



COMMONWEALTH SPORT CANADA

ALUMNI COMMUNIQUE

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COMMONWEALTH AND OLYMPIC CHAMPION ERICA WIEBE ANNOUNCED AS TEAM CANADA CHEF DE MISSION FOR 2026 COMMONWEALTH GAMES



Photos: Dan Galbraith

Commonwealth Sport Canada (CSC) has announced two-time Commonwealth Games Champion and 2016 Olympic Champion Erica Wiebe as Chef de Mission to lead Team Canada at the [2026 Commonwealth Games](#) taking place in Glasgow, Scotland from July 23 – August 2, 2026.

The 2026 Commonwealth Games will represent a new chapter for the celebrated major international multi-sport event, having earned the recognition for promoting unity, diversity, and sportsmanship among the best athletes from Commonwealth Nations. The 2026 Games will feature a more sustainable 10-sport program, including six fully integrated Para Sports, hosted in four venues within an eight-mile corridor, ensuring an action-packed broadcast schedule across each day of competition. Glasgow 2026 aims to be an inspiration for future hosts around the Commonwealth in its sustainability and attainability.

“Having reviewed fifteen highly impressive submissions, our Chef de Mission Selection Committee has been diligently reviewing applications and conducting interviews for this important position,” says Kelly Laframboise, Director, Team Canada 2026. “We are confident that, for these streamlined Games, Erica’s commitment to sport, DEI and athlete advocacy will bring exceptional value and leadership to Team Canada for 2026.”

Commonwealth and Olympic Champion in the sport of Freestyle Wrestling, a Cornell & Queens MBA graduate, sports commentator, and expert facilitator, [Erica Wiebe](#) brings a wealth of expertise and guidance to the 2026 role. An eight-time national Champion, World University Champion, two-time Commonwealth Games Champion (2014, 2018), and World Championships medalist, Wiebe is a passionate advocate for the power of sport. Wiebe volunteers her time as a youth wrestling coach, ambassador with Right to Play, and Vice-Chair of the Canadian Sport Institute Alberta board of directors. When not taking people down, commentating on it, and/or coaching someone to do it, she works as a manager of athlete relations, safe sport, and DEI at the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC).

“It’s an incredible honour to be entrusted with the role of Chef de Mission for Team Canada at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. The Commonwealth Games embody the ethos of sport with a social purpose which is a powerful driver. I cannot wait to support the team as they experience the joy of competition at these Games - that same feeling of joy I felt at the 2014 Games in the same city,” says 2026 Chef de Mission Erica Wiebe. “The 2014 Games were a turning

point in my career - experiencing the beauty of cultures and abilities within the athletes' village and competing were moments I will never forget. Our team in 2026 will be in good hands with an incredible mission team delivering an athlete-centred experience."

The role of the Chef de Mission will be to provide overall leadership to the Canadian Team and to support and promote the Team by creating an on-site environment for athletes and coaches conducive to achieving optimal performances. For 2026, the Chef will encourage and motivate the Games' Mission staff, provide needed services to the Team through creative and innovative leadership thinking and serve as the spokesperson for Team Canada at Glasgow 2026.



A QUICK LOOK AT GLASGOW 2026 & TEAM CANADA AS PLANNING GETS UNDERWAY ...



In 2026, the Commonwealth Games will return to Glasgow, Scotland. Glasgow is a wonderful city for such an event. Its rich history of industry, science, technology, research, art, architecture, music and sport has ripened into a modern city with a multicultural identity and unrivalled air of friendliness and vibrancy.

Glasgow 2026 and Commonwealth Sport are taking the opportunity to model a leaner Games, built on the infrastructure and expertise of Glasgow's previous time as host. The streamlined event will take place entirely within the city boundaries, creating an intense and immersive atmosphere, and will be an inspiration for future hosts around the Commonwealth in its sustainability and attainability.

TEAM CANADA, will participate in the 2026 Commonwealth Games with a projected Team Size of +240 in ten sports. Canada will compete in Athletics & Para Athletics, 3x3 Basketball, Bowls, Boxing, Cycling, Gymnastics, Judo, Swimming & Para Swimming, Weightlifting, Para Powerlifting and 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball. Stay tuned for Team selections that will start in October 2025.

