

Manitoba Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Council

ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024



**Manitoba Aboriginal
Sports & Recreation Council**

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About MASRC

The Manitoba Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Council (MASRC) is the Provincial-Territorial Aboriginal Sports Body (PTASB) for the province of Manitoba.

1. We are a not-for-profit organization established in 1988 and incorporated in 1994.
2. We believe that physical activity is a healthy and positive tool to empower and build strong and vibrant Indigenous people and communities.
3. We act as the “bridge” between existing partners in the sport and recreation delivery system and Indigenous communities in Manitoba.

Our focus is to work with Indigenous nations, organizations and individuals to develop sustainable programs that improve opportunities for Indigenous people in Manitoba to participate in sport, recreation, and physical activity.

Vision

To empower the Indigenous communities of Manitoba to grow physically, spiritually, culturally, and mentally through sport and recreation.

Mission

To strengthen Indigenous participation in positive healthy lifestyle activities.



Board of Directors

2023-2024

Jaymie Leary Balfour
Co-Chair
Norway House Cree Nation

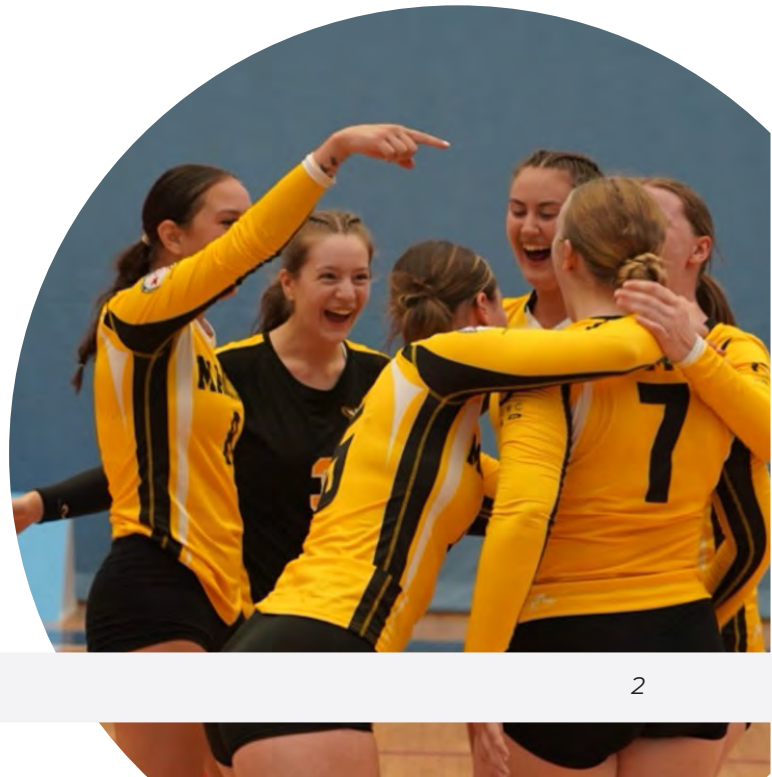
Daphne Titterton
Co-Chair
Red River Métis

Trevor La Forte
Director
Sagkeeng First Nation

Mike Sutherland
Director
Peguis First Nation

Wendy Creed
Director
Keeseekoowenin First Nation

Kali Moss
Director
Norway House Cree Nation



National Aboriginal Hockey Championships

The 20th Annual National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC) commenced on May 4, 2023, at Seven Oaks Sportsplex in Winnipeg, showcasing exceptional talent and competition among Indigenous athletes from across Canada. The 2023 Championships were hosted by a Manitoba host committee, and the event brought together teams from various provinces and territories, including the formidable squads representing Team Manitoba.

Team Manitoba fielded competitive male and female teams, each composed of 20 athletes, along with coaching and support staff. The teams, totaling 50 participants, demonstrated resilience, skill, and sportsmanship throughout the tournament.



