SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

SHE BELONGS HERE: WOMEN IN SPORT LEADERSHIP

PRESENTED BY: TAYLOR MCPHERSON, CO-WINNER OF THE AMAZING RACE CANADA SEASON 10



The pathway, not just the title. Taylor shares the road that shaped her as a leader, from the wrestling mat in Calgary to a U SPORTS national championship and two U23 World Championship team selections, through an MSc in Kinesiology, coaching, her role as Sport Program Coordinator at the Indigenous Sport Council of Alberta, and winning The Amazing Race Canada.

Join Taylor as she leads us through:

- The Pathway: The unexpected turns, setbacks, and decisions that shape a leadership journey and the mentors who help open doors along the way.
- Lessons Along the Way: Being the only women in the room, betting on yourself, and leading through failure and change.
- Stronger Together: How sport and recreation leaders can create safer, more inclusive environments where women and girls see themselves as leaders, feel they belong, and are empowered to stay.
- Actionable Takeaways: Practical steps sport and recreation leaders and facilitators can bring back to their programs and organizations right away to recruit, support, and develop women leaders.

An inspiring conversation about the journey behind the achievements with practical insights to help build a stronger future for women and girls in sport.

AI FIRST AID FOR SPORTS AND RECREATION ORGANIZATIONS

PRESENTED BY: TOBY NWABUOGOR, CO-FOUNDER OF CIVICPLAY.AI



AI assistants and emerging agent tools can help busy sport and recreation teams prepare communications, organize information and move everyday work forward. They also introduce risks when information is sensitive, outputs are inaccurate or actions go beyond what was intended.

This practical, non-technical session introduces an “AI first aid” approach: recognize the risk, pause when needed and apply a proportionate safeguard. Through familiar sport and recreation scenarios, participants will explore AI-assisted member communications and planning workflows, practise checking an output, and identify where human approval belongs. A short interactive Trust Drill will help turn these principles into everyday decisions.

Tangible takeaways:

- An AI first-aid checklist covering information sensitivity, accuracy, human review and escalation
- A reusable workflow outline showing where to check, approve or stop an AI-assisted task
- Access to CivicPlay.ai’s Responsible AI Governance Toolkit, co-created with Dr. Julie Booke
- One practical next step to discuss or test within participants’ organization’s approved tools and guidance.

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GROWING SPORT TOURISM TOGETHER: MODERATED PANEL DISCUSSION

PRESENTED BY: SPORT TOURISM EVENT PARTNERSHIP (STEP) ST. JOHN'S

How can sport tourism bring communities together, drive economic growth, and put Newfoundland and Labrador on the map?

Join STEP (Tourism Event Partnership) St. John's for a short presentation and panel discussion with committee members exploring how collaboration can turn sporting events into real community impact. Hear about the power of partnerships, opportunities ahead, and how we can work together to attract, support, and grow sporting events across our regions.

Whether you're involved in sport, tourism, municipal government, or event hosting, discover how we can work together to make big things happen together.

CASSIDY MERCER
GENERAL SALES AGENT
STEP ST. JOHN'S

PAUL BUGGE
STEP ST. JOHN'S CHAIR
CEO, DESTINATION ST. JOHN'S

LAURIE DEMPSTER
MANAGER OF EVENT ATTRACTION
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

KAREN SHERRIFFS
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
CITY OF ST. JOHN'S

JASON COLLINS
RECREATION DIRECTOR
CITY OF MOUNT PEARL

EMPOWERING ALLYSHIP IN GRASSROOTS SPORTS: A 101 INTRODUCTION TO INTERSECTIONAL INCLUSION



PRESENTED BY: VICTORIA WICKS, CANADIAN QUEER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

This introductory session explores the foundations of allyship, inclusion, and representation in community and amateur sport. Participants will gain a practical understanding of how intersecting identities shape experiences in sport, why belonging matters beyond basic participation, and the role that coaches, volunteers, staff, and leaders play in creating welcoming environments for 2SLGBTQI+ individuals.

Through real-world examples and actionable strategies, attendees will learn how to identify barriers, strengthen inclusive practices, and foster cultures where everyone can participate authentically and thrive. Inspired by the principles of accountability, equity, and community care, this session provides a starting point for organizations seeking to build safer, more inclusive sport spaces.

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ADVANCING EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, ACCESSIBILITY, AND BELONGING ACROSS THE CANADIAN SPORT SYSTEM

PRESENTED BY: KELSEY BALKWILL, INCLUSION IN CANADIAN SPORTS NETWORK



Sport has the power to create connection, belonging, and opportunity, but only when everyone has equitable access to participate, contribute, and lead.
This session explores how Inclusion in Canadian Sports Network (ICSN) is advancing equity, diversity, inclusion, accessibility, and belonging across the Canadian Sport System.

Participants will learn about innovative programs, community-driven initiatives, and practical resources that support Black, Indigenous, and racialized communities through leadership development, mentorship, education, allyship, and strategic partnerships.

The session will explore practical approaches to recognizing barriers, becoming a more inclusive ally, strengthening community relationships, and fostering organizational cultures where everyone feels valued, represented, and empowered.
Attendees will leave with actionable strategies, resources, and “How-To” tools they can apply within their own organizations to create more inclusive, accessible, and welcoming sport experiences.

STRONGER COMMUNITIES BY DESIGN: LEADERSHIP, FACILITATION AND QUALITY PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCES

PRESENTED BY: SARAH GALLSWORTHY



Quality participant experiences do not happen by accident; they are shaped by intentional leadership and brought to life through skilled facilitation.

Drawing on her expertise in physical literacy, inclusive practice, and quality sport and recreation, Sarah will invite participants to examine the experience they are creating–not simply the program they are delivering.

This evidence-informed and interactice session follows the participant journey, exploring how leaders set the conditions for belonging and how facilitators turn those intentions into meaningful interactions.

Participants will leave with practical ways to see programs through the eyes of the people they serve, remove barriers to participation, and create experiences that build connection, contribution, and stronger communities.

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SHAPING THE ENVIRONMENT:
HOW PARENTS INFLUENCE PERFORMANCE AND WELL-BEING

PRESENTED BY: JOE LESZNER, CERTIFIED MENTAL PERFORMANCE CONSULTANT



We all have an influence on the performance and well-being of the people we support. Drawing on lessons from supporting athletes in high-performance sport, this session explores how parents can use their influence to support their children's development in sport. Through real-world examples and practical insights, we'll explore how parents can manage their own responses, balance challenge with support, and create an environment where young athletes can thrive.

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Wellness Supporters
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