



ABORIGINAL SPORT CIRCLE

c/o House of Sport RA Centre | 2451 Riverside Drive
Ottawa, Ontario | K1H 7X7 | Phone: 613-518-8353

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2023 ABORIGINAL APPRENTICE COACHING PROGRAM

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

communications@aboriginalsportcircle.ca

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The Aboriginal Sport Circle, along with the Canada Games Council and the Coaches Association of Canada are pleased to highlight the coaches selected to participate in the 2023 Aboriginal Apprentice Coach Program (AAPC).

Apprentice Coaches will work with the Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Sport Bodies and Provincial/Territorial Coaching Representatives as they participate in NCCP training over the next year to gain Competition-Development certification and valuable experience as a part of the team staff in the sport of their choice, in their home province/territory.

“We congratulate the coaches selected to the 2023 AAPC and look forward to following their journey towards the 2023 Canada Winter Games on Prince Edward Island,” said Kelly-Ann Paul, President and CEO of the Canada Games Council. “The Canada Games spark greatness in the next generation of leaders and that includes the coaches of tomorrow. We are proud to collaborate with such incredible partners on this initiative to support Indigenous coaches in their development and provide them with a meaningful experience leading up to and during the Canada Games.”

Some priorities from the AAPC include building coaching capacity within Aboriginal Communities across Canada, providing apprentice coaches with domestic multi-sport games experience, expose apprentice coaches to elite/high performance and to equip coaches with the skills necessary to play a meaningful role during their Canada Games experience.

“Coaches are integral to the successful development of Canada's next generation of athletes, as well as to the next generation of coaches. We are proud to continue our partnership with the Aboriginal Sport Circle and Canada Games Council to support the successful learning, development, and mentorship of coaches through this unique program, while building coaching capacity within Indigenous communities across Canada,” said Lorraine Lafrenière, CEO of the Coaching Association of Canada.

“The Aboriginal Sport Circle would like to congratulate the coaches who have been selected to be apart of the 2023 AAPC. This program will provide opportunities for Indigenous coaches from across

the country to participate at the Canada Games, building capacity within Indigenous communities.”
– Rob Newman, President of the Board of Directors, ASC

Introducing the coaches selected to participate in the 2023 Aboriginal Apprentice Coach Program:

ALBERTA

Alison Desmarais, Long Track Speed Skating
Robert Sibbeston, Curling

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Shakita Jensen, Hockey
James Williams, Hockey

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Jonathan (JJ) Abrams, Hockey

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Keely Dyment, Badminton

MANITOBA

Brad Stevenson, Badminton
Kyler Murray, Badminton

QUEBEC

Marie-Eve Comtois, Figure Skating

SASKATCHEWAN

Rhys McAlpine, Figure Skating
Mike Dumais, Badminton

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