



COMMONWEALTH SPORT CANADA

ALUMNI COMMUNIQUE

Issue 14



Happy Holidays and
Best Wishes for the New Year!

Joyeuses fêtes et meilleurs
vœux pour la nouvelle année !

Sport with Social Purpose / Sport à vocation sociale



The Commonwealth Sport Canada office will be closed for the Holidays starting December 22nd and will reopen on January 2nd, 2024.



COMMONWEALTH GAMES FEDERATION EMBRACES HISTORIC DECLARATION ON RECONCILIATION AND PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



The Commonwealth Games Federation General Assembly in Singapore has approved by acclamation the Commonwealth Sport Declaration on Reconciliation and Partnership with Indigenous Peoples.

The Declaration reflects the Commonwealth Sport Movement's commitment to addressing issues of truth and reconciliation through sports and honouring the culture, heritage and experiences of Indigenous Peoples within the Commonwealth. Emphasising the holistic benefits of sports to Indigenous Peoples, it calls for 10 actions by stakeholders across sport. These actions include promoting physical, cultural, spiritual, and mental well-being, supporting sustainable sports policies and programs, investing in coaching and mentorship for Indigenous youth, and integrating Indigenous sports into schools and community programs.

Ava Hill, Former Chief and Co-Chair of the CGF Indigenous Working Group said: "This Declaration represents a profound commitment to the rights and opportunities of Indigenous Peoples. It is a testament to the power of collaboration and dialogue. As we move forward, we are dedicated to ensuring that the principles outlined in this Declaration are implemented, leading to meaningful change for Indigenous communities across the Commonwealth."

The University of Victoria was instrumental in the development of the Declaration. Kevin Hall, President and Vice-Chancellor commented: "On behalf of the University of Victoria, I am so pleased that the Lək̓ʷəŋən Declaration has been ratified. This declaration will support respectful partnerships with Indigenous communities and foster the

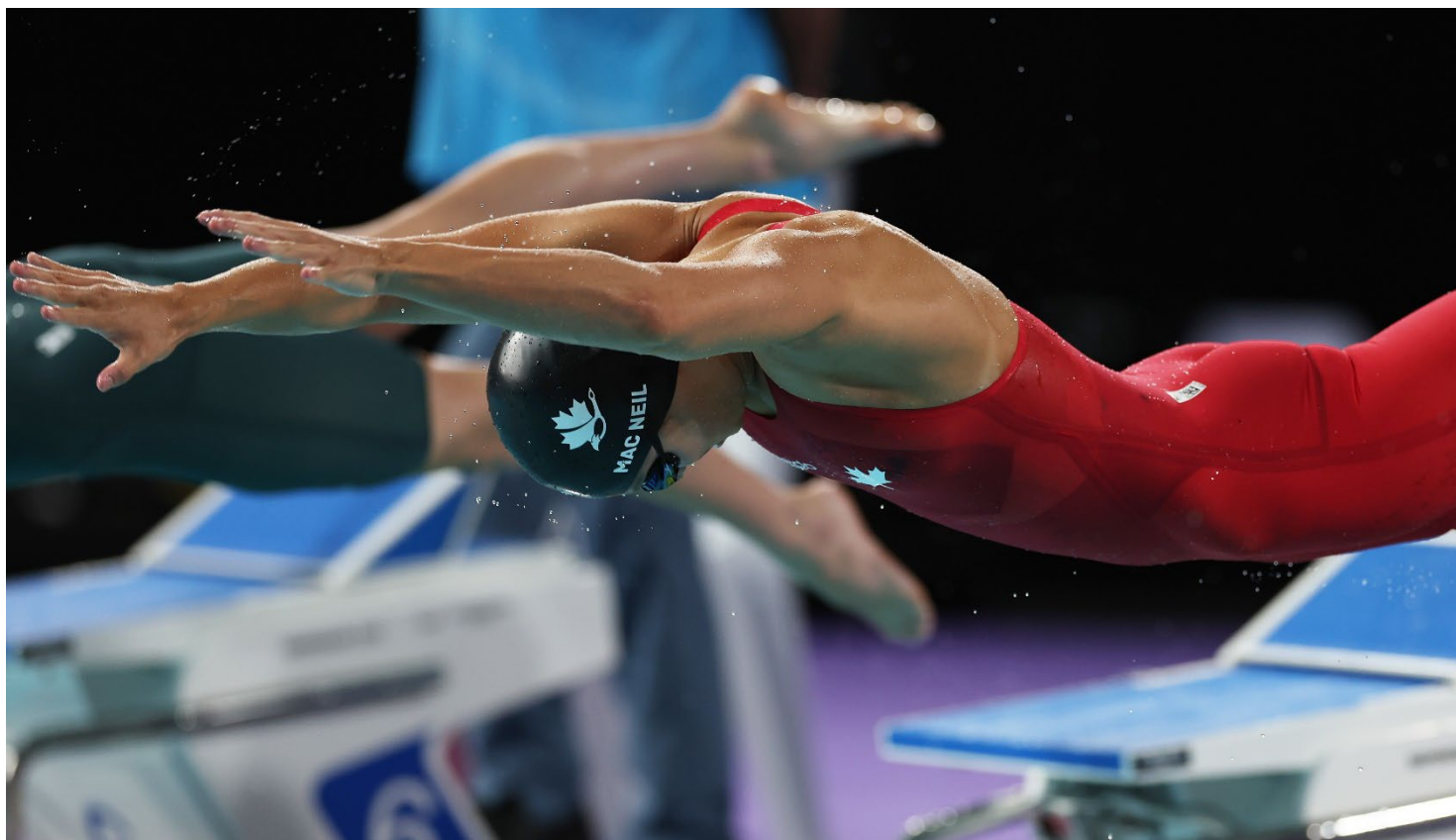
inclusion of Indigenous athletes to access sport and recreation around the world. Congratulations on this achievement and to all those who worked hard to make it possible.”