MASRC

Pillars

Following the renewal of our pillars in 2020, the MASRC continues to build on the following 5 areas:

BUILDING & MAINTAINING CAPACITY

Core 1: Create space for current Indigenous sport and recreation athletes and leaders to meet regularly

Core 2: Advance interested athletes and coaches to high performance/ mainstream training and competition

Core 3: Negotiate and engage in collaborative conversations with other organizations

COMMUNICATION

Core 1: Develop a comprehensive communication strategy

Core 2: Lead by example

Core 3: Develop a provincial presence

CELEBRATION

Core 1: Start collection of current accomplishments

Core 2: TRC recommendations

Core 3: Host annual celebration

SPORT & RECREATION DEVELOPMENT

Core 1: Increase the number of organized sports, recreation, and physical activity programs and competitions through the province

Core 2: Create a strong, coordinated system to select Indigenous teams and prepare athletes to participate in NAIG, NAHC, and other elite competitions

Core 3: Develop partnerships with mainstream provincial sport and multisport service organizations to enhance the Indigenous sport system

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Core 1: Increasing our connection, knowledge, and support with all Indigenous communities

Core 2: Sport for Social Development

Core 3: To support the urban Indigenous population of Winnipeg who face continued exclusion and financial barriers through sport & recreation



Celebration

The Summer of Excellence

Manitoba's outstanding performance in Indigenous sports during the summer of 2023 led to the creation of *The Summer of Excellence*, an addition to our *History of Excellence* series. The province's team excelled at both the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships in Winnipeg and the North American Indigenous Games in Halifax, showcasing exceptional skill, teamwork, and a deep cultural pride. These achievements not only celebrated Manitoba's triumphs on the national stage but also highlighted their unwavering commitment to excellence in Indigenous sports.



Building & Maintaining Capacity

Staffing

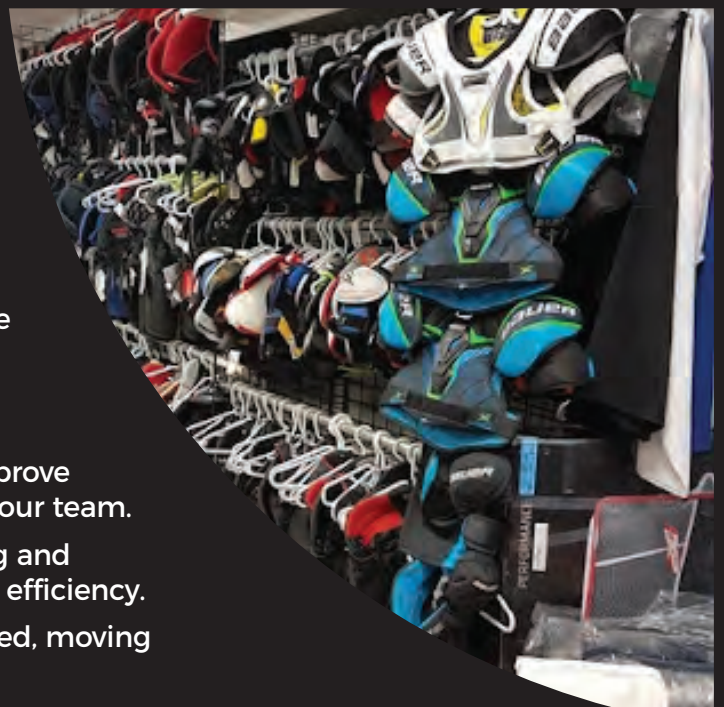
In preparation for the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG), we welcomed the addition of a Coach Coordinator to our team, further strengthening our support network for Team Manitoba. Additionally, we forged valuable partnerships with two Sports Management students from Brock University. They made significant contributions by documenting the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships and later played integral roles during the North American Indigenous Games. At both NAHC and NAIG, their duties included managing communications, social media activities, and both photography and videography.



Operations

During the past year, significant advancements were made in our operations at the MASRC Sports Equipment Bank and Sports Equipment Bank.

