

# FUN & GAMES

## TRUE NORTH SPORTS TRIVIA

### There's more to Canadian sports than just our beloved ice hockey

By Sheri Radford

#### OLYMPICS

Go Canada go! So far, Canada has welcomed the world three times: to the Summer Olympics in Montreal in 1976, then to the Winter Olympics in Calgary in 1988 and Vancouver in 2010. Vancouver is currently eyeing a bid for the 2030 Winter Olympics. The only person in history to win multiple Olympic medals for both summer and winter sports is Canadian Clara Hughes, who has two medals for cycling and four for speedskating. Our women's hockey team has competed seven times, taking home Olympic gold five times (four in a row!) and winning silver the other two.

#### LACROSSE

Lacrosse is the official summer sport in Canada. Indigenous peoples invented lacrosse more than 500 years ago, and each Indigenous nation

played their own version of it. Some versions involved up to 1,000 men on the field at one time! In Canada today, each team is limited to 10 players for men and 12 for women.

#### CANADIAN FOOTBALL

Touchdown! Compared to American football, Canadian football is played on a larger field, with more players (12 instead of 11) and fewer downs (three instead of four). Eight teams compete in the Canadian Football League (CFL), with the Grey Cup championship game happening in November each year. One of the current CFL teams is the Saskatchewan Roughriders, and one of the former teams is the Ottawa Rough Riders, which can lead to confusion—and did lead to a memorable *South Park* episode that poked fun at the repeated name.

#### INDIGENOUS GAMES

Sixteen sports are played at the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG), including three traditional Indigenous sports: archery, lacrosse, and canoe/kayak. Other competitions include basketball, softball, badminton, beach volleyball, and wrestling.

The 10th NAIG had to be postponed because of the pandemic and will now take place in 2023 in Nova Scotia. Organizers describe the NAIG as equal parts sports and culture.

#### ICE HOCKEY

He shoots, he scores! It's no secret that normally mild-mannered Canadians go wild for our official winter sport. After all, we produced Wayne Gretzky, the greatest hockey player of all time. Just how good is the man nicknamed "the Great One"? He was the National Hockey League's leading point scorer for 10 of his 20 seasons, and he still holds dozens of records, including for most goals in a season, most professional goals in a career and most career points.

Further proof of our hockey obsession: Canadians invented both the goalie mask and the instant replay. Canada also has the world's largest hockey stick, which measures 62 metres in length and sits alongside an enormous puck on Vancouver Island.