Photo caption: Chief Ava Hill presents a speech on Indigenous Declaration at the Commonwealth Games Federation General Assembly on 15 November 2023 in Singapore. (Photo by Annice Lyn/Getty Images for the Commonwealth Games Federation)

Source: Commonwealth Games Federation - www.commonwealthsport.com



COMMONWEALTH GAMES ALUMNI AT THE 2023 PAN AM GAMES



Congratulations to Team Canada on a great performance at the 2023 Pan Am Games in Santiago!

Our alumni outdid themselves at the Games. A total of 47 athletes with Commonwealth Games experience brought home medals.

An outstanding performance from Maggie Mac Neil saw her win a total of seven medals (five gold, one silver and two bronze). Fellow swimmer Mary-Sophie Harvey also won seven medals (three gold, two silver, and two bronze). Gymnast, Felix Dolci took home five medals (two gold, one silver, and two bronze).

You can find a list of all the Pan Am 2023 medals won by Commonwealth Games alumni [HERE](#).





COMMONWEALTH SPORT

TRIVIA CONTEST

Test your knowledge of Commonwealth Sport!

For a chance to win a prize, you can submit your answers to ctaylor@commonwealthsport.ca by 12:00 noon EST on January 2nd, 2024.

1. Which country has hosted the Commonwealth Games more times than any other nation?

- A. England
 - B. Scotland
 - C. Canada
 - D. Australia
-

2. Who is the youngest athlete ever to win a Gold Medal for Canada at a Commonwealth Games?

- A. Allison Higson (Swimming, Edinburgh 1986)
 - B. Alex Despatie (Diving, Kuala Lumpur 1998)
 - C. Elaine Tanner (Swimming, Kingston 1966)
 - D. Alexandra Orlando (Rhythmic Gymnastics, Melbourne 2006)
-

3. At how many British Empire/Commonwealth Games did Newfoundland compete as a separate nation?

- A. None
 - B. One
 - C. Two
 - D. Three
-

4. The first gold medal awarded at the very first British Empire Games in 1930 went to an athlete from which country?

- A. Canada
 - B. Australia
 - C. England
 - D. South Africa
-

5. Which of the following has never been included in the sport programme of a Commonwealth Games?

- A. Rowing
- B. Soccer
- C. Fencing
- D. Ten Pin Bowling



BRUCE ROBERTSON: A DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN COMMONWEALTH SPORTS



Canada has produced numerous exceptional athletes who have made their mark on the global sports stage. Among them, Bruce Robertson stands out as a distinguished swimmer and an influential figure at the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).