1. As part of our expansion efforts, an additional drop-off location was established within the city, enhancing accessibility to the MASRC Sports Equipment Bank.
2. We have successfully transitioned to utilizing online registration forms and online payment systems through Square, expediting our administrative processes.
3. We are optimizing SharePoint and OneDrive to improve document management and collaboration within our team.
4. We are utilizing Microsoft tools for project planning and execution to enhance overall project management efficiency.
5. Our online store, through Square, has been launched, moving away from an online ordering form.



Engaging with Our Community



Facebook

- Page reach for 2023-2024: 1.3 million, showing a growth of 362.4%.
- Visits for 2023-2024: 73.5 thousand, with a growth of 201.8%.
- New followers: 1.9 thousand, an increase of 27.6%.

Instagram

- Reach for 2023-2024: 33.5 thousand, demonstrating a growth of 54.5%.
- Visits for 2023-2024: 24.3 thousand, showing a growth of 59.9%.
- New followers: 408.

Twitter

- 898 followers

Email Newsletter

- Transitioned from Microsoft Forms to MailChimp for email collection.
- Successfully sent bimonthly newsletters with plans to continue each year.
- Plans to send consistent monthly email newsletters moving forward.



We are actively leveraging Facebook to foster engagement in remote and isolated communities, focusing on Sport for Social Development and Indigenous Community Sport Consultations. Our strategy includes a targeted approach to maximize brand awareness through Facebook, Instagram, and X specifically in Manitoba. We are capitalizing on major upcoming events such as the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC), North American Indigenous Games (NAIG), and the Manitoba Indigenous Summer Games (MISG). These platforms provide significant opportunities to enhance brand visibility, engage with our audience, and showcase our commitment to community and sport. By curating compelling content and engaging with local communities, we aim to solidify our presence and outreach across these platforms.

Sports & Recreation Development Across the Province

In our last fiscal year, the MASRC's Sport for Social Development (SSD) and Bi-Lateral staff continued their impactful work, focusing on community-based sport and recreation programming tailored to Indigenous youth in Manitoba.

The MASRC's staff facilitated over 500 hours of sport and recreation programming, emphasizing activities requested by communities such as volleyball, basketball, floor hockey, and traditional/land-based activities. Significant efforts were directed towards Northern Manitoba communities like Gods Lake Narrows, Barren Lands First Nation, and Red Sucker First Nation, enhancing local engagement and participation.



Coach & Official Development



Aboriginal Coaching Modules (ACMs)

- Facilitated 7 ACMs with 63 participants.
- 40 participants identified as Indigenous (28 from First Nation communities, 12 Métis).
- 23 non-Indigenous participants.
- 30 female, 30 male, and 2 non-binary/2 Spirit participants.

MASRC Coaches Corner Initiative

- Launched in January 2024.
- Held 2 virtual monthly meetings.
- Attracted 11 coaches from 7 communities: Winnipeg, Brandon, Sioux Valley, Little Saskatchewan, OCN, O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi, and Cranberry Portage.
- Promoted idea exchange and network-building, with plans for in-person gatherings in the upcoming fiscal year.

Provincial Team Support

- Supporting 2 Indigenous apprentice coaches at the 2025 Canada Summer Games in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Coaches from communities outside of Winnipeg, supporting wrestling and baseball.
- Supported 63 coaching staff in attaining community or competition-level certifications.

Basketball Officiating Clinics

- Hosted 3 clinics through Manitoba Association of Basketball Officials
- April 30th at Daniel MacIntyre Collegiate Institute (junior participants).
 - November 18th at Dakota Plains (historic first for Indigenous community involvement).
 - December 29th at DMCI (youth-oriented, targeting inner-city youth).
 - Engaged approximately 135 participants.
 - 70% of certified referees were Indigenous (about 50 certified), and female participation reached nearly 45%.
 - Provided financial support to offset registration fees and supplied referee jerseys.



