

# 2022/23 Annual Report





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About this time last year, I was finishing my final days as the Director of Athletics at Mount Allison University, and I was about to embark on my very first days as the Chief Executive Officer at U SPORTS. This first year has gone quickly, with a return to nearly full programming. I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to work in this role in the Canadian university sport system, and I have sincerely appreciated the wonderful welcome and support everyone has provided.

There were so many wonderful storylines that emerged from our U SPORTS national championships this year. Our student-athletes continued to deliver passionate and inspired performances, and they were rewarded with large and energetic crowds and almost 1 million views of our broadcasts. We also had the good fortune of having the 2023 FISU Winter World University Games on North American soil as a large Canadian contingent produced many great results in Lake Placid.

Financially, we continue the path back to living as a healthy and secure organization with solid economic fundamentals and structure. A commitment to cost controls and to right-sizing our approach to programming and service delivery has allowed U SPORTS to start moving down the path of growth and advancement. We are looking forward to continuing this good work and collaborating with the conferences and members as we continue to create opportunities for our Canadian system.

Safe Sport continues to be a busy and relevant topic for all Canadian sport organizations. In November, the U SPORTS Board of Directors approved the adoption of the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS), and we continue to gather details to become a signatory with Abuse Free Sport (Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner). We are also in regular conversation with the conferences to share information and collaborate where possible in this area.

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Dr. Joanne MacLean for her service to our U SPORTS Board and committees and, most recently, as our Board Chair. Dr. MacLean has been a great support to me, and her passion for U SPORTS has always shone brightly. Special thanks also to Dr. Graham Carr for his willingness to step into the role of Board Chair. Dr. Carr has already been a valuable member of our U SPORTS Board, and we know that he will bring great perspective to the role of the Chair

U SPORTS



I would also like to express a big thank you to our U SPORTS staff for their professionalism, passion, and commitment to our members. I have appreciated the counsel, feedback, and genuine investment they have shown for our continued growth and success.

Thank you to our member schools for continuing to raise the level of university sport in Canada. We share a collective interest in finding 'our better' alongside the conferences and our member schools.

And most importantly, thank you to our student-athletes for showing up every day, for never cheating the work and for giving us these stories that are more impressive and compelling with each passing year. You are, and always will be, the spark to our greatness.

Together, we are university sport.

Pignie Angrand

PIERRE ARSENAULT Chief Executive Officer U SPORTS





# Governance

Based in Richmond Hill, Ont. U SPORTS is a collective entity comprised of:

56 Member Institutions from across Canada

- 9 members on the Board of Directors, including:
- 4 University Presidents and Athletic Directors (1 Per conference) 1 Member at Large

The active involvement of university presidents in the governance of sport is a relatively new phenomenon and has helped U SPORTS build a strong relationship with Universities Canada, a membership organization providing university presidents with a unified voice for higher education, research, and innovation. The increased involvement of university presidents has helped U SPORTS view its programs from an entirely different perspective and has enabled U SPORTS leadership to present to Universities Canada and advocate for the role sports play on university campuses across the country.

U SPORTS also collaborates with the Canadian sport system and Corporate Canada on the growth and delivery of university sport to student-athletes across the country.

# **Board of Directors**



**DR. JOANNE** MACLEAN Committee Chair and President rep.



JOHN OLFERT Treasurer and Member at Large

















U SPORTS

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GEOFF PHILLIPS Vice Chair and Director rep.



CHRISTINE **STAPLETON** Secretary and Director rep.



**DR. GRAHAM** CARR President rep.









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# **Current Staff**

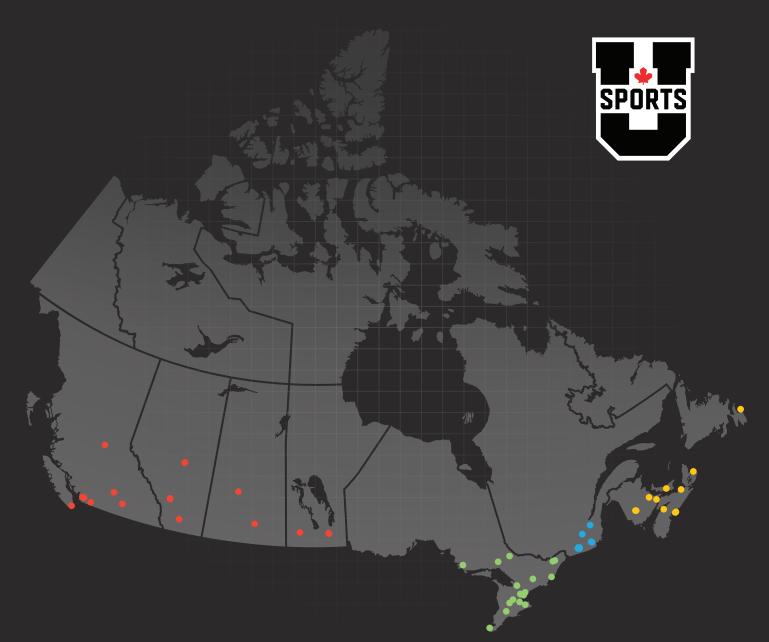
Name	Title	Name	Title
Pierre Arsenault	Chief Executive Officer	Tony Martire	Manager, Finance
Lisa Beatty	Chief Operating Officer	Alexandra Roy	Manager, International Games
Lisette Johnson-Stapley	Chief Sport Officer		Operations
Mark Alfano	Director, Sport (Interim)	Zach Weese	Manager, Governance & Special Projects
John Bower	Director, Marketing & Communications	Jenna Blackburn	Coordinator, Sport
Tara Hahto	Director, Compliance & Eligibility	Thomas Johnston	Coordinator, Administration & Finance
Jennifer Smart	Director, Sport (on leave)	Tyler Mulligan	Coordinator, Creative Content
Alicia Brown	Manager, Marketing & Communications	Elysse Pilon	Coordinator, Compliance & Eligibility
John Edwards	Manager, Sports Information		

# Special thanks to:

Dick White, former U SPORTS Interim CEO.

U SPORTS committees, partners, consultants, vendors, on-air talent/broadcasters, interns, content contributors and translators.