Robertson's contributions have been instrumental in shaping the organisation's trajectory. After an impressive 28-year tenure, Robertson will be stepping down at the upcoming General Assembly, leaving behind a legacy of remarkable achievements.

As a competitive swimmer, Bruce's achievements are nothing short of extraordinary. He secured 16 medals for Canada in international competitions, with his inaugural major event being the 1972 Munich Olympics. In that

competition alone, he participated in seven events, ultimately clinching a silver medal in the 100-meter butterfly behind America's Mark Spitz.

At the 1974 Commonwealth Games, he was the most decorated Canadian athlete, winning a total of six medals. His stellar performance showcased his prowess in the pool and solidified his status as a leading figure in Canadian swimming.

In recognition of his athletic accomplishments, Bruce was named Canada's Male Athlete of the Year in 1973, a testament to his outstanding contributions to Canadian sports. A year later, he was awarded the Order of Canada, a prestigious honour reserved for individuals who have made significant contributions to the country.

Retiring from competitive swimming in 1977, Robertson returned to Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia and continued to swim on the varsity team while earning a Bachelor of General Studies degree.

He later became a certified chartered accountant and a successful independent consultant, and settled in Manotick, Ontario, after spells working in Germany and Toronto. Robertson continued to swim at the master's level and became involved in sports administration.

Bruce has been actively involved with Commonwealth Sport Canada (CSC) for over 30 years as a Member-at-Large, Treasurer, Vice President, and as President of the Commonwealth Games Foundation of Canada - a body established within CSC with the aim of raising funds to support Canadian athletes and officials attending the Commonwealth Games. These roles led Bruce to being appointed to the CGF board, holding various significant roles during his tenure as a Executive Board member including chair of the CGF Audit and Risk Committee, CGF Sport Committee and CGF Coordination Commission, making a significant contribution to the CGF Legacy framework and for the last eight years, CGF Vice President.

Like all good leaders, Bruce has always been willing to share his knowledge and expertise, and Claire Carver-Dias, President of Commonwealth Sport Canada, will always be grateful for his guidance and support. "Bruce has been a font of information and wisdom for me in my first year as President of Commonwealth Sport Canada," said Carver-Dias.

"His institutional knowledge is unparalleled, and he has always made himself available to listen and to help. "We are all indebted to him for his decades of involvement in, contributions to, and passion for the Commonwealth Sport Movement."

While his long list of accomplishments is impressive, what stood out for Carver-Dias was his commitment and dedication to his responsibilities – the way he handled himself was the mark of the man.

"He was thorough and he took care. He took his duty towards the CGF and the movement to heart, and it showed." Bruce's influence at the CGF and the broader sporting community has been considerable and in recognition of his services over the years he has been awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal. His contributions have not only elevated the Federation's standing within the international sports arena but have also inspired a new generation of athletes and leaders to uphold the highest standards of excellence.

As Bruce Robertson prepares to step down from his role at the CGF, he leaves behind a legacy of extraordinary accomplishments. A steadfast commitment to the values of sportsmanship, inclusivity, and athlete empowerment has marked his 28 years of dedicated service to the Commonwealth Games Federation. Thank you for your service Bruce.