Manitoba Indigenous Sports Hall of Fame & Museum

2024 Inductees

This year, the Manitoba Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Council inducted five individuals into the Manitoba Indigenous Sports Hall of Fame. As an organization dedicated to the promotion of Indigenous sport and recreation, our objective aligns with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 87th Call to Action. We aim to showcase Indigenous excellence and skill in a manner that honours the resiliency, dedication, and legacy of Indigenous Peoples across Canada.

For us, this endeavor is more than just recognizing athletic achievement. It is 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.

www.masrchof.com



Terry Fox (Métis)

Terry Fox, born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, was 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.



Terry Fox
Métis

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.



Ida Sutherland
Peguis First Nation

Kerri (Buchberger) Kendrioza (Métis)

Kerri Kendrioza, 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.



*Kerri (Buchberger)
Kendrioza*
Métis

Manitoba Indigenous Games

The MASRC has announced the return of the Manitoba Indigenous Summer Games 2025 (MISG), which aim to empower Indigenous youth through sports and cultural activities.

The Games will take place at two locations over two weeks:

Norway House Cree Nation, July 9 to 14, 2025

Sagkeeng Anicinabe Nation, August 17 to 23, 2025.

To participate, athletes must be permanent residents of Manitoba and belong to First Nations, Inuit, or Métis communities, and be born on or after January 1, 2009.





Across the Province

MASRC Sports Equipment Bank

In 2023, over a half a million pieces of equipment were distributed, supporting a wide range of sports and recreational activities.

The distribution breakdown highlights the MASRC's commitment to meeting diverse community needs:

- **Hockey Equipment:** A staggering 484,860 pieces were distributed, underscoring the popularity and demand for ice hockey among Indigenous youth. This provided over 500 youth in our province with full sets of hockey equipment at no cost.
- **Lacrosse:** 2,384 pieces were provided, reinforcing the cultural significance and growing interest in this traditional sport.
- **Softball/Baseball:** 13,906 pieces supported summer sports programs, fostering participation and skill development.
- **Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball:** Equipment distributed for these sports—6,055 pieces for soccer, 5,684 for volleyball, and 5,370 for basketball—encouraged active lifestyles and team camaraderie.
- **Miscellaneous Sports:** 37,063 pieces catered to various other sports and recreational activities, ensuring a broad spectrum of interests were supported.
- **Bikes:** Over 150 bikes were also distributed, promoting cycling as a means of physical activity and transportation.

These resources were distributed to Indigenous communities and organizations including Cross Lake First Nation, Long Plain First Nation, Roseau River First Nation, St. Theresa Point First Nation, Norway House Cree Nation, Flin Flon, Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Pinaymootang First Nation, Sandy Bay First Nation, Thompson, Tataskweyak Cree Nation, St. Laurent, Lundar, Brandon, as well as specific programs and schools like the North End Hockey Program, Gordon Bell High School, 7 Oaks Minor Hockey, King Edward School, and Manitoba Métis Federation Winnipeg.

The MASRC's equipment distribution efforts were pivotal in expanding access to sports and recreation, promoting physical health, cultural engagement, and community cohesion among Indigenous youth. By providing essential equipment tailored to local interests and needs, the MASRC continues to foster a culture of active living and sportsmanship across Manitoba.

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.



Norbert Ross
Pine Creek
First Nation

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.



Kerry Goulet
Métis



Awards & Recognition

Tom Longboat Awards

Trina Ross

Once again, for the second consecutive year, Pimicikamak Okimawin proudly celebrates the recognition of another outstanding female athlete with the prestigious Tom Longboat Award. This year, paddling athlete Trina Ross was recognized for her success and dedication as a member of Canada's National Dragonboat team.

In 2022, Trina stood as the lone Indigenous athlete representing Canada on the National Dragon Boat team, and she brought immense pride to our nation by achieving a remarkable feat at the ICF Dragon Boat World Championships in the Czech Republic. Her extraordinary accomplishments include an impressive collection of 8 medals, comprising 3 gold medals, 1 silver medal, and 4 bronze medals.

