



**ABORIGINAL SPORT CIRCLE**  
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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **THE ABORIGINAL SPORT CIRCLE APPOINTS MATTHEW TAPPER AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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**May 3, 2022**

The Aboriginal Sport Circle (ASC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Matthew Tapper as the organization's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective May 9, 2022.

Matthew (Matt) Tapper is Mi'kmaw and a proud member of the Sipekne'katik First Nation in Nova Scotia. He has spent his entire career working in the field of Indigenous Business and Economic Development and has spent the past 9 years as the General Manager of an Aboriginal Financial Institution (AFI), where he has been responsible for the development and growth of programming that is responsive to the needs of Indigenous Entrepreneurs.

Matt has also contributed to local and provincial sport in Nova Scotia where he was a part of the coaching staff for the National Aboriginal Hockey Championship's female Team Atlantic in 2019, helped deliver the Nova Scotia Indigenous Girls Hockey Program, and recently acted as a member of the executive team for Team Mi'kmaw Nova Scotia who will participate in the 2023 North American Indigenous Games to be held in Kijipuktuk (Halifax).

"I am very excited to accept this position and to continue the ASC's important work as a national advocate for Indigenous opportunity in and equitable access to sport, recreation and physical activity in Canada" commented Matt. "I look forward to being of service to our membership, building national relationships, and supporting and developing programs, initiatives and strategies that improve the health and wellness of Indigenous people across the country. I am hopeful the combination of my experience at regional and national planning tables and my passion for sport will serve me well in continuing the growth of the Aboriginal Sport Circle."

"On the behalf of the board of directors, we are extremely excited to welcome Matt to the role of Chief Executive Officer" said Rob Newman, President of the ASC. "His experience, ideas and approach impressed us greatly and we look forward to supporting him as he guides the ASC forward."

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## **Background**

The Aboriginal Sport Circle (ASC) is a national voice for Indigenous sport, physical activity, and recreation. Established in 1995, the Aboriginal Sport Circle was created through a national consensus-building process in response to the need for more accessible and equitable sport and recreation opportunities for the First Nations, Inuit and Métis. Over the years, this mandate has expanded to include physical activity, wellness, and traditional practices.

The ASC is a membership-based organization. Its members, the Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Sport Bodies (PTASBs), provide critical sport, recreation, physical activity and wellness programming for the Indigenous people in their region. As a national entity, the ASC's assets include the Aboriginal Coaching Program, the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships, the Tom Longboat Awards and the National Indigenous Coaching Awards. Additionally, the ASC is the recognized domestic supporter for the North American Indigenous Games. ASC and PTASB representatives currently sit on numerous regional and national sport policy and development working groups, with the goal of affecting systemic change and increasing Indigenous inclusion in sport, recreation and physical activity.

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