Source: Commonwealth Games Federation - www.commonwealthsport.com



SportWORKS

Making a Difference & Becoming Different

SportWORKS - NEW INTERNS AND RENEWED FUNDING FOR QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Mount Royal University and Commonwealth Sport Canada awarded funding for international work experiences through Queen Elizabeth II Scholarship Program

Renewed funding for Mount Royal University through the Queen Elizabeth II Scholarship Program recently announced will support Health and Physical Education students taking part in practicums through Commonwealth Sport Canada's SportWORKS program.

The Rideau Hall Foundation (RHF) and Universities Canada announced the winners of the 2024 Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Scholarship program (QES) call for proposals. \$1.6 million in new program funding will support 133 students at six universities, with the aim of developing the next generation of innovative leaders and community builders.

For 30 years Commonwealth Sport Canada (CSC) has integrated sport development and sport for development programming to promote individual and community social development, and build national sport system capacity, throughout the Commonwealth. Since that time CSC has supported over 125 local sport projects that have impacted more than two million youth in over 30 nations and territories. These initiatives focus on: the empowerment of women and girls, the promotion of gender equity, youth leadership development, HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, and the building of sport capacity.

Over the years, CSC's SportWORKS' programming has been delivered through a variety of initiatives, including the Queen Elizabeth Scholars Program. For example, in 2022, CSC partnered with the Botswana National Olympic Committee and various National Sport Organizations, in order to develop and implement a Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) Model. Eric Gratton, a senior Health and Physical Education student at Mount Royal, was the Canadian SportWORKS Officer leading the project. In addition to Botswana, MRU students have undertaken sport for development and sport development placements in Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos, and Rwanda through the program.

[\[READ MORE\]](#)



FUTURE COMMONWEALTH GAMES



The state of Victoria, Australia, withdrew as host of the 2026 Commonwealth Games in July of this year. The Commonwealth Games Federation is now working with Commonwealth Games Associations to try to identify a new host for the 2026 Games. CGF has not discounted the possibility of moving the Games from 2026 to 2027.

In order to attract future hosts, the CGF will also work to develop a new, more sustainable model for the Commonwealth Games.

CGF aims to find a solution by spring 2024.