## U SPORTS by the Numbers

4	Conferences	21	National Championships
12	Sports	43	Cities
56	Member Institutions	5000+	Academic All-Canadians
700+	Head Coaches	15,500+	Student-Athletes

U SPORTS **10** 



we are UNIVERSITY SPORT Membership



Credit: Trevor MacMillan



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#### we are UNIVERSITY SPORT Membership

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Atlantic University Sport (AUS)			
Acadia University	Axemen / Axewomen	Brian Finniss	Dr. Peter J. Ricketts
Cape Breton University	Capers	John Ryan	David Dingwall
Dalhousie University	Tigers	Tim Maloney	Dr. Frank Harvey (Acting)
Memorial University of Newfoundland	Sea-Hawks	Dr. Karen Murphy	Dr. Vianne Timmons
Jniversité de Moncton	Aigles Bleus / Aigles Bleues	Martine Leblanc	Dr. Denis Prud'homme
Mount Allison University	Mounties	Jacques Bellefleur	Dr. Jean-Paul Boudreau
Jniversity of New Brunswick	Reds	John Richard	Dr. Paul Mazerolle
University of Prince Edward Island	Panthers	Jane Vessey	Dr. Greg Keefe (Interim)
Saint Mary's University	Huskies	Scott Gray	Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray
St. Francis Xavier University	X-Men / X-Women	Leo MacPherson	Dr. Andrew Hakin
St. Thomas University	Tommies	Mike Eagles	Dr. Kim Fenwick (Acting)
Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec (RSEQ			
Bishop's University	Gaiters	Matt McBrine	Michael Goldbloom
Concordia University	Stingers	D'Arcy Ryan	Graham Carr
Jniversité Laval	Rouge et Or	Julie Dionne	Sophie D'Amours
McGill University	Redbirds / Martlets	Geoff Phillips	Dr. Deep Sanai
Jniversité de Montréal	Carabins	Manon Simard	Daniel Jutras
Jniversité de Sherbrooke	Vert & Or	Jean-Pierre Boucher	Dr. Pierre Cossette
Jniversité du Québec à Trois-Rivières	Patriotes	Isabelle La Vergne	Dr. Christian Blanchette
Jniversité du Québec à Montréal	Citadins	Alexandre Lemarre	Dr. Magda Fusaro
Ontario University Athletics (OUA)			
Algoma University	Thunderbirds	Dave Trudelle	Asima C. Vezina
Brock University	Badgers	Melissa Krist	Dr. Lesley Rigg
Carleton University	Ravens	Jennifer Brenning	Dr. Benoit-Antoine Bacon
Jniversity of Guelph	Gryphons	Scott McRoberts	Dr. Charlotte Yates
_akehead University	Thunderwolves	Tom Warden	Dr. Moira McPherson
_aurentian University	Voyageurs	Peter Hellstrom	Dr. Sheila Embleton (Interim)
McMaster University	Marauders	Shawn Burt	Dr. David Farrar
Nipissing University	Lakers	Vito Castiglione	Dr. Kevin Wamsley
Ontario Tech. University	Ridgebacks	Scott Barker	Dr. Steven Murphy
Jniversity of Ottawa	Gee-Gees	Sue Hylland	Jacques Frémont
Queen's University	Gaels	Linda Melnick	Dr. Patrick Deane
Royal Military College of Canada	Paladins	Darren Cates	Dr. Harry Kowal
Jniversity of Toronto	Varsity Blues	Beth Ali	Meric Gertler
Toronto Metropolitan University	Bold	Louise Cowin	Dr. Mohamed Lachemi
Frent University	Excalibur	Leslie Spooner	Dr. Leo Groarke
Jniversity of Waterloo	Warriors	Roly Webster	Dr. Vivek Goel
Western University	Mustangs	Christine Stapleton	Dr. Alan Shepard
Western University	Golden Hawks	Kate McCrae Bristol (Acting)	Dr. Deborah MacLatchy
Jniversity of Windsor	Lancers	Stephanie White	Dr. Robert Gordon
York University	Lions	Alex Dominato	Dr. Rhonda L. Lenton
Canada West (CW)	LIGHS	Alex Dominato	DI. HIOIIda L. Leitton
Jniversity of Alberta	Golden Bears / Pandas	Katie Springs (Interim)	Bill Flanagan
•	Bobcats	Russ Paddock	Dr. David Docherty
Brandon University		Kavie Toor	Deborah Buszard (Interim)
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University of British Columbia Okanagan University of Calgary University of The Fraser Valley University of Lethbridge MacEwan University University of Manitoba Mount Royal University University of Northern British Columbia	Heat Dinos Cascades Pronghorns Griffins Bisons Cougars Timberwolves	Ben Matchett Steve Tuckwood Neil Langevin Joel Mrak Gene Muller Karla Karch Loralyn Murdoch	Deborah Buszard (Interim) Dr. Ed McCauley Dr. Joanne MacLean Dr. Mike Mahon Dr. Annett Trimbee Dr. Michael Benarroch Dr. Tim Rahilly Dr. Geoff Payne
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# **Sport Report**

# **National Championships**

The 2022-2023 season was the first year that all 21 U SPORTS National Championships were staged after COVID emerged. A special thank you to our championship hosts for their extensive work in offering an elite experience for our student-athletes, coaches, support staff and spectators. While we continue to collaborate to ensure a safe environment for all participants, our championships were not without challenges; hurricanes, snow, and freezing temperatures kept our hosts on their toes.

U SPORTS has turned its focus to the 2023-2024 season and is reviewing playing regulations, championship host debriefs, and student-athlete surveys from the 2022-2023 season to ensure the next season is even better.

The remaining host institutions will be chosen June 2023, completing our full championship calendar through to the 2024-2025 season.

The full Championship Calendar can be found HERE.

List of 2022-2023 Championship hosts:		
Sport	School	
Cross Country	Dalhousie University / Saint Mary's University	
Women's Rugby	University of Victoria	
Field Hockey	University of Victoria	
Women's Soccer	Université Laval	
Men's Soccer	Thompson Rivers University	
Mitchell Bowl	Western University	
Uteck Bowl	St. Francis Xavier University	
Vanier Cup	Western University	
Swimming	University of Victoria	
Wrestling	University of Alberta	
Track & Field	University of Saskatchewan	
Women's Basketball	Cape Breton University	
Men's Basketball	St. Francis Xavier University	
Women's Hockey	University of Montreal	
Men's Hockey	University of Prince Edward Island	
Women's Volleyball	University of British Columbia	
Men's Volleyball	McMaster University	
Curling	Laurentian University	

# **National Championship Biding and Hosting**

This past season U SPORTS conducted a bid process for the 2024 & 2025 Vanier Cup, which was awarded to Queen's University for both seasons. Championships were also awarded in the following sports:

Championship	2024	2025
Women's Basketball	University of Alberta	University of British Columbia
Men's Basketball	Université Laval	University of British Columbia
Women's Hockey	University of Saskatchewan	University of Waterloo
Men's Hockey	Toronto Metropolitan University	University of Ottawa
Cross Country	Western University	University of British Columbia Okanagan
Track & Field	University of Manitoba	University of Windsor
Swimming	McGill University	-

U SPORTS will complete the Hosting Selection process for the 2024 and 2025 U SPORTS Soccer and Rugby National Championships in May/June 2023. The bid process for the 2025 and 2026 Vanier Cup will take place in the summer of 2023. A call for interest will be sent out in June 2023. The next bid cycle for the 2025-2026 National Championships will begin in the early spring of 2024.



