





Women & Sport

Girls and women are underrepresented in Canada in sport. In order to fuel the next generation of girls and women in sport, we must identify and celebrate the incredible accomplishments of Canadian women in sport to help make their names as equally recognised as their male peers. These women are just a snapshot of some of Canada's trailblazers in the field of Sport. **These women are a snapshot of the women who are leaders within Sport in Canada.**

The challenge is to add to this list over time, we need to ensure equal opportunity is available for all athletes regardless of their gender. The goal is to build a stronger, more equitable Canada

Women	Biographical Information
<p>Fanny "Bobbie" Rosenfeld 1904-1969</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1905, while Fanny was still an infant, the family moved to Canada and settled in Barrie, where they already had family. • Rosenfeld quickly made her mark on the Toronto sports scene. In March 1922, the <i>Globe</i> reported that she was a member of the Toronto Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) hockey team. • While she excelled in many sports, Rosenfeld is best known for her achievements in track and field. • The talented Rosenfeld became a national and international star at the 1928 Olympic Summer Games in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. • It was also the first time Canada sent a women's team to the Olympics. Five events were open to women in track and field: the 100 m race, 800 m race, 4x100 m relay, high jump and discus. • Rosenfeld also won a gold medal at the Games, as lead runner in the 4x100 m relay.
<p>Barbara Howard (8 May 1920 - 26 January 2017 Vancouver)</p>  <p>photo by James Skitt Matthews,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is believed that Howard is the first black female athlete to represent Canada in International Competition, the 1938 British Empire Games in Sydney, Australia • At 17 yrs old she not only qualified to represent Canada, she broke the British Empire record for the 100-yard dash. • She won silver medal for the 440 yard relay and bronze medal for the 660 yard relay • Became the first racialized person to be hired by the Vancouver School Board • In her 43-year career in education, she spent 14 years as a physical education teacher <p>Sources: https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/browse/people/sports-recreation/athletes/black-canadian-athletes https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/barbara-howard</p>

<p>courtesy City of Vancouver Archives</p>	
<p>Marilyn Grade Bell 1937-</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marilyn Grace Bell Di Lascio (née Bell), OOnt, swimmer (born 19 November 1937 in Toronto, ON). Marilyn Bell is a long-distance swimmer, best remembered for her 1954 swim across Lake Ontario, which brought her international fame at the age of 16. • She won the 1954 Lou Marsh Trophy as Canada's athlete of the year, as well as the 1954 and 1955 Bobbie Rosenfeld Award as the country's top female athlete. • She was also named the 1954 Canadian Press Newsmaker of the Year. • In 1955, she became the youngest person to swim the English Channel. She also swam across the Juan de Fuca Strait in 1956. She was inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame and is a Member of the Order of Ontario.
<p>Abby Hoffman 1947 -</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A four-time Olympic 800m specialist, Canada's Abby Hoffman made her Olympic debut at Tokyo 1964. • She twice made the 800m finals finishing seventh at Mexico 1968 and eighth at Munich 1972, in a historic race where the top six finishes either tied or broke the magical two-minute barrier. Hoffman's 2:00.17 was a Canadian 800m record and remained her career personal best. • At the Montréal 1976 Opening Ceremony and on home soil, Hoffman was the first woman ever to carry the Canadian flag into the stadium for the Parade of Nations of a summer Games. • After retiring from competing, Hoffman became a well-respected sports administrator, activist and promoter of women in sports in Canada and around the world. From 1981-91 she was the first woman to serve as Director General of Sport Canada and was the first woman elected to the Executive Committee of the Canadian Olympic Association in 1981
<p>Sue Holloway 1955-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four-time Olympian Sue Holloway made history in 1976 when she became the first woman to compete at the summer and winter Olympic Games in the same year. • She made her Olympic debut in Innsbruck as a cross-country skier before being part of the canoe/kayak sprint team that summer in Montreal. Having fulfilled that ambition, she turned her focus to kayaking, which had always been her primary sport. • Holloway was selected to be Canada's flagbearer for the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow, but was unable to perform the honour after the country joined the American-led boycott. Undeterred, she continued on and won two medals at Los Angeles 1984, taking silver in the K-2 500m with Alexandra Barré and bronze as part of the K-4 500m crew. • She was inducted to the Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame in 1986.



