



2026

THE TOM LONGBOAT AWARDS

REGIONAL ATHLETE AWARDS
FOR INDIGENOUS EXCELLENCE IN SPORT

Presented by





AWARD OVERVIEW

The Tom Longboat Awards were established in 1951 to recognize Indigenous athletes for their outstanding contributions to sport in Canada. With a few exceptions, the Awards have been presented annually since their inception. They remain the longest standing and among the most prestigious awards recognizing Indigenous athletes in the country.

The Tom Longboat Awards, a program of the Aboriginal Sport Circle (ASC), recognize the growth, strength, and impact of the Indigenous sport movement in Canada, from community participation to elite competition. The Awards include both men's and women's categories.

For the 2026 program year, all nominations will be collected by the Aboriginal Sport Circle and shared with their respective provinces and territories for regional selection. From the regional recipients, a National Selection Committee will determine the national recipients for the men's and women's category.

Regional and national recipients will be presented their awards at the 2026 National Indigenous Sports Gala on **October 24, 2026** in **Ottawa, Ontario**.

PRINCIPLES

The Aboriginal Sport Circle is committed to developing sport that fosters the development of the whole individual. In addition to their athletic achievements, recipients will have demonstrated a strong commitment to sportsmanship, fair play, and serving as positive role models. They will also have shown a commitment to living a balanced lifestyle that supports their physical, mental, cultural and spiritual well-being.

ELIGIBILITY

The Awards honour the accomplishments of an athlete within a given program year (**May 31, 2025, to May 31, 2026**).

Nominees must meet the following criteria to be eligible:

- Nominees must be of Indigenous descent (*inclusive of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis*)
- Nominees must be active within the nomination period
- Nominees must demonstrate sportsmanship, fair play and ethics in sport
- Nominees must complete a nomination form and submit to the Aboriginal Sport Circle **on or before July 10, 2026**





NOMINATIONS

The nomination period will run from **June 1, 2026, to July 10, 2026**. Nomination forms and supporting narratives must be submitted before **July 10, 2026**. Each Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Sport Body (PTASB) will use the submitted information to select the regional men's and women's recipients.

Nomination information must include the following:

- Nominee's name, age, gender (male/female), address, telephone number, sport(s) nominated for, and number of years competing
- Highest level of competition achieved as an athlete (i.e. community, regional, provincial, national, or international)

Nominations must also include detailed supporting narratives describing how the nominee demonstrates the following qualities:

- A personal commitment to athletic development
 - Describe the nominee's general training regimen and any improvements achieved through training
- A positive image as an Indigenous athlete
 - Provide examples or testimonials showing how the nominee's conduct reflects fair play and sportsmanship in relation to their sport, officials and opponents
 - Provide three written testimonials from coaches, parents, and community to the nominee's positive image within the community
- A commitment to a holistic lifestyle by maintaining balance across physical, mental, cultural, and spiritual well-being
 - Provide up to three testimonials from coaches, parents, and community
- Personal achievements
 - List athletic awards, levels of achievement, and other recognitions received by the nominee
(*proof of achievements is required*)

AWARD SELECTION CRITERIA

Criteria for selection will be based on the following:

- The athlete's highest level of competition
- The athlete's ranking/results
- Other accomplishments (MVP, MIP, etc.)





- Commitment to athletic development
- Positive role model in sport and community
- Demonstration of fair play and sportsmanship
- Holistic balance (physical, mental, emotional, cultural, spiritual)

AWARDS

REGIONAL RECIPIENTS

From the list of nominees, one (1) man and one (1) woman athlete will be selected for each Province and Territory as regional recipients. Regional recipients will receive their awards at the National Indigenous Sports Gala on **October 24, 2026**, in Ottawa, Ontario.

Travel to the Gala will be coordinated by each PTASB. Accommodations will be arranged by the ASC, in collaboration with each PTASB to collect the necessary information.

The regional recipients will receive the following:

- Travel and accommodation for the award recipient and one guest to attend the Gala
- A custom Tom Longboat Award

NATIONAL RECIPIENTS

From the pool of regional recipients, one (1) man and one (1) woman athlete will be chosen by a National Selection Committee to receive the national award. The two recipients will receive their awards at the National Indigenous Sports Gala on **October 24, 2026**, in Ottawa, Ontario.

The two national recipients will receive the following:

- Travel and accommodation for the award recipient and one guest to attend the Gala
- A custom National Tom Longboat Trophy
- A \$1,500 bursary to support personal athlete development

NOMINATION DEADLINE

Nomination forms must be submitted to the Aboriginal Sport Circle on or before the nomination **deadline of July 10, 2026**.

Nominations will be accepted by email or via the online nomination form linked below:

surveymonkey.com/r/QZXGSV9





REGIONAL NOMINATION FORM

NOMINEE

For the Province/Territory of _____

Name _____ Gender _____

Address _____

Province/Territory _____ Postal Code _____

Email Address _____

Sport(s) Nominated for _____

Number of years involved in sport(s) _____

Highest Level of achievement in sport _____

Please provide additional documentation of a detailed description of the nominee's qualifications, achievements and testimonials, **as outlined in the nomination package.**

NOMINATOR

Name _____

Address _____

Province/Territory _____ Postal Code _____

Email Address _____

Signature of Nominator _____ Date _____

Please send forms and attachments by **July 10, 2026** to:

Krista Hodder

Aboriginal Sport Circle, Programs and Events Senior Coordinator

khodder@aboriginalsportcircle.ca