# **National Championship Merchandise**

U SPORTS continues to work with T Litzen to provide merchandise to U SPORTS hosts and spectators.

# 2025 National Championship Business Plan



U SPORTS is developing a new business plan for U SPORTS National Championships for the 2025-2026 season and beyond. As such, U SPORTS will review hosting and financial models, criteria for measuring the last 2-3 berth spots per sport, seeding and the formats of each championship, along with the championship dates and branding elements.

U SPORTS staff has been working in collaboration with the Sport Technical Sub-Committee to review the technical requirements of the National Championships.

Further feedback from the membership and conference offices will be collected at the June 2023 U SPORTS Conference and Annual General Meeting. A business plan will be developed from the information gathered as well as for inclusion in the bid process in the spring of 2024 for implementation with the 2025-2026 National Championships. This will include hosting and financial models, host rotations, berth structure and format.

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# Officials

U SPORTS worked closely with National Sport Organizations (NSOs) on the selection of officials for the following championships:

- Soccer (Canada Soccer)
- Rugby (Rugby Canada)
- Volleyball (Volleyball Canada)
- Hockey (Hockey Canada)
- · Basketball (Canada Basketball)

The final selection of officials took place at least 30 days in advance to allow NSOs adequate time to identify, evaluate, and select the best officiating groups for each championship.

The 2022-23 season saw an increase in officials' fees to align with the market and to equalize fees between men's & women's sport.

# **Sport Committee**

The Sport Committee took its new form from the approved Terms of Reference with a reduction in Committee members and responsibilities. The new members are: **Scott Barker** (Ontario Tech), **Lisa Robertson** (University of Regina), **Julie Dionne** (Université Laval), **Tim Maloney** (Dalhousie University) and **Lisette Johnson-Stapley** (U SPORTS – Chair).

The Sport Committee's main responsibility over the past season was the review and selection of new sports/recategorization of sports in the new U SPORTS model.

# **Sport Model**

U SPORTS concluded its final consultation stages with membership last summer with a Sport Committee and Chief Sport Officer recommendation to the CEO and Board. Women's and Men's Tennis received final approval from the U SPORTS Board of Directors at its board meeting on Thursday, November 24, 2022.

The University Championship in Tennis is held on-site during the National Bank Open, presented by Rogers in early August each year. The University Tennis Championship will be branded and organized as the U SPORTS Invitational University Championship beginning August 2024, which will contribute to the 2023-2024 academic year.

The Eligibility Committee has been collecting information regarding eligibility elements, including course load requirements for a sport like Tennis, whose National Championship is in the summer season.

The re-categorization of Field Hockey and Wrestling will see both sports continue in the 2023-2024 season as a Partnership P1 U SPORTS National Championship with some adjustments to ease the transition to full recognition as a P2 U SPORTS Invitational University Championship in the 2024-2025 season. The Championships will be organized by the respective National Sport Federation: Field Hockey Canada and Wrestling Canada.

All the information regarding the Sport Model program can be obtained by calling Lisette Johnson-Stapley, Chief Sport Officer, U SPORTS or Mark Alfano, Director of Sport, U SPORTS.

### Hockey Canada - BFL Coach of the Year Program

The BFL Female Coach of the Year program is an annual program to recognize and celebrate women hockey coaches across the country. The 2022-2023 season is the fourth year of the program. In 2021-22 a third category was introduced to focus on High-Performance Coaches and to support women who coach full-time at a high-performance level.

The High-Performance Coach is defined as a woman coach whose athletes are above the age of 17 and compete at the U SPORTS, Collegiate Hockey or Professional Women's Hockey Players Association levels. The 2022 High-Performance Coach winner was Sarah Hilworth (Women's Hockey Head Coach at the University of New Brunswick). Hilworth received a bursary and invitation to Canada's national women's team camp last summer.

# Hockey Canada Foundation - Creating Coaches Program

The Creating Coaches program, funded through the Hockey Canada Foundation, was launched during the 2021-22 season to provide U SPORTS women's hockey student-athletes with the mentorship, resources and support system required to ensure that their first coaching experience was positive and engaging, while also providing young girls with a role model and leader in hockey. Highlights from this past season and plans for the 2023-2024 season follow.:

- The pilot group began in 2021. Five out of six student-athletes have "graduated" from the Creating Coaches program.
- · The second cohort included nine student-athletes last year.
- During the Women's World Championships in April, four Creating Coaches student-athletes were contracted by Hockey Canada to lead the on-ice community programming during the tournament.
- Received funding from the Hockey Canada Foundation to bring on a third cohort of eight student-athletes. The selected
  student-athletes will take on an assistant coach role of a U13, U15 or U18 girl's team and will receive an honorarium, monthly
  mentorship and professional development, as well as receive all required coach training for the next two years. The program
  aims to select two student-athletes from each U SPORTS conference.

### **Road to the Pros: Canadian League Drafts**



# **Operations Report**

# **Eligibility and Athletic Financial Awards**

The Eligibility and Athletic Financial Awards (AFA) portfolios have had an eventful 2022-2023. Overseen by their respective committees, significant discussions surrounding policy changes and alignment have taken place. In addition, eligibility, in particular, has experienced a busy year of Compassionate Appeals - the heaviest year on record - and interpretations. We continue to manage the application of COVID bridge policies while gradually returning to our normal policy change processes.



Credit: Rich Lam

# **Season Highlights**

# **Female Apprentice Coach Program**



Funded through Sport Canada, the U SPORTS Female Apprentice Coach Program aimed to increase the number of females in coaching positions across Canadian universities by matching apprentice coaches who have recently graduated with a head coach in a U SPORTS-sanctioned sport for female-identifying student-athletes.