Trina serves as an exceptional role model, inspiring Indigenous athletes of all ages not only within our province but also across our great nation.



Connor Church

For the second year in a row, Connor Church has been chosen as the male recipient for the Tom Longboat Award.

Connor is a citizen of the Manitoba Métis Federation. He is also a National Team member for Wrestling Canada, winning his first Nationals in 2022. After winning Nationals, Connor went on to win the Canada Cup and the Canada Summer Games in his weight class. Over the summer Connor competed at the U20 PanAm Championships, where he placed 3rd overall.

Connor is currently attending Concordia University where he is studying Business Development. He is training as a member of the Varsity team at Concordia and with the Montreal Wrestling club.



Indigenous Women & Girls Run

The 3rd annual Indigenous Women & Girls Run was a remarkable gathering that saw 97 participants and the support of 26 volunteers. The event, held to raise awareness and funds for Indigenous women and girls, featured esteemed figures such as Ray 'CoCo Stevenson, the Walking Wolf Singers, Miss Manito Ahbee Serene Goodwill, and local community leader Robyn Boulanger.

Together, we raised over \$2,200. These funds will directly benefit programs and essential gear tailored to empower Indigenous women and girls, ensuring they have the resources they need to thrive.

We look forward to building on this success and continuing to make a meaningful difference in the lives of Indigenous women and girls in our community.



Hoop It Up

In the past year, the MASRC's Hoop It Up tournament showcased outstanding participation and success across various categories. A total of 80 teams and 385 players enthusiastically engaged in the event, demonstrating a vibrant community spirit.

Notably, Indigenous participation stood out with an impressive rate of 86%, underscoring our commitment to inclusivity and diversity. The tournament celebrated champions in each category, including the Tsuut'ina Warriors in both the 12U divisions, The Chosen 5 and Lynx in the 14U divisions, Dutch Dawgs and Pink Panthers in the 16U divisions, Toba's Tuffest in the 18U division, Charleswood Cyclones and Swishes in the 19+ categories, and T_tv Stepperz in the ProAm division.



North End & Central Sports Programs

The 2023-24 season for North End Sports was marked by significant achievements and opportunities for growth across both programs. In the North End Hockey Program (NEHP), efforts focused on enhancing participation and performance across five teams. The U11 team celebrated a milestone playoff victory, their first since joining the MASRC. The season boasted strong engagement with 65 players and 9 returning coaches.

Similarly, the MASRC saw its inaugural year hosting Central Storm basketball teams, which included five teams across various age and gender divisions. Notable successes included the 13-14 girls' team clinching victory in their division. The program demonstrated substantial impact within the Indigenous community, with 55 out of 63 participants identifying as Indigenous.

The North End Sports season highlighted the involvement of 87 players across NEHP, supported by 15 coaches and 18 safety volunteers, emphasizing community engagement and inclusivity. Winnipeg Minor Basketball Association's debut season involved 63 participants and 9 coaches, focusing on skill development and integration.



Building Community Capacity

Urban Development

MASRC Urban Bike Program

The MASRC's Urban Bike Initiative underwent strategic adjustments this year to better serve Indigenous youth returning to Winnipeg for school in the fall. This modification was crucial in ensuring that these youth have access to safe transportation, thereby facilitating their participation in essential sport and recreation activities. While the initiative's impact for this reporting period includes the distribution of 60 bikes between April and June 2023, it is important to note that the full scope of success extends beyond these specific dates.

The initiative not only promotes active lifestyles through biking but also addresses significant social development goals by bridging the transportation gap that often hinders Indigenous youth from attending extracurricular programs, school, or work. By providing bikes, MASRC empowers these youth to engage more fully in programs that support their overall wellbeing.