A **Call for Volunteers** will be distributed in the near future!



CSC HAS SUBMITTED AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CANADA TO HOST THE 2030 COMMONWEALTH GAMES



2030

Commonwealth Sport Canada, with the backing of participating governments and the Indigenous community, submitted an Expression of Interest to Commonwealth Sport (attached) indicating Canada's interest in participating in the Co-Creation and Collaboration Phase (formerly called the Dialog & Feasibility Phase) of the 2030 Commonwealth Games Bid Process (attached). This is an exciting milestone on the journey towards hosting the centenary Commonwealth Games at home, where they began. This is also an opportunity to redefine Canada's international major multisport games bidding process as well as transform the Commonwealth Games for a sustainable future.

A United Canada 2030 Commonwealth Games will act as a catalyst to achieving several government policy mandates (accessibility, affordable housing, environment, Indigenous affairs, community infrastructure, sport, culture, tourism, and trade, etc.) and deliver significant positive economic and social impacts and legacies in the participating communities – before, during and for years after the games. It is forecasted a United Canada 2030 Commonwealth Games will have a 2.5x return on public sector investment. According to the United Nations (UN), sport is an important enabler of sustainable development as exhibited by the Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs), specifically health (SDG3), education (SDG4), gender equality (SDG5), economic growth (SDG8), sustainable communities (SDG11), and peace (SDG16). Coincidentally the next marker for the UN's SDGs is 2030. A United Canada 2030 Commonwealth Games is an opportunity for Canada to showcase its progress towards achieving the SDGs.

A United Canada 2030 Commonwealth Games is much more than a title: it's a mission statement! Scott Russell sums it up quite nicely *"I truly believe we are engaging in this process at just the right time. The "United Canada" concept, which features inter-provincial co-operation and an emphasis on sport with social purpose involving diverse countries with shared values, has a chance to re-invigorate the Commonwealth Sport movement. These Games have an opportunity to be not only a nation building tool but also a symbol of international cooperation. I suggest they may be a very significant symbol in the face of the geo-political situation that is developing in many parts of the world. In short, UC2030 could, if executed well, have the ambition to strengthen the bonds between like-minded nations and justify the importance of the Commonwealth as a whole."*

Next steps include convening the first (of many) meeting of a multiparty workgroup who will decide the feasibility of Canada pursuing a 2030 Commonwealth Games bid and develop a comprehensive Games Proposal with hosting guarantees and undertaking and submit it to Commonwealth Sport by August 31, 2025.



Sport  WORKS
Making a Difference & Becoming Different

MARCH MADNESS

By: Luna Sinclair, SportWORKS Officer

March 25, 2025 from Kenya



Hi everyone!

Karibuni sana blog post #3: March Madness.

This was the first blog where the title came to me immediately, we have been booked and busy. I was telling our Canadian SportWORKS Officer Supervisor, Ryan that I had to make a list to keep track of everything I wanted to include in this blog because even though it's only been two and half weeks since my last blog post we have had the pleasure of hosting seven events! Today, March 19th, also somehow marks one month left of my time in Nairobi with Cheza Healthy. In this post I've written all about our Cheza Healthy events first and then a bit of what I've been up to this month so far outside of Cheza.

I want to give a brief rundown of our initiative for those who are unfamiliar. The name Cheza Healthy comes from the Swahili word "play" so Play Healthy. The project was conceived by our wonderful leader Catherine (Kate) Cherotich and is a partnership between Commonwealth Sport Kenya (The National Olympic Committee of Kenya) and Commonwealth Sport Canada through the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Program. Our project focuses on the promotion of physical activity as a tool for preventing non-communicable diseases. We have been primarily working with school-aged children and youth through school visits where we talk about the importance of staying active, play some games, and encourage them to create an Olympic Club at their school where they can continue to play healthy together and prioritize the Olympic values of Respect, Friendship, and Excellence. In March so far, we have had a direct impact on 1,210 primary and secondary school students and promoted Cheza Healthy on social media to an audience of over 300,000 followers.