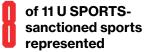
Unfortunately, Sport Canada will not be funding a women's coaching program for the 2023-2024 season. U SPORTS will continue to work with Sport Canada at funding programs for women in sport in future years.







applications across all four conferences





Name	Sport	School
Heather Beaton	Cross Country / Track & Field	Dalhousie
Jennifer Kits	Cross Country / Track & Field	Trinity Western
Amanda Ruller	Men's Football	McMaster
Colleen Daly	Women's Basketball	UNB
Richelle Grégoire	Women's Basketball	Concordia
Amanda Smith	Women's Hockey	Waterloo
Asya Bartley	Women's Rugby	Ottawa
Anne-Charlotte Beaulieu	Women's Rugby	Laval
Maggie MacPhee	Women's Rugby	Saint Mary's
Barbara Mervin	Women's Rugby	Victoria
Mia Giuliano	Women's Soccer	Algoma
Chelsea Cheung	Women's Soccer	Toronto
Mallory Outerbridge	Women's Soccer	Regina
Ashley Hosfeld	Women's Volleyball	Brandon
Rebecca van Staalduinen	Women's Volleyball	Trent
Claudia Corneil	Women's Volleyball	UBC Okanagan
Sarah Chase	Women's Volleyball	Calgary
Lauren Sokolowski	Women's Volleyball	Brock

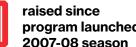


# 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Shoot for the Cure



\$1,860,000

**\$115,062.70** raised for Canadian Cancer Society ar other local organizations to help fight breast cancer local organizations raised for Canadian Cancer Society and



program launched in 2007-08 season



# Equity, Diversity and Inclusion - U SPORTS Conversations



In February, the national office hosted U SPORTS Conversations in honour of Black History Month. The third rendition of the event examined the intersection between race and sports through a live panel discussion hosted by Karelle Edwards-Perry.

Six panellists were invited to share their perspectives, including four U SPORTS student-athletes.

#### STARTED ROCKY, BUT AJA SY NEVER FALTERED



#### CAPITALIZING ON A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY: ISMAIL SOW MAKES MONTRÉAL HOME





# **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion - Athletes on Track**



July 2022, U SPORTS announced an official partnership with BlackNorth Initiative (BNI), launching Athletes on Track, a bursary and mentorship program designed to financially support University level student-athletes and supply them with the tools necessary to enter and thrive in the job market once they graduate.

The program is funded through BNI by Scotia Wealth Management and Sherrard Kuzz LLP.

Eight Black student-athletes – one male and one female from each conference – were awarded a \$5000 bursary and mentorship in the inaugural season.



#### **2022 ATHLETES ON TRACK BURSARY RECIPIENTS:**

#### Canada West

- Aja Sy University of British Columbia Okanagan, Women's Volleyball
- Hazim Mohamed University of Victoria, Men's Swimming

#### **Ontario University Athletics**

- Maya Addai Carleton University, Women's Rugby
- Alexander Odle Guelph, Men's Volleyball

#### Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec

- Jessica Salanon McGill University, Women's Basketball
- Ismail Sow Université de Montréal, Men's Soccer

#### **Atlantic University Sport**

- Kira Atherley St. Francis Xavier University, Women's Basketball
- Devaughn Blackwood St. Francis Xavier University, Football



# **U SPORTS Men's Hockey All-Stars Series**







Each year, Hockey Canada invites U SPORTS Hockey All-Star Teams to take part in the Men's National Junior Team Selection Camp in December. The camp is a key part of Hockey Canada's player evaluation process for the annual IIHF World Junior Championship. This season's player pool was limited to Atlantic University Sport (AUS) athletes. A pair of matches were held at the Avenir Centre in Moncton on Dec. 11 and 12.



Men's Record since program began in 2015



Coaches & Support Staff



Credit: James Paddle-Grant

DERBURI

SPORTS

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# **Fall Championships**

### **WOMEN'S FIELD HOCKEY: VICTORIA VIKES**





#### **WOMEN'S RUGBY: LAVAL ROUGE ET OR**





U SPORTS 27 2022/23 ANNUAL REPORT

#### **MEN'S SOCCER: THOMPSON RIVERS WOLFPACK**



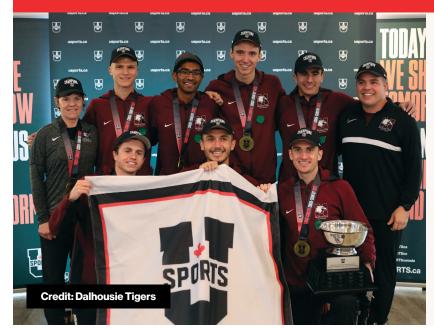
#### **WOMEN'S SOCCER: MONTRÉAL CARABINS**