Agoojin Volleyball Club

The Agoojin Volleyball Club's 2023-24 season was characterized by a strong commitment to inclusivity, skill development, and cultural enrichment for Indigenous youth.

Throughout the summer, the club organized camps in Winnipeg and Misipawistik First Nation, focusing on training for Indigenous athletes while fostering community. The camps featured coaching from a mix of Indigenous and non-Indigenous female coaches, as well as Indigenous non-binary coaches, providing a supportive environment for athletic and personal growth.



Awards & Recognition

Annual Awards

Each year, the MASRC honours six exceptional Indigenous athletes, coaches, and volunteers for their outstanding dedication and achievements in their respective sports. This year's recipients represent a diverse range of disciplines, including cheerleading, soccer, baseball, volleyball, and hockey.

Cody Gunderson, Indigenous Athlete of the Year

Cody Gunderson, honoured as Indigenous Athlete of the Year, is a proud citizen of the Red River Métis Nation. His standout performance with the Carillon Junior Sultans, leading in batting average and doubles in the Manitoba Junior Baseball League, culminated in a gold medal win with the Elmwood Giants at Junior Nationals. Cody's talents extended to an undefeated run and a gold medal with Team Manitoba at the 2023 North American Indigenous Games. Recognized as Rookie, Top Defender, and Batting Champion of the Year, Cody now sets his sights on a promising NCAA career with the Division 1 University of North Carolina at Charlotte.



Zoe Batkis, Indigenous Athlete of the Year

Zoe Batkis, named Indigenous Athlete of the Year, is a citizen of the Red River Métis Nation. Her recent triumphs include clinching the Cheer Provincials title and representing at the World Championships. Notably, she contributed to the inaugural Cheer Manitoba provincial team and earned recognition for sportsmanship and a positive attitude. Beyond cheer, Zoe actively engages with her community, volunteering with organizations like the Niverville Remembrance Day Committee and Bear Clan, all while excelling academically.



Jessica Chow, Indigenous Coach of the Year

Jessica Chow, honoured as Indigenous Coach of the Year, is a dedicated citizen of the Red River Métis Nation. She actively coaches in various soccer programs, including the University of Regina Cougars soccer development programs and the Bonivital Soccer Club. Jessica's commitment to Indigenous youth is evident in her involvement with the Treaty 4 Junior Cougars Program and as an Aboriginal Apprentice Coach at the 2023 North American Indigenous Games. Balancing coaching with her studies at the University of Regina, Jessica exemplifies dedication and leadership.



Awards & Recognition

Annual Awards

Dean Govereau, Indigenous Coach of the Year

Dean Govereau, named Indigenous Coach of the Year, hails from Fisher River Cree Nation. As assistant coach of the Manitoba 16U male softball team, Dean contributed to their gold medal victory at the 2023 North American Indigenous Games. His coaching extends to multiple teams in Fisher River, spanning U11 to U17 categories, with recent success including a provincial gold with the U15 team.



Benjamin Oman, Indigenous Volunteer of the Year

Benjamin Oman, recognized as Indigenous Volunteer of the Year, proudly represents the York Factory Cree Nation. He contributes significantly to sports and community activities in Churchill, organizing hockey, baseball, and volleyball events for local youth. When Benjamin is not busy coaching or playing sports, he can be found at the local arena, ensuring everything is running smoothly and efficiently in his spare time.



Christina Keeper, Indigenous Volunteer of the Year

Christina Keeper, honoured as Indigenous Volunteer of the Year, is a proud member of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation. Her longstanding commitment to Team Manitoba's female NAHC team as a coach, athletic therapist, and trainer underscores her dedication. Christina's recent involvement at the 2023 North American Indigenous Games as a soccer team trainer highlights her ongoing support for youth in Indigenous communities, particularly in the realm of physical therapy.



Awards & Recognition

Monthly Awards

Over the past year, we have honoured 8 Indigenous Athlete of the Month awards and 5 Indigenous Community Champion of the Month awards. These recognitions highlight our dedication to celebrating excellence and leadership within Indigenous communities. Moving forward, we are actively committed to identifying inspirational Indigenous role models.