[\[READ MORE\]](#)



HIS MAJESTY LAUNCHES THE 2026 KING'S BATON RELAY



Sir Chris Hoy and His Majesty King Charles III (Photo: Commonwealth Sport)

The Commonwealth Sport King's Baton Relay is reimagined for a new era, with all 74 nations receiving a Baton, proudly crafted in Glasgow.

His Majesty The King, Patron of Commonwealth Sport, has officially launched the inaugural Commonwealth Sport King's Baton Relay for the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games at Buckingham Palace on Commonwealth Day today, Monday 10 March 2025. His Majesty placed his Message to the Commonwealth into the first Baton, passing it to the first Batonbearer, Sir Chris Hoy, to start the relay with 500 days to go to the Opening Ceremony of Glasgow 2026.

After meeting Commonwealth Sport President Chris Jenkins, The King was introduced to the first four Batonbearers; Sir Chris Hoy, Sammi Kinghorn MBE, Paralympic and Commonwealth medal-winning T53 wheelchair racer from Scotland, Keiran Healy, Royal Commonwealth Society Volunteer, instrumental in the setup of the Commonwealth Clean Oceans Plastics project, and Gabriella Wood, Olympic and Commonwealth Judoka from Trinidad and Tobago, who studies at the University of Stirling. Sarah Adlington, two-time Commonwealth gold medal-winning Judoka from Scotland, and Kadeena Cox OBE, Paralympic gold medal-winner in T38 400m from England, will also take part in the event as Message bearer and Baton holder.

[\[READ MORE\]](#)

Source: Commonwealth Sport



**CANADA BECOMES THE FIRST COMMONWEALTH GAMES
ASSOCIATION SIGNATORY TO THE COMMONWEALTH SPORT**

LEKWUNGEN DECLARATION ON RECONCILIATION AND PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



Chief Wilton Littlechild (Photo: Commonwealth Sport)

Commonwealth Sport Canada (CSC) today became the first national Commonwealth Games association to become a Signatory to the Commonwealth Sport Lekwungen Declaration on Reconciliation and Partnership with Indigenous Peoples. In doing so, CSC becomes the first national Commonwealth Games association to the Declaration.

Led by former Six Nations Chief Ava Hill, the Declaration was drafted by an international working group of experts, sports practitioners, and indigenous leaders. Parties to the Declaration commit to engage in a process of developing the path forward for Indigenous participation in sport by respecting, protecting and promoting their rights and opportunities.

The Declaration includes ten actions related to the promotion of sports and physical education for Indigenous peoples; the promotion of Indigenous sport development; a better understanding of traditional games; partnerships with Indigenous peoples and communities in the planning and hosting of sports events; the inclusion of traditional Indigenous games in sporting events; pathways to high performance for Indigenous athletes and coaches; the celebration of their achievements; and the strengthening of inclusive sport networks.

Each signatory to the Declaration is not required to implement all ten actions. Rather, they are asked to focus on specific actions that best support and advance their work with Indigenous athletes and communities, locally and nationally. The Declaration affirms the right that every person has the right to participate in and having access to sport.

“Commonwealth Sport Canada (CSC) is proud to be the first national Commonwealth Games Association to sign this important declaration,” said Claire Carver-Dias, President, Commonwealth Sport Canada. “CSC is committed to showing leadership, to improving relationships between nations and to improving our own understanding of Indigenous peoples and their cultures. We are committed to implementing the spirit and actions of this declaration to advance reconciliation

and partnerships with Indigenous peoples to give young Indigenous people hope and inspiration to achieve success in sports, and in their lives.”

The Declaration was adopted by Commonwealth Sport at its 2023 General Assembly and endorsed by Commonwealth Sports Ministers in July 2024 and can be accessed at: www.commonwealthsport.com/reconciliation.

“I am very proud of this significant achievement that if fully adopted, will help break down barriers to Indigenous participation in sport through the development and promotion of sport programmes tailored to their needs.” said Ava Hill, former Chief of Six Nations and the Grand River and Co-Chair of the Commonwealth Sport Indigenous Working Group. “It is my hope that Canadian organizations in all sectors and at all levels become signatories to the Declaration and make a difference in the lives of Indigenous youth through sport.”