PACK

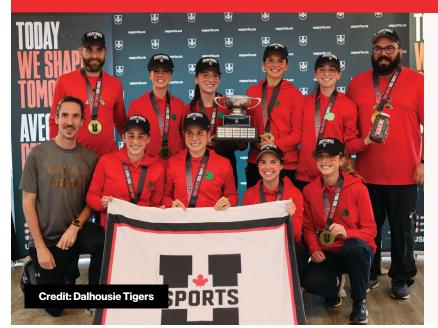




#### **MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY: MCMASTER MARAUDERS**



#### WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY: LAVAL ROUGE ET OR





#### **VANIER CUP: LAVAL ROUGE ET OR**











# **Winter Championships**

#### **MEN'S SWIMMING: UBC THUNDERBIRDS**

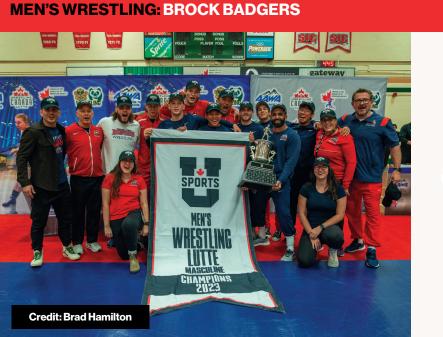




#### **WOMEN'S SWIMMING: TORONTO VARSITY BLUES**









#### **WOMEN'S WRESTLING: ALBERTA PANDAS**



#### **MEN'S BASKETBALL: CARLETON RAVENS**





#### **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: CARLETON RAVENS**

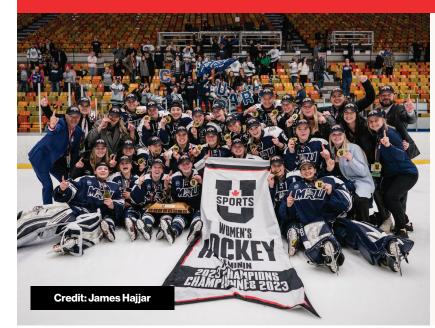




#### **MEN'S HOCKEY: UNB REDS**

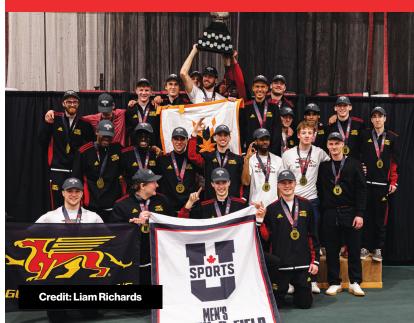


#### **WOMEN'S HOCKEY: MOUNT ROYAL COUGARS**







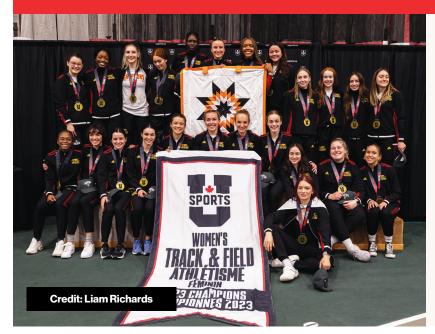






**GUELPH GRYPHONS** 

#### WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD: GUELPH GRYPHONS





#### **MEN'S VOLLEYBALL: TRINITY WESTERN SPARTANS**



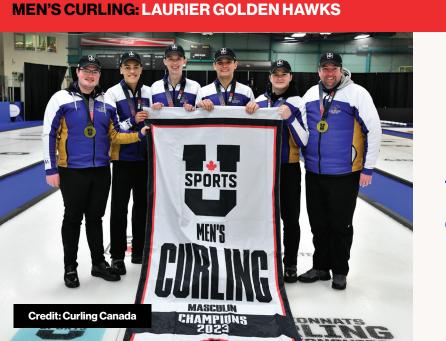


#### **WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL: UBC THUNDERBIRDS**











#### **WOMEN'S CURLING: ALBERTA PANDAS**



## Awards

## **Top 8 Academic All-Canadians**



Name	School	Sport	Program
Rebecca Smith	Calgary	Swimming	Nursing
Eric Lutz	Calgary	Track and Field & Cross Country	Social Work
Kate Current	Western	Track and Field & Cross Country	Engineering
Raphaël Garcia	Carleton	Soccer	Law
Jade Downie-Landry	McGill	Hockey	Phys. Ed. & Psychology
Jean-Simon Desgagnés	Laval	Track and Field & Cross Country	Medicine
Shae Demale	Saint Mary's	Hockey	Biology
Alex Carson	Dalhousie	Basketball	Recreation Management







All members of the Top 8 also receive a customized ring from Baron, the Exclusive Provider of championship rings and recognition jewellery for U SPORTS.



## Lois and Doug Mitchell U SPORTS Athletes of the Year Awards

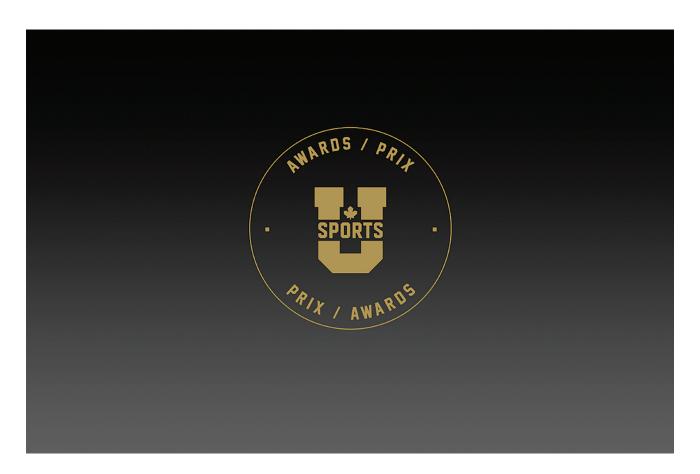


U SPORTS announced the eight finalists for the Lois and Doug Mitchell U SPORTS Athletes of the Year Awards, honouring the Athletes of the Year for the 2022-23 season. This year's event marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Awards and honoured the late Honourable Doug Mitchell.

McMaster's Sarah Gates (women's basketball) and Gabriel Mastromatteo from Toronto (swimming) were named the 2022-23 laureates in an in-person event at the McDougall Centre in Calgary on May 24, 2023.



## **U SPORTS Honours Awards**



Legendary women's field hockey coach **Hash Kanjee** of the UBC Thunderbirds, former Laurier Golden Hawks Athletic Director **Peter Baxter**, veteran amateur sports reporter **Mike Sawatzky** and retired Windsor Lancers Athletic Director **Mike Havey** were honoured at the 2022 U SPORTS Conference and Annual General Meeting in Halifax, NS.



HASH KANJEE Jean-Marie de Koninck Coaching Excellence Award



MIKE SAWATZKY Fred Sgambati Media Award



PETER BAXTER Austin-Matthews Award



MIKE HAVEY L.B. "Mike" Pearson Award



Credit: STFX Athletics

Riddell

STFX

adidas



## International

## FISU 2023 Winter World University Games (Lake Placid, USA)



#### January 12-22, 2023

- 13 Medals: six gold, one silver and six bronze
- 20 Top-five finishes
- 168 Team Canada Delegation
- 121 Student-athletes
- 47 Mission, Support & Medical Staff
- 9 Sports
- 6 National Sport Organizations involved in the selection process
- 2 U SPORTS operated hockey teams

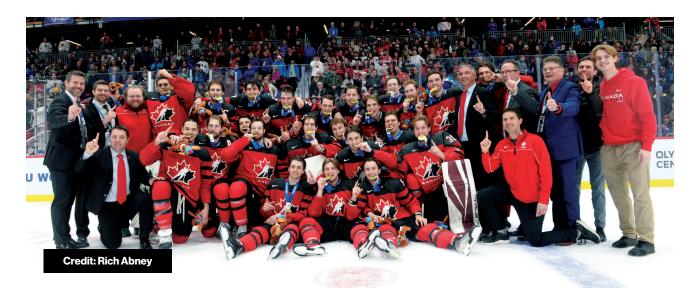


Opening Ceremony Flag-bearers: Caroline Beauchamp (UdeM, Alpine Skiing) and Alex Maycock (Nipissing, Cross Country Skiing).