2002 NAIG Legacy Scholarships

In 2023, the 2002 NAIG Legacy Scholarship awarded \$13,800 in scholarships to Indigenous coaches and athletes from 20 communities across the province. These scholarships recognized athletic and academic achievement, while also fostering growth and development within Indigenous sports leadership. By honouring their dedication and talent, this initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting and uplifting Indigenous athletes and coaches as they continue to inspire and lead both on and off the field.

Recipients

First Name	Last Name	Hometown	Sport
Mikyla	Bennett	Winnipeg	Soccer*
Adrian	Deer	Winnipeg	Multi-Sport
Giana	Denora	Winnipeg	Soccer*
Luke	Enns	Winnipeg	Canoe*
Ashley	Garland	Winnipeg	Multi-Sport*
Emmitt	Gillespie	Stonewall	Multi-Sport
Rachel	Halldorson	Lundar	Hockey*
Caitlyn	Hollywood	Winnipeg	Soccer*
Keara	Howden	Winnipeg	Basketball*
Alexis	Kemp	Winnipeg	Basketball
Samantha	Medeiros	Winnipeg	Multi-Sport
Rylee	Normand	Winnipeg	Badminton*
Abigail	Pott	Winnipeg	Lacrosse*
Seanna	Price	Winnipeg	Multi-Sport*
Natalie	Rampton	Kenton	Hockey*
Alycia	Ross	Winnipeg	Multi-Sport
Nevaeh	Stinson	Minnedosa	Softball*
Madison	Streamer	Cranberry Portage	Multi-Sport*
Sarah	Thomas	Winnipeg	Soccer*
Angele	Turenne	Winnipeg	Soccer*
Maxime	Vermette	St. Adolphe	Volleyball*

Coaches

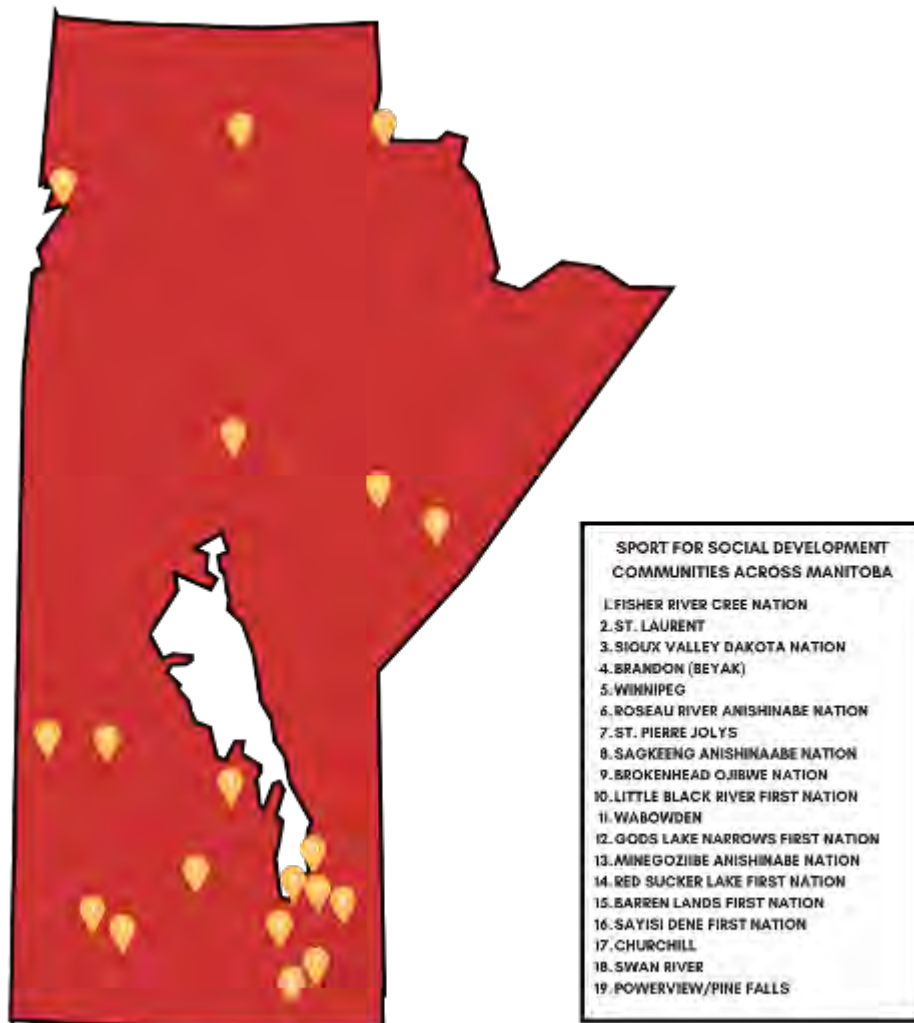
First Name	Last Name	Hometown	Sport
Taylor	Audette	St. Adolphe	Hockey*
Carson	Beggs	Winnipeg	Swimming*
Sarah	Carter	Winnipeg	Multi-Sport
Jessica	Chow	Winnipeg	Soccer*
Wyatt	Hofer	Winnipeg	Lacrosse*