Chris Critelli
1956-



- Chris Critelli is a native of St. Catharines and a graduate of Denis Morris High School.
- Chris is currently in her 23 year with the Brock University Badgers and has led the team to the league playoffs in 20 out of these 23 years.
- 1974-75: Attended University of Winnipeg.
- 1976-78: Attended Laurentian University. • 1978-80: Attended Old Dominion University.
- Chris Critelli is the only individual to win both an NCAA and CIAU title, winning two CIAU titles with Laurentian and two NCAA titles with Old Dominion.
- Chris is a three-time All-Canadian and a one-time Academic All-American.
- Chris Critelli was a member of Canada's National team for seven years after making the team at the age of 17.
- 1976 & 1980: Chris was a member of the Canadian National team at the Olympic Games in Montreal and Moscow respectively




Sylvie Bernier
1964-



- Sylvie Bernier, CM, CQ is an Olympic athlete from Sainte-Foy, Quebec, Canada. She won the gold medal in the Women's 3m Springboard Diving at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. In 1985, she was made a Knight of the National Order of Quebec and a Member of the Order of Canada.
- After performing well in the Olympic qualifying round, Bernier enter the finals ranked third. She had a history of not handling big event pressure well but used a new approach for the Olympic final.

Lori Fung Methorst
1963 Vancouver -

- Methorst was the first athlete to receive gold medal in rhythmic gymnastics during the 1984 Olympics
- She continued on to be a 7 time Canadian champion from 1982-1988

 <p>BC Sports Hall of Fame</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1985, she was made a Member of the Order of Canada • In 2004, Methorst was inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame
<p>Angela James 1964-</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The improbable story of Angela James's incredible hockey success began on the streets of Toronto and through the years, took her to the Hockey Hall of Fame, where she is considered one of the first superstars of women's hockey. • The Flemingdon Park area of Toronto has been known as a tough neighbourhood, where all manner of trouble lurked amidst the public housing. But while some in the area drifted into areas that got them into trouble, Angela was able to resist those vices. • Angela also played hockey while attending Seneca College. In 1982-83, she led the league in scoring despite being converted to a defenceman, and was voted the OCAA's most valuable player. • She played in the first women's world championship, an unsanctioned tournament in 1987.
<p>Dr. Hayley Wickenheiser 1978-</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian former ice hockey player, physician and executive for the Toronto Maple Leafs. • Member of Cdn Womens Hockey team for 23 years. • She represented Canada at the Winter Olympics five times, capturing four gold and one silver medal and twice being named tournament MVP, and one time at the Summer Olympics in softball. • Wickenheiser was born in Saskatchewan. • Completed Medical School in April 2021. • Wickenheiser is an accomplished softball player. On June 24, 2000, she was named to the Canadian softball team for the 2000 Summer Olympics. • Toronto Maple Leafs: Assistant manager of player development
<p>Shireen Ahmeed DOB: TBD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shireen Ahmeed is a writer, public speaker and a Sports Activist focusing on Muslim women in sports, and the intersections of racism and misogyny in sport. • Shireen attended the University of Toronto. She is a regular contributor to TSN, Muslimah Media Watch and a former Global Sports Correspondent for Safe World For Women and Muslim Women in Sports website. • Shireen is an industry expert in Muslim women in sports. Her work has been featured and discussed in the Burn it All Down podcast, Sports Illustrated, espnW, TSN, The Guardian, Huffington Post, Vice Sports, Rewire, The Shadow League,



FanSided,, Football Beyond Borders, The National Post, Globe and Mail, CBC, Today's Parent amongst others.

- She is on the advisory board of the Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) organization.

Clara Hughes
1972-



- Hughes is the only athlete in Olympic history to win multiple medals in both summer and winter Games, representing Canada in both speed skating and cycling.
- She served as Team Canada's flag-bearer at the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games.
- As the founding spokesperson for Bell Let's Talk, a campaign designed to end the stigma attached to mental illness, Hughes helped jumpstart the conversation on mental wellness.
- She was awarded the International Olympic Committee's Sport and Community Trophy, honoured with a star on Canada's Walk of Fame, inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame, and named a member of the Order of Manitoba and an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Bianca Andreescu
2000-



- Bianca Vanessa Andreescu, tennis player (born 16 June 2000 in Mississauga, Ontario). [Romanian Canadian tennis](#) player Bianca Andreescu won 19 junior singles titles and 13 junior doubles tournaments between 2012 and 2017, when she turned professional.
- In August 2019, she became the first Canadian since Faye Urban in 1969 to win the [Rogers Cup](#).
- Andreescu then won the US Open in September 2019, making her the first Canadian singles tennis player to win a grand slam title. In 2019, she received the [Bobbie Rosenfeld Award](#) as Canada's female athlete of the year and became the first tennis player to win the [Lou Marsh Trophy](#) as Canada's athlete of the year.