U SPORTS

#### International WEARE UNIVERSITY SPORT

Team Canada	Team Canada Medals							
Medal	Sport	Name	School	Event				
Bronze (6)	Speed Skating	David La Rue	Laval	Men's 1000m				
	Speed Skating	Rose-Anne Grenier	Laval	Women's 3000m				
	Freeski	Elizabeth Filiatrault	Calgary	Women's Ski Cross				
	Speed Skating	David La Rue Hubert Marcotte Josh Telizyn	Laval Laval TRU	Men's Team Pursuit				
	Speed Skating	Hubert Marcotte	Laval	Men's Mass Start				
	Curling	David McCurdy Adam McEachren Caelan McPherson Jeffrey Meagher Owen Purcell	Dalhousie	Men's				





## FISU 2021 Summer World University Games (Chengdu, China)

The 2023 Summer **World University Games** (WUG) were initially planned in Ekaterinburg, Russia. Following the war in Ukraine and considering the Chengdu 2021 Summer Games had yet to be held due to the pandemic, Chengdu became the new host for the 2023 Summer Games. However, after gathering feedback from key stakeholders, U SPORTS made the difficult decision to withdraw its participation in the 2023 FISU Summer World University Games in Chengdu, China from July 28 to August 8. The decision was based on the travel and health risks to the Canadian student-athletes and Canadian delegation participation and strongly supports FISU events.



FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES SUMMER

## FISU America Games (Merida, Mexico)



The **FISU America Games** was used as a qualifier for the 2023 World University Football Championship (Nov. 2023). As the defending champion, the uOttawa female soccer team was invited by FISU to participate in this tournament in October and won the gold medal!



### FISU 2022 World University Championships (WUCs) & World Cups (UWCs)



- 5 World University Championships
- 1 University World Cup (Combat Sports)
- **7** Sports: golf, orienteering, beach volleyball, triathlon, canoe sprint, karate and boxing
- 58 Student-athletes and staff
- 4 Silver and 3 bronze medals



Team Canada Medals								
Medal	Sport	Name	School	Event				
Silver (1)	Canoe	Evie McDonald	Ottawa	C1 Women 200m				
	Canoe	Jessica Mackay Evie McDonald	Saint Mary's Ottawa	C2 Women 200m				
	Canoe	Amelia Wojtyk	Dalhousie	C1 Women 500m				
	Canoe	Amelia Wojtyk Evie McDonald	Dalhousie Ottawa	C2 Women 500m				
Bronze (6)	Canoe	Foster Salpeter UBC		C2 Men 500m				
	Karate	Karim Ghaly	Ottawa	Men's Individual Kata				
	Karate	Claudia Laos Loo	SFU	Women's Individual Kata				



## **Bidding and Hosting FISU events in Canada**

FISU announced the cancellation of the 2023 FISU Rowing World University Championships in London, Ontario, due to rescheduling the 2021 FISU Summer World University Games to summer 2023. U SPORTS, Tourism London, and Western University look forward to working with FISU to host this event at a future date.

U SPORTS would like to increase its presence as a host for international events and is working on establishing a Bidding & Hosting Strategy for WUC and WUG. Preliminary discussions have started around the possibility of putting in a bid for the 2029 or 2031 FISU Winter World University Games.

## **Education**

Two student-athletes are participating in the **FISU Volunteer Leader Academy (FVLA)**. The FVLA aims to create an international platform to promote university sports values and to train FISU Student Ambassadors in implementing international, national, and local projects and activities. **Yazan Al Bawwab** (Carleton, Swimming) and **Mia Landry** (Brock, Hockey) were selected by U SPORTS following an application process and are currently working on an action plan for a project that would help promote sport within their university/community.

Yazan Al Bawwab was also selected to participate in FISU's Springboard (a pilot mentorship program). Al Bawwab was paired with a mentor (Delise O'Meally, Vice President of International Relations for the US Olympic Committee) and will benefit from her knowledge and insights in regular meetings. The program aims to help students become the next generation of university sports leaders.



## **Sport Medicine and Research Committee**

The Terms of Reference of the Sport Medicine and Research Committee have been approved.

The Committee once again assisted U SPORTS with the Medical Guidelines for the U SPORTS National Championships.

The Committee also guided U SPORTS in deciding to withdraw Team Canada's participation in the 2023 FISU Chengdu Summer Games.



## **Commerical Report**

## 2022-23 Key Performance Indicators: USPORTS.ca

**6.7 MILLION** pageviews (Apr. 1 – Mar 31) +61% vs. 2021-22

## 1.52 MILLION

pageviews during fall championship season +4.8% vs 2021-22 **2.26 MILLION** 

pageviews during winter championship season +28.3% vs 2021-22

## **Media Relations**

**30,300** earned media mentions



cumulative estimated audience reach



Social Media							
Account	Y	Õ	Ŧ				
Followers	@USPORTSca 61,200	@USPORTSca 44,500	@USPORTSCanada 16,000				
Change	1,600 <b>(+2.7%)</b>	9,600 <b>(+27.8 %)</b>	881 <b>(+0.5%)</b>				

12.7 MILLION

Total Twitter Impressions (@USPORTSca and sport accounts) (+3 million vs 2021-22)



Total Impressions (all social media platforms combined)



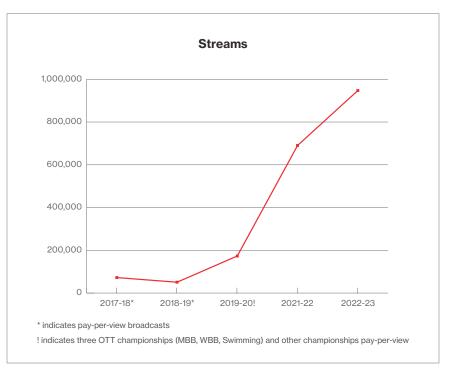


## **National Broadcast Strategy**

## **947,100** Streams of U SPORTS championships

#### **STREAMS PER SEASON:**

- 2017-18\*: 72,488
- 2018-19\*: 50,726
- 2019-20!: 173,369
- 2021-22: 690,376
- 2022-23: 947,100



For the second consecutive year, U SPORTS established a record with **947,000 streams of its national championships** on CBC Sports digital platforms (CBCSports.ca, CBC Sports app, CBC Gem, CBC YouTube) and U SPORTS.ca (French). The model has resulted in a **1767% increase in viewership** since moving from a pay-per-view model to a free over-the-top (OTT) model.

U SPORTS championships generated nearly **\$20,000 in broadcast commercial sales** this winter, including a new partnership with Boost Innovation out of Calgary during the men's and women's basketball championships.

