigenous youth through sports and promoting active, healthy lifestyles. Let us continue to support and uplift our Indigenous athletes, recognizing their contributions and inspiring future generations to reach new heights of excellence.

To learn more about the Manitoba Indigenous Sports Hall of Fame or to nominate someone for the next class of inductees, feel free to visit www.masrchof.com, or to reach out to Carriera Lamoureux, our Director of Special Projects. Just drop her a line at 204-925-5737. Let's keep celebrating Indigenous excellence together!

Celebrating Excellence: MASRC Class of 2024 Major Award Recipients

The Manitoba Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Council (MASRC) proudly recognizes outstanding achievements within Indigenous communities, spotlighting individuals who have demonstrated exceptional talent, dedication, and service in sports and coaching.

The MASRC Class of 2024 Major Award Recipients will be honored at our Night of Excellence, where they will also join the Manitoba Indigenous Hall of Fame Inductees for their inductions. This special evening serves as a testament to the significance of Truth and Reconciliation Commission Recommendation #87, which calls for the recognition and celebration of Indigenous sports and recreation achievements.

By acknowledging the accomplishments of these recipients and inductees, we affirm the importance of Indigenous contributions to sports and recreation while fostering reconciliation and mutual respect. As recipients receive their awards on stage, we not only celebrate their individual achievements but also honor their role in promoting Indigenous resilience, cultural pride, and community well-being through sports and recreation. The Night of Excellence is a powerful reminder of our commitment to healing and honoring Indigenous histories, traditions, and achievements.

The Class of 2024 boasts remarkable accomplishments in 2023, showcasing the diverse talents and contributions of Indigenous athletes and coaches. Here are the Major Award Recipients:



Zoe Batkis, Cheerleading

Zoe Batkis, hailed as the Indigenous Athlete of the Year, represents the Red River Métis Nation with distinction. Zoe's recent accolades include securing the Cheer Manitoba Provincials title and making her mark at the World Championships. Notably, she played a pivotal role in the inaugural Cheer Manitoba provincial team while embodying sportsmanship and a positive attitude. Beyond her athletic endeavors, Zoe actively engages in community service, volunteering with esteemed organizations like the Niverville Remembrance Day Committee and Bear Clan. Her dedication to both sports and community sets a commendable example for aspiring athletes.



Cody Gunderson, Baseball

Cody Gunderson, honored as the Indigenous Athlete of the Year, is a proud citizen of the Red River Métis Nation. Cody's standout performance with the Carillon Junior Sultans and the Elmwood Giants earned him recognition, leading in batting average and doubles in the Manitoba Junior Baseball League. His crowning achievement came with a gold medal win at the Junior Nationals and an undefeated run at the 2023 North American Indigenous Games with Team Manitoba. Cody's exemplary skills and achievements pave the way for a promising NCAA career with the Division 1 University of North Carolina Charlotte Niners.



Dean Govereau, Softball

Dean Govereau, named Indigenous Coach of the Year, brings his expertise from the Fisher River Cree Nation. As assistant coach of the Manitoba 16U male softball team, Dean played a pivotal role in clinching the gold medal at the 2023 North American Indigenous Games. His coaching extends to nurturing talent across multiple age categories in Fisher River, with recent successes including a provincial gold with the U15 team. Dean's dedication to coaching and developing young athletes is instrumental in fostering a culture of excellence within Indigenous sports.



Jessica Chow, Soccer

Jessica Chow, honored as Indigenous Coach of the Year, is a dedicated citizen of the Red River Métis Nation. Jessica's coaching prowess shines through her involvement in various soccer programs, including the University of Regina Cougars soccer development programs and the Bonivital Soccer Club. Her commitment to empowering First Nations youth is evident in her roles with the Treaty 4 Junior Cougars Program and as an Aboriginal Apprentice Coach at the 2023 North American Indigenous Games. Jessica's ability to balance coaching responsibilities with academic pursuits exemplifies her unwavering dedication and leadership.



Benjamin Oman, Multi-Sport

Benjamin Oman, recognized as Indigenous Volunteer of the Year, proudly represents the York Factory Cree Nation. Benjamin's significant contributions to sports and community activities in Churchill are invaluable, organizing hockey, baseball, and volleyball events for local youth. His commitment extends beyond coaching and playing sports, as he dedicates his spare time to ensure the smooth operation of local arenas. Benjamin's selfless service and dedication to fostering a vibrant sports community are commendable.



Christina Keeper, Multi-Sport

Christina Keeper, honored as Indigenous Volunteer of the Year, hails from the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation. Christina's unwavering commitment to Team Manitoba's female NAHC team as a coach, athletic therapist, and trainer underscores her dedication to nurturing young talent. Her recent involvement as a soccer team trainer at the 2023 North American Indigenous Games exemplifies her ongoing support for youth in Indigenous communities, particularly in the realm of physical therapy. Christina's tireless efforts contribute significantly to the development and success of Indigenous athletes.

The MASRC Class of 2024 Major Award Recipients embody the spirit of excellence, serving as inspiring role models within Indigenous communities and beyond. As we celebrate their accomplishments, we look forward to witnessing their continued success and impact in the years to come.



Join Our Team! We're Hiring a Sport for Social Development Supervisor

Description

The Sport for Social Development (SSD) Supervisor plays a vital role in leading and supporting the Sport for Social Development team to fulfill the mission and goals of the Manitoba Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Council (MASRC).