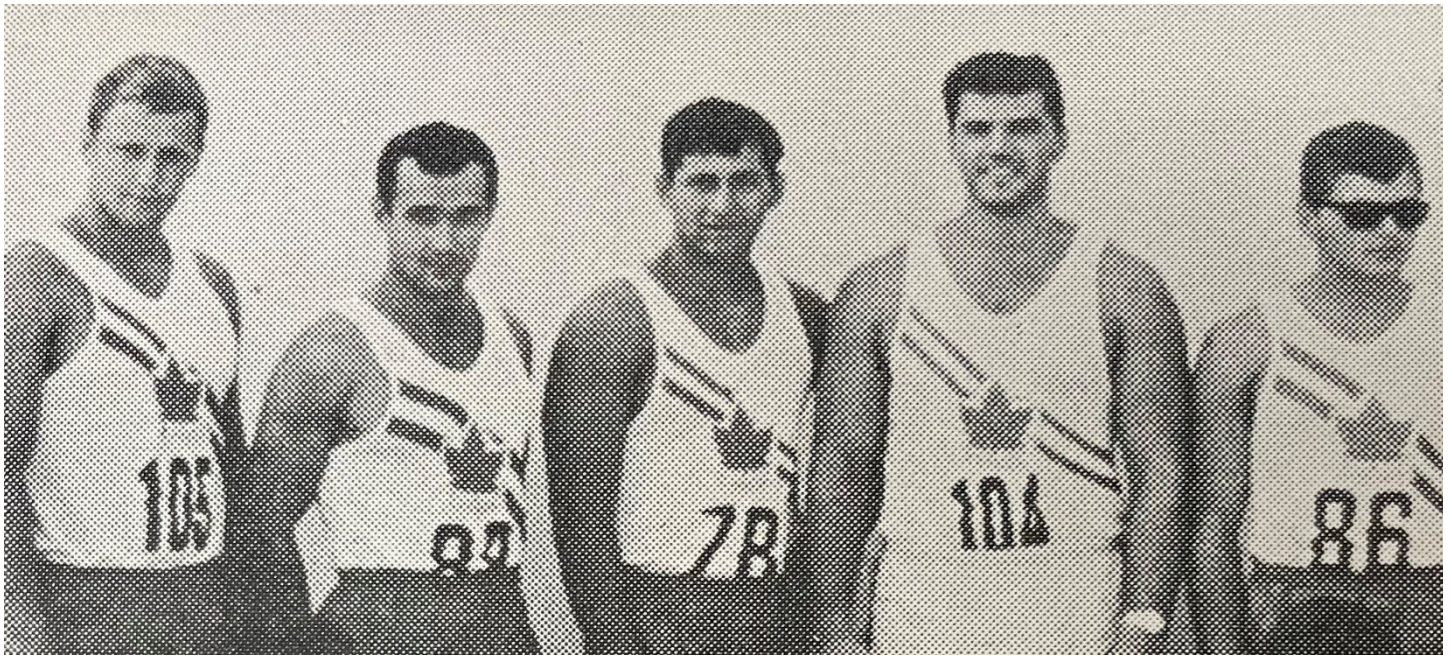


ALUMNI PROFILE

Zenon Andrusyshyn

Athlete - Athletics (Javelin, Shot Put and Discus)

Kingston 1966 British Empire and Commonwealth Games



Zenon Andrusyshyn (centre) with members of the 1966 British Empire and Commonwealth Games Athletics Team

Nicknamed "Big Z", Zenon Andrusyshyn was born in Günzburg, Germany to Ukrainian parents. When he was three years old, his family emigrated to Canada settling in Oakville, Ontario. By the time he reached high school, he had become an athletics star in javelin, discus and shot put. While at Trafalgar High School in Oakville, Andrusyshyn set a Canadian high school javelin record that lasted more than 30 years.

Zenon was selected to compete for Canada at the 1966 British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Kingston, Jamaica. He competed in three events, finishing 7th in the Javelin, 10th in Shot Put, and 14th in Discus. Andrusyshyn at one point held the Canadian record in the javelin with a distance of 242 ft 6 in.

With his sights set on making the 1968 Olympic team, Zenon accepted an athletics scholarship to UCLA to compete in javelin. When he injured his throwing arm in 1967, he decided to try out for the UCLA football team as a place kicker and punter. His kicking abilities impressed the coaches and he was offered a spot on the team. It would lead him to a career in professional football. It is as a football player that Zenon Andrusyshyn is most remembered.

Andrusyshyn was named an All-American punter twice at UCLA, and in 1970 was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys of the National Football league. He did not make the team, but was signed instead by the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League. Zenon spent a total of 10 seasons playing for the Argos over three different spells with the team. In 1977, he set a CFL record with a punt that travelled 108 yards - a record that still stands today. He also played briefly with Hamilton, Edmonton and Montreal, and was signed by the the Kansas City Chiefs of the NFL for one season. Andrusyshyn went on to spend three years with the Tampa Bay Bandits of the USFL.

After his football career ended, Andrusyshyn was ordained a minister in the Southern Baptist church. He graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary with a Master in Arts, Biblical Studies in the mid 1990's.

Zenon also took part in a number of humanitarian missions to various parts of the world - including trips to deliver medical supplies to Cuna Indians in Panama, and cancer hospitals for children in Ukraine after the nuclear accident at Chernobyl. In 2007, Zenon and his wife Susan formed their own not-for-profit youth ministry, Zenon Ministries.