U SPORTS continued to work with iSi Live to produce and deliver digital championship broadcasts, including three successful fullyremote broadcasts from their Ottawa studios (women's soccer in English, women's rugby and men's soccer in French). U SPORTS also negotiated a production agreement with Universum to produce the five national championships in the Maritimes with cost savings for hosts.

#### LINEAR BROADCASTS (TELEVISION)

More than **575,000 households tuned into U SPORTS telecasts** this year on CBC and TVA Sports, with over 350,000 watching the Vanier Cup. Other telecasts included the Uteck and Mitchell Bowls and the U SPORTS hockey gold medal games. The two latter telecasts feeds were the championship digital broadcasts transmitted to TVA Sports via rented LiveU equipment.

U SPORTS

## **Partnerships**

The 2022-23 season saw an innovative partnership developed with the charity B for Kai in support of its Men B Aware campaign to promote awareness about Meningitis B amongst university students.

U SPORTS launched a "Champions Collection" store with Nike/T Litzen Sports at the conclusion of each national championship and although sales results were limited, the organization now has a benchmark to establish sales objectives for future championships.

U SPORTS would like to thank its long standing partners for their continued support:

Wilson	Official Football and Basketball
Mikasa	Official Volleyball
Sherrard Kuzz	Legal Services
Fox 40	Whistles/Coach of the Year Awards
Vereburn Medical Supplies	Medical Supplies
Nike Team (Litzen)	Performance Apparel
Baron	Celebratory Jewellery

U SPORTS also thanks the following corporate partners who supported the local organizing committees as title or presenting sponsors of the following national championships in 2022-23:

RBC	Men's Soccer
Groupe Océan Group	Women's Soccer
Canada Life	Vanier Cup
Friends of the World Cup of Wrestling Society and The Westin Edmonton	Wrestling
Protocase and Bell	Women's Basketball
FFUN Auto Group and Discover Saskatoon	Track and Field
Cavendish Farms	Men's Hockey
FFUN Auto Group and Discover Saskatoon	Track and Field





Bell



(III)

Saskatoon













# THANK YOU To our partners

NATIONAL SPORT ORGANIZATIONS



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MULTI-SPORT ORGANIZATIONS / PARTNER LEAGUES





Financial Statements of



And Independent Auditor's Report thereon Year ended March 31, 2023



KPMG LLP 150 Elgin Street, Suite 1800 Ottawa ON K2P 2P8 Canada Tel 613-212-5764 Fax 613-212-2896

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of U SPORTS

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of U SPORTS (the Association), which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2023
- the statement of operations for the year then ended
- the statement of changes in net assets for the year then ended
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies

(Hereinafter referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at March 31, 2023 and its results of operations, its changes in net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements" section of our auditor's report.

We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

KPMG LLP, an Ontario limited liability partnership and member firm of the KPMG global organization of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Limited, a private English company limited by guarantee. KPMG Canada provides services to KPMG LLP.

## KPMG

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In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

 Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.

## KPMG

Page 3

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, • including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, ٠ the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

KPMG LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Ottawa, Canada June 9, 2023



Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	2023	2022
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash (note 2)	\$ 871,758	\$ 417,350
Accounts receivable (note 3)	865,165	984,552
Prepaid expenses and advances	68,306	114,654
	1,805,229	1,516,556
Tangible capital and intangible assets (note 4)	544,410	581,021
	\$ 2,349,639	\$ 2,097,577
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 5)	\$ 796,005	\$ 568,087
Loan payable (note 6)	60,000	-
Deferred revenue	23,250	26,525
	879,255	594,612
Loan payable	-	60,000
Leasehold inducement	75,001	100,001
Travel pool and championship bond payable	31,802	295,704
Coaches Excellence Fund	267,942	245,228
	1,254,000	1,295,545
Net assets (note 7):		
Invested in tangible capital and intangible assets	469,409	481,020
Unrestricted	626,230	321,012
	1,095,639	802,032
Commitments (note 8)		

· - -

On behalf of the Board: abert

John Olfert - Chair, Finance Committee

Pyrie Anguand

P. Arsenault - Chief Executive Officer

Statement of Operations

Year ended March 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	2023	2022
Revenue:		
Member dues \$	1,490,242	\$ 1,418,010
Government contributions	793,950	884,950
International	592,291	11,000
Events/competitions	572,576	264,650
Marketing	405,800	314,000
U SPORTS central (registrations)	290,200	288,000
Interest and other	74,715	71,829
Merchandising	4,700	3,741
Donations	49	-
	4,224,523	3,256,180
Expenses:		
Payroll, consulting and contracted services	1,711,540	1,606,182
Administration	610,068	565,594
International	592,291	77,259
Commercial	351,969	263,842
Travel	342,328	177,802
Dues	160,000	130,000
Events and competitions	156,716	155,828
Merchandising	58,483	82,347
	3,983,395	3,058,854
Excess of revenue over expenses before the undernoted item	241,128	197,326
Other income:		
COVID-19 subsidies and grants	52,479	507,987
Excess of revenue over expenses \$	293,607	\$ 705,313

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	Invested in tangible capital and intangible assets	Unrestricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 481,020 \$	321,012 \$	802,032 \$	96,719
Excess of revenue over expenses	25,000	268,607	293,607	705,313
Additions to tangible capital and intangible assets	125,787	(125,787)	-	-
Amortization of tangible capital and intangible assets	(162,398)	162,398	-	-
Net assets, end of year	\$ 469,409 \$	626,230 \$	1,095,639 \$	802,032

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	2023	2022
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operating activities:		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 293,607	\$ 705,313
Items not involving cash:		
Amortization of leasehold inducement	(25,000)	(25,000)
Amortization of tangible capital and intangible assets	162,398	149,629
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable	119,387	(228,950)
Decrease (increase) in prepaid expenses and advances	46,348	(10,453)
Decrease in inventories	-	1,000
Increase in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	227,918	265,612
Decrease in travel pool and championship bond payable	(263,902)	(310,373)
Increase (decrease) in Coaches Excellence Fund	22,714	(750)
Decrease in deferred revenue	(3,275)	(11,877)
	580,195	534,151
Financing activities:		
Decrease in operating line of credit	-	(12,251)
Investing activities:		
Additions to tangible capital and intangible assets	(125,787)	(104,550)
Increase in cash	454.408	417,350
	434,400	417,330
Cash, beginning of year	417,350	-
Cash, end of year	\$ 871,758	\$ 417,350

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2023

The mission of U SPORTS (the "Association") is to enrich the educational experience of the athlete through a national sports program that fosters excellence through quality educational and athletic experience, unity of purpose, respect for autonomy, integrity and fair play, trust and mutual respect, equity and equality of experience.