COMMONWEALTH SPORT

TRIVIA

Test your knowledge of Commonwealth Sport!

1. At which Commonwealth Games did the "Miracle Mile" race take place?

- A. Auckland 1950
- B. Vancouver 1954
- C. Cardiff 1958
- D. Perth 1962

2. How many times has Archery been included as a sport at a Commonwealth Games?

- A. 4
 - B. 3
 - C. 2
 - D. 1
-

3. Nauru is the smallest nation in the Commonwealth (less than 10,000 people) yet it has won an amazing 31 medals at the Commonwealth Games. All 31 medals were won in the same sport. Which sport?

- A. Shooting
 - B. Boxing
 - C. Wrestling
 - D. Weightlifting
-

4. Which Commonwealth Games became the first major multi-sport event to have more events for women than men?

- A. Birmingham 2022
 - B. Gold Coast 2018
 - C. Glasgow 2014
 - D. Delhi 2010
-

5. How many times has Patrick Vamplew competed for Canada in Shooting at the Commonwealth Games?

- A. 3
- B. 4
- C. 5
- D. 6

Answers to trivia questions from Alumni Newsletter October 2024:

Q1: Clara Hughes won three Commonwealth Games medals in which sport? A: **Cycling**

Q2: Which city was the first to host the Commonwealth Games twice? A: **Edinburgh, Scotland**

Q3: Alexandre Despatie became the youngest ever Commonwealth Games gold medal winner at which Games? A: **Kuala Lumpur 1998**

Q4: Only three sports have appeared in every edition of the Commonwealth Games. Which of the following is not one of those three sports? A: **Wrestling**

Q5: How many nations and territories currently make up the Commonwealth? A: **74**



ALUMNI PROFILE

CLARA HUGHES

Athlete

Victoria 1994 and Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games (Cycling)

Clara Hughes is one of those rare athletes who have competed for their country in more than one sport. Between 1991 and 2012, she wore the red Maple Leaf as both a speed skater and a road cyclist. She has been extremely successful in both sports. Clara is one of only six athletes to win a medal at both the Winter and Summer Olympics and is the only athlete to win multiple medals at both.



Off the track, Clara has also been an advocate for mental health. She has been a national spokesperson for the Bell Canada 'Let's Talk Mental Health' initiative and has helped to break down the stigma that can be attached to mental health issues.

Clara Hughes first started speed skating at the age of 16. A year later she began cycling. Her first international success came in cycling at the 1991 Pan American Games where she won bronze in the Women's Team Time Trial and silver in the Women's Individual Pursuit events. She then competed on home soil at the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria, B.C., where she helped Canada win a silver medal in the Women's Team Time Trial event.

At the Atlanta 1996 Summer Olympics, she won bronze in both the Women's Individual Time Trial and Individual Road Race. Switching back to speed skating, she then won a Bronze medal in the Women's 5,000m at the Salt Lake City 2002 Winter Olympics. A few months later, Clara competed in cycling at her second Commonwealth Games in Manchester. There, she won gold in the Women's Time Trial and Bronze in the Women's Points Race.

Hughes would go on to win medals at both the 2006 and 2010 Winter Olympics. Over the course of her career, she also won medals at three Pan Am Games, several UCI World Road Cycling Championships, and ISU World Single Distances Speed Skating Championships.

When not competing, Clara Hughes has become an advocate for mental health. She herself has struggled with depression and shared those struggles in her 2015 memoir, *Open Heart, Open Mind*. In 2013, Clara started an annual bike ride across Canada to raise awareness about mental health issues.

Clara Hughes has also been involved with Right To Play, an international organization that uses sports to encourage youth in some of the most disadvantaged places in the world to develop through play and have a safe and joyful childhood. After winning her gold medal at the 2006 Winter Olympics, Clara made a generous donation to Right to Play.