*Denotes Team Manitoba NAIG or NAHC alumni status.



Community Outreach & Impact

- Engaged over 35 schools in Winnipeg and surrounding areas.
- Educated Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth about the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC).
- Promoted Indigenous athletes and raised awareness about the MASRC's role in Indigenous sports.
- Distributed hockey-related coloring books in various Indigenous languages to foster cultural connections.
- Provided resources and frameworks to sustain programming independently in Gods Lake Narrows.
- Ensured ongoing support and community ownership of sports and recreation initiatives.
- Continued to advance community engagement, leadership development, and cultural integration through sport and recreation.



Provincial Teams

North American Indigenous Games

The North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) in 2023 provided a dynamic opportunity for Team Manitoba to showcase the exceptional athletic talent and cultural pride of Indigenous youth from across the province. With a large contingent, Team Manitoba comprised 445 athletes, supported by 92 team leaders and 14 mission staff members.

Representing 66 distinct First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities, the team's diversity reflected Manitoba's rich cultural identity and deep-rooted commitment to sporting excellence. Throughout the games, Team Manitoba excelled on multiple fronts, finishing with a medal tally of 32 gold, 19 silver, and 18 bronze medals.

The journey to NAIG began with extensive tryouts held in Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Sagkeeng Anicinabe Nation, and Winnipeg. These tryouts attracted over 1,000 Indigenous youth aged 12-19 years, emphasizing the widespread participation and enthusiasm within Indigenous communities in Manitoba.



In a thrilling finale, Manitoba's male team secured a 5-2 victory over Ontario, claiming the national title. Despite a hard-fought effort, the female team faced a narrow defeat in the final moments of their match against Ontario, with a score of 2-1.

Several athletes from Team Manitoba garnered recognition for their outstanding performances during the tournament, including **Julianna Herman**, the tournament's top defender, **Mariko Bercier**, named as top goaltender, and **Marlen Edwards**, who was recognized as the top forward.

The 20th NAHC in Winnipeg underscored the strength, skill, and potential of Manitoba's Indigenous hockey players. Both Team Manitoba's male and female teams exhibited remarkable determination and sportsmanship, leaving a lasting impression on the tournament. The event not only honoured athletic achievement but also celebrated the rich cultural heritage and passion for hockey within Indigenous communities across Canada.



Partnerships

MASRC is proud to partner with many different organizations throughout the Manitoba and Canada. We would like to extend our profound gratitude for their partnership, dedication, and work towards empowering Indigenous people to participate in sport and recreation within the province of Manitoba.







Get In Touch

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