



SPORT FORWARD

Symposium

THE SPEAKERS



Jermain Franklin
Anchor, SPORTSCENTRE

Jermain Franklin is an anchor for SPORTSCENTRE, TSN's flagship sports news and information show. Franklin, who joined TSN in September 2003, reported on the Calgary Flames and Stampeders, as well as other sports stories in the Calgary area. Prior to joining TSN, Franklin spent three years reporting for The FAN 590 in Toronto, covering the Toronto Maple Leafs, Blue Jays, Raptors and Argonauts (2001-2003). Franklin graduated from the University of Windsor in 1999 with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications.



Akim Aliu
Professional Ice Hockey Player,
Producer and Philanthropist

Akim made his NHL debut with the Calgary Flames in 2012, notching 2 points in his first appearance. Over his 11-year professional career, Akim has spent time at every top level of hockey across North America and Europe. Akim is also the Founder and Chairman of Hockey Diversity Alliance, and the Founder of his own personal Time to Dream Foundation. He has been a leader in the drive for change within the Hockey community and society as a whole for racial equality, diversity and for increased accessibility for BIPOC youth into sports, particularly the game of hockey.



Alexia Tam
Safe Sport and Athlete Welfare Expert,
Golf Ontario

Alexia Tam is a Safe Sport and Athlete Welfare Expert who has demonstrated her commitment and passion for safe, inclusive and welcoming sport. Alexia knows what truly drives success in sport and she has been committed to bettering herself as an athlete, coach, and a professional in the Safe Sport Space. She has received several awards and scholarships for her academic contributions to the field of Safe Sport and her interest in the area has been amplified by opportunities to collaborate on education development, policy implementation, and training delivery.



Angela White
Senior Director, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
(EDI) at Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment

Angela is Senior Director, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) at Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment with responsibility and oversight of MLSE's evolving EDI community of practice, advancing the organization's commitment to create an equitable, diverse and inclusive workplace respectful and reflective of its' community and fans. Angela and her team engage closely with key networks to develop and execute enterprise and Team EDI initiatives, combining strategic planning, coordination and communication, resource and capacity management, learning, awareness building and progress reporting. Prior to this role, over her 18-year career with RBC, Angela held multiple leadership positions, responsible for the strategic design and operational effectiveness of sales and service teams and for implementing effective diversity strategies and programs that interrupt bias, elevate cultural competency and cultivate belonging. In support of her strong commitment to EDI, Angela is an active mentor devoting her time to empower and prepare youth to navigate their careers, in particular, young women from backgrounds of Black, Indigenous and People of Colour.



Michael Bartlett
President & CEO,
Canada Basketball

Michael Bartlett is currently President & CEO of Canada Basketball, a position he has held since October 1, 2021. He originally joined the organization in February 2021 as Chief Operating Officer (COO). Over the course of the last two years, Bartlett has worked to establish stable funding for Canada Basketball through the launch of new event properties, including the inaugural GLOBL JAM, a first-of-its-kinds international basketball showcase in Canada, as well as commercial partnerships, from both traditional and emerging industries. Prior to joining Canada Basketball, Bartlett spent more ten years in a variety of roles with Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment (MLSE), including Vice President & Community Affairs & Events. His passion for giving back has also seen him help to raise close to \$200 million to support local and national causes in variety of professional and volunteer leadership positions and currently serves as Vice Chair of the Toronto Santa Claus Parade. Michael currently lives in Stratford with his wife Alissa, daughters Makenzie and Maggie and son, Graeson.



Veronica Lasanowski
Program Manager at the
Ontario Trillium Foundation

Today's presentation: overview of the Resilient Communities grant stream and key eligibility requirements for applicants. The Ontario Trillium Foundation is a government agency through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Each year, OTF invests in thousands of charities, not-for-profits and small municipalities to deliver projects that make Ontario's communities healthier and more vibrant.



Hayley Wickenheiser
Olympic gold medalist, author and
motivational speaker

Seven World Championships; Six Olympic appearances; Five Olympic medals; Four Olympic Gold medals – Hayley Wickenheiser is a titan of sport and a leader both on and off the ice. A first-ballot Hockey Hall of Fame inductee, Hayley's hockey IQ is highly-respected in both the male and female game. She has played in, or coached at, four NHL development camps the Edmonton Oilers, Philadelphia Flyers and the Toronto Maple Leafs, and serves as an Assistant General Manager of the Toronto Maple Leafs. Alongside her career in the NHL, Hayley is currently a resident medical doctor practicing in the Toronto-area – a pursuit she had dreamt of her whole life and began in 2017 following her retirement from her 23 years on the National Women's Team. She is a member of the Order of Canada, a retired member of the IOC Athlete's Commission, Member of Canada's Sport Hall of Fame, Hockey Hall of Fame Inductee, Founder of The Canadian Tire Wickenheiser World Female Hockey Festival and most importantly, a mom to her grown son Noah.



Ashley Stirling
Associate Professor, Teaching Stream in
the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical
Education at the University of Toronto

Ashley Stirling is an Associate Professor, Teaching Stream in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education at the University of Toronto. Prof. Stirling is known internationally for her research on athlete welfare and safeguarding in sport. Applying her research to practice, she has developed and evaluated national coach education initiatives for the Coaches Association of Ontario, the Coaching Association of Canada and the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity.



Connor Primeau
Certified Mental Performance Consultant®
and PhD candidate in the School of Human
Kinetics at the University of Ottawa

Connor Primeau is a Certified Mental Performance Consultant® and PhD candidate in the School of Human Kinetics at the University of Ottawa. His doctoral research focuses on the design, implementation, and evaluation of a peer support program for athletes who have experienced maltreatment in sport. He is also involved in an ongoing project exploring the interplay between national team athlete mental health, mental illness, mental performance, and sport culture. Connor is the Care Coordinator at the Canadian Centre for Mental Health and Sport (CCMHS), a registered charity supporting the mental health and performance of competitive and high-performance athletes, coaches, performing artists, and support staff. Personal experiences as an athlete and coach and professional exposure to maltreatment in sport, athlete mental health, and sport culture, have led to Connor's passion and dedication to being an advocate for sport.



Brock McGillis
Former Professional Hockey Player +
LGBTQ2 Advocate

Brock McGillis is the first openly gay men's professional hockey player and a leading activist in the LGBTQ+ space. He speaks at schools to educate students on the importance of their language, the impact of bullying, as well as the importance of mental health. Having spoken to many corporations and companies, Brock sees the value in educating individuals in corporate settings.



Lizanne Murphy
COC - Manager of Athlete Relations,
DEI and Safe Sport

Lizanne Murphy is a two-time Olympian and represented Canada Basketball at the London and Rio di Janeiro Olympic games. She competed for Canada from 2005-2017. She supports NSOs and the Athletes' Commission in initiatives to improve their business functioning, governance, gender equity, system alignment and diversity. She serves on the board of directors for Basketball Québec and the Trevor Williams Kids Foundation, serving at-risk youth in Montreal.



Allison Forysth
Canadian Former Alpine Skier
& Safe Sport Advocate

Born and raised on Vancouver Island, B.C., Allison Forsyth began her competitive ski career at five years of age. Progressing quickly up the ranks and qualifying for the national team at 17, she then competed exclusively on the World Cup Circuit of alpine skiing for 11 years, maintaining a Top 15 world ranking for the entire length of her career. She is an eight-time Canadian champion, has five World Cup podiums, and earned a bronze medal at the World Championships in 2003. She also competed for Canada in a pair of Olympic Games at Salt Lake 2002 and Turin 2006.