In recognition of her success as an athlete and her efforts away from the field of play, Clara Hughes has received a number of honours and awards, including the following:

- Named Speed Skating Canada 2004 Female Athlete of the Year (long track)
- Named to the Order of Manitoba in 2006
- Received 2006 International Olympic Committee Sport and Community Trophy
- Named to the 2006 List of Most Influential Women in Sport and Physical Activity by Canadian Women & Sport (she would be named to this list three times)
- Named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2007
- Received a star on the Canadian Walk of Fame in 2010
- Inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame in 2010
- Honoured with the Meritorious Service Cross (Civil Division) in 2014



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Kyle McDuffie

Athlete (Athletics) Edinburgh 1986 Commonwealth Games

Results: Bronze Medal, Men's Long Jump

Now: President and CEO, CSols Inc., Laboratory Informatics and Data Management Solutions



Tyla Flexman

Athlete (Field Hockey) - Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games

Results: 6th Place

Now: Vice President of Operations, Toronto Raptors Basketball Team



Brian Renken

Athlete (Wrestling) Brisbane 1982 Commonwealth Games

Results: Bronze Medal, Men's 74kg

Now: Lawyer/Partner, Scheifele Erskine & Renken law firm



Dr. Dominika Jamnicky

Athlete (Triathlon) Gold Coast 2018 and Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

Results: 4th place (Team Relay, 2018), 13th Place (Individual Women, 2022)

Now: Doctor of Chiropractic, Defy Sports Performance & Physiotherapy



Nicolas Gill

Athlete (Judo) Auckland 1990 and Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games

Results: Gold Medal, Men's 100kg, Manchester 2002

Now: Chief Executive Officer, Judo Canada

**Kathryn Duff**

Team Manager (Field Hockey)

Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games

Now: Academic Program Development, Upper Extremity Division at UBC Department of Orthopaedics

**Christine Wong**

SportWORKS Officer

CGA Capacity Support Program - Antigua & Barbuda (Jan 2013 - Dec 2013)

Now: Specialist, Games Operations - Canadian Olympic Committee



IN MEMORIAM

Patrick Bolger (January 31, 1948 - September 10, 2024)

Athlete, Wrestling

Edinburgh 1970 Commonwealth Games

Silver Medal, Men's Featherweight

Ed Millard (July 10, 1946 - October 13, 2024)

Athlete, Wrestling

Edinburgh 1970 Commonwealth Games

Gold Medal, Men's Heavyweight

Bruce Pirnie (September 20, 1942 – August 8, 2024)

Athlete & Official, Athletics

Christchurch 1970 Commonwealth Games (Athlete) and

Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games (Official)

Bronze Medal, Men's Shot Put

Gord Singleton (August 9, 1956 – March 23, 2024)

Athlete, Cycling

Edmonton 1978 Commonwealth Games
Bronze Medal. Men's Time Trial

Joyce Yakubowich (May 29, 1953 - March 24, 2024)

Athlete, Athletics

Edinburgh 1970 Commonwealth Games

Bronze Medal, Women's 4×100m Relay



AthletesCAN CANADIAN SPORT AWARDS

AthletesCAN will soon be accepting nominations for the following awards which will be presented at the AthletesCAN Canadian Sport Awards event in October 2025. If you believe Commonwealth Sport Canada should nominate someone from the CSC family for any of these awards, please contact Chris Taylor – ctaylor@commonwealthsport.ca

AthletesCAN - Bruce Kidd Leadership Award

AthletesCAN - AthletesCAN Social Responsibility Award

AthletesCAN - Leadership in Sport Award

AthletesCAN - True Sport Award

AthletesCAN - Inclusion Award - Obliterating Barriers in Sport

AthletesCAN - #AthleteVoice Award – Rep of the Year

More information about these awards is available [HERE](#).



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!

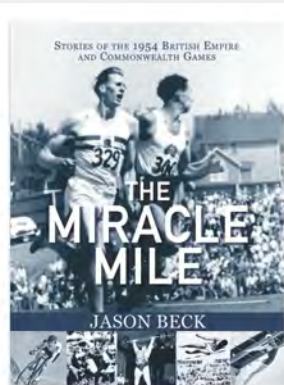
As a Commonwealth Games Canada Alumni Program member, you are entitled to the following discounts:



20% DISCOUNT AT ALL RUNNING ROOM STORES

(Subject to certain conditions)

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.ca).



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@bcsportshalloffame.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.