The Association is a Registered Canadian Amateur Athletic Association under the Income Tax Act (Canada), and is not subject to income taxes. Effective September 4, 2014, the Organization continued its articles of incorporation under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act.

#### Significant accounting policies: 1.

These financial statements are prepared by management in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The Association's significant accounting policies are as follows:

(a) Revenue recognition:

The Association uses the deferral method of accounting for contributions for not-for-profit organizations.

Restricted revenue is recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenditure is incurred.

Unrestricted revenue is recognized as revenue when it is received or becomes receivable.

Membership fees are recognized as revenue in the period in which they become receivable.

(b) Tangible capital assets:

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost less accumulated amortization. Amortization of office furniture and equipment is provided on the straight line basis over five years, computers and computer software is provided on the same basis over three years and amortization of leasehold improvements is provided over the term of the lease.

(c) Sports Canada contributions:

Contributions received from Sport Canada are subject to specific terms and conditions regarding the expenditure of the funds. The Association's accounting records are subject to audit by Sport Canada to identify instances, if any, in which amounts charged against contributions have not complied with the agreed terms and conditions and which therefore would be refundable to Sport Canada. Adjustments to prior years' contributions are recorded in the year in which Sport Canada requests the adjustment.

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2023

#### 1. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(d) Financial instruments:

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value on initial recognition. Equity instruments that are quoted in an active market are subsequently measured at fair value. All other financial instruments are subsequently recorded at cost or amortized cost, unless management has elected to carry the instruments at fair value. The Association has elected to carry investments at fair value.

Transaction costs incurred on the acquisition of financial instruments measured subsequently at fair value are expensed as incurred. All other financial instruments are adjusted by transaction costs incurred on acquisition and financing costs, which are amortized using the effective interest rate method.

Financial assets are assessed for impairment on an annual basis at the end of the fiscal year if there are indicators of impairment. If there is an indicator of impairment, the Association determines if there is a significant adverse change in the expected amount or timing of future cash flows from the financial asset. If there is a significant adverse change in the expected cash flows, the carrying value of the financial asset is reduced to the highest of the present value of the expected cash flows, the amount that could be realized from selling the financial asset or the amount the Association expects to realize by exercising its right to any collateral. If events and circumstances reverse in a future year, an impairment loss will be reversed to the extent of the improvement, not exceeding the initial carrying value.

(e) Use of estimates:

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from those estimates. These estimates are reviewed annually and as adjustments become necessary, they are recognized in the financial statements in the period they become known.

#### 2. Line of credit:

The Association has a line of credit of \$100,000 with a Canadian chartered bank. The line of credit bears interest at prime plus 2.0% per annum. At year-end, the Association had drawn \$Nil (2022 - \$Nil) on the line of credit.

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2023

#### 3. Accounts receivable:

	2023	2022
Due from members	\$ 343,895	\$ 513,890
Government contributions	223,107	376,547
HST rebate	179,585	68,229
Sponsors	116,000	56,119
Other	2,578	-
Allowance for doubtful accounts	-	(30,233)
	\$ 865,165	\$ 984,552

#### 4. Tangible capital and intangible assets:

			2023 2022
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book Net book value value
Tangible capital assets: Office furniture and equipment Computer Leasehold improvements	\$ 288,559 73,717 580,371	\$ 283,184 64,696 257,055	\$
Intangible capital assets: Computer software	619,495	412,797	206,698 199,263
	\$ 1,562,142	\$ 1,017,732	\$ 544,410 \$ 581,021

Cost and accumulated amortization at March 31, 2022 amounted to 1,436,355 and 855,334, respectively.

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2023

#### 5. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities:

	2023	2022
Trade	\$ 368,523	\$ 421,378
Accrued liabilities / payroll-related	401,109	138,369
Credit cards payable / staff expenses	26,373	8,340
	\$ 796,005	\$ 568,087

#### Loan payable: 6.

In 2020 the Association obtained a \$60,000 loan from the Canadian Emergency Business Account ("CEBA") program. Under the terms of the agreement, the loan is non-interest bearing until December 31, 2023. If the loan is repaid by December 31, 2023, up to \$20,000 will be forgiven by virtue of a government grant.

#### 7. Net assets:

The Association considers its capital to consist of its unrestricted and internally restricted net assets. The objective of the Association with respect to its capital is to fund ongoing operations and future projects. The Association manages its capital by maintaining and monitoring amounts available for future projects, contingencies and other capital requirements.

The Association is not subject to externally imposed capital requirements and its overall strategy with respect to capital remains unchanged from the year ended March 31, 2022.

#### Commitments: 8.

The Association rents office space under a long-term operating lease that expires on March 31, 2031. The Association has an option to terminate the lease at the end of each fifth year anniversary if written notice is provided to the Landlord no later than 12 months prior to that date accompanied by certified payment for the unamortized portion of the improvement allowance plus three months' gross rent. The minimum annual payments to the next fifth year anniversary of March 31, 2026 are as follows:

2024 2025 2026	\$ 147,080 147,080 147,080
	\$ 441,240

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2023

#### 8. Commitments (continued):

The additional rent is an integral part of the lease and approximates \$88,000 per annum.

#### 9. Economic dependence:

The Association generates the majority of its revenue from 56 participating Universities in the form of member dues, events and competitions and shared funding arrangements. Future operations of the Association are dependent upon continued participation of the participating Universities.

#### 10. Financial risks and concentration of risk:

(a) Credit risk:

Credit risk refers to the risk that a counterparty may default on its contractual obligations resulting in a financial loss. The Association is exposed to credit risk with respect to its accounts receivable. The Association assesses, on a continuous basis, accounts receivable and provides for any amounts that are not collectible in the allowance for doubtful accounts.

(b) Liquidity risk:

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Association will be unable to fulfill its obligations on a timely basis or at a reasonable cost. The Association manages its liquidity risk by monitoring its operating requirements. The Association prepares budget and cash forecasts to ensure it has sufficient funds to fulfill its obligations.

These risks have increased due to market fluctuations in interest rates and market prices. Aside from the changes in interest and market risk, there have been no changes to the prior year in the Association's risk exposures from its financial instruments or the policies, procedures and methods used to manage these risks. The Association is not subject to significant currency or interest rate risks.



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