Zenon Andrusyshyn passed away in August 2023 at the age of 76.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Curt Harnett

Athlete (Cycling) - Edinburgh 1986, Auckland 1990, and Victoria 1994 Commonwealth Games
Results: 2 x Silver Medals - Match Sprint (1990 and 1994)

Now: Director of Philanthropy (Canada), World Bicycle Relief



Alex Bruce

Athlete (Badminton) - Pune 2008 Youth Games, Delhi 2010 and
Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games

Results: Silver Medal, Women's Doubles (2008), 5th place, Mixed Team Event (2010 and 2014)

Now: Structural Engineer, Stephenson Engineering Ltd



Sam Effah

Athlete (Athletics) - Delhi 2010 and Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games

Mission Staff - Co-Chef de Mission, Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

Results: 7th place, 100m (2010), 8th place, 4 x 100m Relay (2010)

Now: Brand Manager, RBC



Peter Hrdlitschka

Athlete (Swimming) - Christchurch 1974 Commonwealth Games

Results: 4th Place, Men's 100m Breaststroke, 7th Place, Men's 200m Breaststroke

Now: Senior Advisor, Ledcor Construction Limited



Steph Andrews

Assistant Coach (Field Hockey)

Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games

Now: Head Coach, Western Australian Institute of Sport



Doug Tate

Assistant Coach (Rugby Sevens)

Kuala Lumpur 1998, and Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games

Now: Rugby Coach Education Manager, BC Rugby



Sabrina Razack

SportWORKS Officer - 2001/02 Caribbean Healthy Lifestyle Project (St. Lucia)
CSC Member-at-Large, 2016 to 2020

Now: Project Lead (Canada), Centre for Sport and Human Rights



To date, approximately 3,000 Canadian athletes have competed in the Commonwealth Games. Thousands more have attended the Games as officials or given their time as volunteers. Over 200 CSC SportWORKS Officers have taken part in sport development initiatives in Canada and throughout the Commonwealth. CSC is proud to have been a part of so many lives and we would cherish the opportunity to continue our relationship through the CSC Alumni Program!

Why should you become a CSC Alumni Program member?

Being a CSC Alumni Program member allows you to:

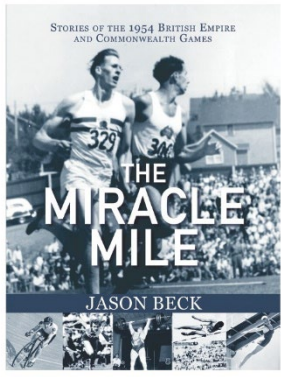
- Stay in touch with other CSC alumni.
- Receive regular CSC Alumni Newsletters containing news & information about the Commonwealth sport movement in Canada and abroad.
- Become a mentor and contribute to the success of current and future CSC alumni.
- Receive invitations to CSC Alumni events happening in your area.
- Receive exclusive access and offers on CSC/Team Canada clothing, Commonwealth sport events tickets and packages, etc.
- Have a chance to win an all-inclusive, VIP trip for two to the next Commonwealth Games!
- Receive exclusive CSC Alumni discounts!

As a Commonwealth Games Canada Alumni Program member, you are entitled to the following discounts:



20% DISCOUNT AT ALL RUNNING ROOM STORES

If you are a CSC Alumni Program member and have not received your Running Room discount card, please confirm your mailing address so we can send it to you. Email your details to [Chris Taylor](mailto:Chris.Taylor@runningroom.com).



10% DISCOUNT ON PURCHASE OF "THE MIRACLE MILE: Stories of the 1954 British Empire and Commonwealth Games"

By: Jason Beck

CSC Alumni price **\$26.95** plus tax & shipping
(Regular price \$29.95)

To order a copy of this book, please contact the BC Sports Hall of Fame: 604-687-5520 or email: sportsinfo@bcsporthalloffame.com

CSC is working to identify further benefits for Alumni Program members.



GET IN TOUCH. PASS IT ON!

We would love to hear your story. Don't be shy, drop us a note at: alumni@commonwealthsport.ca if you would like your profile published!

Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to any other Commonwealth Sport Canada Alumni who may not have already received it – and please encourage them to get in touch with CSC to become an Alumni Program Member!

To become a CSC Alumni Program Member simply complete the Alumni Program Opt In form [HERE](#). Visit our website for complete details on the [Alumni Program](#).

If Alumni want to network with other Alumni, they can also join our Alumni Facebook Group called Commonwealth Sport Canada Alumni.



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