Duties & Responsibilities

Supervision of SSD Programs & Staff

1. Manage staff hours, task assignments, and staffing for urban programs.
2. Supervise SSD Programs, including North End & Urban Programs, and coordinate the Bike Program.
2. Collaborate, support, and build relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations.
3. Manage resources effectively, including budgets.
4. Work with other MASRC staff to apply for grants.
5. Prepare reports for funders, the Executive Director, and the MASRC Board of Directors.

Other Duties

1. Be available as necessary for all major events and games, including but not limited to NAIG, NAHC, and MIG.
2. Other duties as assigned.

Requirements

1. Strong communication, networking, team leadership and management skills.
2. Previous experience working in a supervisory role in a non-profit organization.
3. Proficiency in Microsoft Office products (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, SharePoint, and Forms).
4. Willingness to travel to remote communities within Manitoba by plane, train, boat, or car.
5. Must provide a Criminal Record Check, Child Abuse Registry Check, and Vulnerable Sector Check.
6. Possession of a Class 5 driver's license.
7. Possession of a grade 12 diploma or GED.

Desirable Qualifications

1. Emergency First Aid, Mental Health, or any additional training or certifications.
2. College or university education.
3. Previous experience developing recreation programs, community planning, sport programs, or relevant experience.

Position to start immediately and will be based out of our satellite office on Higgins Ave, Monday-Friday, 9:00AM – 4:30PM. Please note that some weekends and evenings will be required.

All interested candidates are encouraged to apply, however qualified Indigenous (First Nations, Metis, and Inuit) applicants will be given priority consideration.

To apply for this position, please send a cover letter and resume by mail or email addressed to:
Mel Whitesell, Executive Director
Manitoba Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Council, 105-145 Pacific Ave Winnipeg MB R3B 2Z6
OR by email to mel.whitesell@masrc.com.



Celebrating Indigenous Excellence in Briana Ehrmantraut, Indigenous Athlete of the Month for March!

Briana is an exceptional athlete whose influence extends beyond basketball. Hailing proudly from Winnipeg as a Red River Métis athlete, Briana has forged a reputation for her steadfast support for teammates and respectful relationships with referees. Her journey from St. James Collegiate and Manitoba Magic 2002 girls to now as a third-year guard with CMU's women's basketball team reflects her commitment to inclusion, positivity, and acceptance. Briana's integrity and resilience are evident both on and off the court. She tackles victories and setbacks with equal determination, setting a standard of excellence for her peers.

In addition to her athletic achievements—including prestigious titles like MCAC Athlete of the Week, MCAC Women's Basketball Player of the Year, NIAC Player of the Year, CMU Female Athlete of the Year, and NIAC Conference MVP—Briana's dedication to community service shines brightly. From spearheading food drives to ongoing efforts to give back, she epitomizes social responsibility and community engagement.

Briana's dominance in statistical categories such as points per game, field goal percentage, defensive rebounds, and steals per game is impressive, but it's her unwavering character, compassion, and commitment to making a difference that truly set her apart. In Briana, we celebrate not just a remarkable athlete, but a role model whose impact resonates far beyond the court—a beacon of resilience, leadership, and strength for Indigenous athletes everywhere.

Emma Bear: Leadership in Action as our Indigenous Community Champion for the Month of March!

For over seven years, Emma has been an integral part of Peguis Minor Hockey, serving as the Referee-in-Chief for three of those years. Her commitment to the sport goes beyond officiating games; Emma also mentors younger referees and timekeepers, sharing her knowledge and passion to foster a supportive environment for their development. Emma's involvement in sports extends to Peguis Minor Baseball, where she dedicated two years as an umpire, showcasing her versatility and dedication to promoting athletic opportunities within the community.



Beyond her roles in sports administration, Emma is deeply committed to education and youth empowerment. As a student at the University College of the North (UCN) and an educational assistant at Peguis Central School, she plays a vital role in shaping the minds and futures of Peguis youth, both in the classroom and on the field. Living by example, Emma prioritizes a healthy lifestyle, staying active and enjoying the outdoors. With over seven years of volunteer experience, Emma's dedication to community service is unparalleled. Stepping into leadership roles at a young age, she took on the challenge of Referee-in-Chief at just 15 years old, demonstrating her natural leadership abilities and commitment to serving others.

In addition to her contributions to sports and education, Emma is also a formidable athlete in her own right. Representing Peguis at various sporting events, including the 2019 Summer Games, 2022 Canada Games, and 2023 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG), Emma has left her mark as a wrestler, showcasing her prowess and determination on the mat.



Message from MASRC Leadership



MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MEL WHITESELL

Dear Members and Supporters,

I'm thrilled to congratulate the outstanding individuals recently honored by the Manitoba Indigenous Hall of Fame and those who received major awards. Your achievements and dedication to preserving Indigenous culture are truly inspiring.

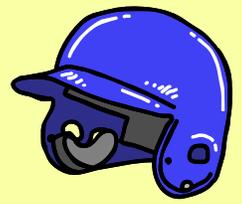
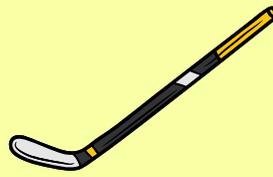
Looking forward, we're excited to support the hosts of the 2025 Manitoba Indigenous Games as they showcase athleticism, culture, and community spirit.

Thank you to our Sponsors & Partners!



Have a story you want to share? Is your community hosting an upcoming event? Do you have questions about our newsletter?

Contact: Gabrielle Wishart
Communications Coordinator
P: 204-925-5737
F: 204-925-5716
E: info@masrc.com



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