



2022 – New year, new start

In 2022, on the heels of two especially challenging years, Tennis Canada orchestrated a major relaunch of its activities that enabled us to reaffirm our support for tennis development at all levels, from recreational to high performance, as well as for national and international competitions, coaching education, beginner programs and grassroots initiatives, thanks to the help of our partners as well as the support from Sport Canada through the recovery fund. These activities had all been affected by the financial impacts and restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beyond the success of Canadian tennis on the courts, a number of programs make up some of the highlights of the past year. They aim to achieve two key objectives set out for the development of our sport: accessibility through more, and better, infrastructure and the player experience through inclusive, safe, fun and welcoming environments.

OBJECTIVE 1

PROVIDE COMMUNITIES ACROSS CANADA WITH BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE AND MAKE TENNIS ACCESSIBLE YEAR-ROUND

Launch of the Year-Round Community Tennis Courts Program presented by Rogers

The lack of indoor courts makes tennis only a seasonal sport for many Canadians. In 2021, in an effort to change this practice and perception, Tennis Canada and Rogers announced their partnership as part of the Year-Round Community Tennis Courts Program, which aims to build 160 new covered courts in 30 facilities over the next seven years. These investments are critical in light of the small number of year-round courts available in Canada compared to other leading tennis nations. Indeed, there are only 750 publicly accessible indoor courts—1 for every 50,000 Canadians.

In 2022, Tennis Canada therefore announced an initial round of funding to provide communities with indoor tennis courts through a new \$5.6 million multiyear program jointly funded by Tennis Canada and Rogers. Initiatives in **Hamilton (Ancaster)** and **Markham, Ontario; Waterloo, Québec** and **Calgary, Alberta** were successfully set in motion, adding 20 covered courts and providing more than 2,000 hours of tennis a week during winter across the country.

In 2023, we plan to lead four more dome projects over year-round courts. We are currently working with several municipalities through various building phases.

Further details on the program are available here: <https://www.tenniscanada.com/facilities/>.

The Pacific Tennis Centre project

British Columbia has boasted the highest rates of participation in tennis across the country for a long time. However, the province is facing a severe lack of infrastructure preventing players from participating year-round at an affordable cost.

While municipalities are all managing waitlists to use their covered facilities, British Columbia does not have a publicly accessible, affordable, year-round facility focused on delivering a full spectrum of community racquet sports programming, including options for Canada's National Wheelchair Tennis Program and National Junior Training Program.



The Pacific Tennis Centre (PTC) could meet this need.

The PTC is a proposed tennis and racquet sports facility that will serve as Tennis Canada's flagship centre in Western Canada, in partnership with Tennis BC and the City of Burnaby.

It will be a world-class community-focused tennis centre that is inclusive and accessible to help grow tennis as a sport and meet the needs of a healthy, active British Columbia and Western Canada. Located in Burnaby, the PTC will also be the new home of the National Junior Training Program and the first and only home of the National Wheelchair Tennis Program. With over 80% of the court time reserved for affordable year-round community use, the facility will be a provincial hub, delivering inclusive programs for all players, regardless of income, and supporting other racquet sports, like pickleball and badminton, across BC and Western Canada.

Once completed, the PTC will offer 12 year-round courts, up to 14 outdoor courts including hard and clay courts and pickleball courts. When federal and provincial funding for phases I and II is confirmed and financial backing is in place, the courts could open to the public in just over a year.

To learn more about the Pacific Tennis Centre, go to www.tenniscanada.com/PacificTennisCentre.

Launch of the National Bank Play Your Court Program

In August, Tennis Canada and National Bank announced the launch of the Play Your Court grant program to help communities revitalize their outdoor public tennis courts. Funded by National Bank, the initiative makes \$3 million available to revitalize more than 100 courts by 2030. The first four courts to be renovated as part of the program are in Morris Kerbel Park in Brampton, Ontario.

The program is currently accepting applications for projects of at least four outdoor courts. Drawing on the Brampton project, the Play Your Court Program aims to offer comparable grants to two additional projects in 2023 and to four more projects annually from 2024 to 2030.

For more information on the program, visit <https://www.tenniscanada.com/playyourcourt/>.

OBJECTIVE 2

PROMOTE POSITIVE TENNIS EXPERIENCES

Tennis Canada seeks to introduce best practices to make tennis fun, inclusive, safe and welcoming. To that end, we pursued our efforts to promote gender equity, in addition to launching a wellness and mental health initiative.

Gender equity program

In collaboration with National Bank, Tennis Canada is soon embarking on the third year of its gender equity program. Through meaningful action and change to promote gender equality in tennis, Tennis Canada and National Bank are generating new opportunities for women and girls to continue to play, become lifelong players and coaches, reap the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and achieve personal growth through sport.



In 2022, Tennis Canada created two new positions dedicated to the program, including the title of Director of Women and Girls' Tennis Advancement.

Among the program's most successful initiatives this past year was the inauguration of the annual UNMATCHED Gender Equality in Sports Conference presented by Tennis Canada and National Bank. Held in Toronto in conjunction with the National Bank Open, the event featured tennis legend and cultural icon Billie Jean King and brought together leaders, influencers, athletes, activists and academics from across Canada and around the world to celebrate women and girls in sport.

Tennis Canada's Mental Timeout project

In July, ahead of the 2022 National Bank Open presented by Rogers, Tennis Canada announced the launch of the [Mental Timeout](#) project: an innovative wellness initiative focused on the mental health of all Canadian tennis players. Mental Timeout is a series of actions towards Tennis Canada's commitment to improving the well-being of tennis players of all ages and abilities and ensuring a safe, healthy and supportive environment for the future of the sport. Mental Timeout ambassador Bianca Andreescu has been involved in several efforts to destigmatize the struggles many players face off the court.

The project is rooted in two key components: Tennis Canada's commitment as an institution to the future of the sport and the commitment Tennis Canada seeks from everyone as part of the tournaments organized across Canada.

The Mental Timeout project was inaugurated at the 2022 National Bank Open tournaments in Montréal and Toronto. This very first edition included two major initiatives: the [Positive Court Pledge](#) and **Tennis Therapy**.

Tennis Canada is committed to ensuring the next iterations of the Mental Timeout initiatives continue to focus on improving mental health and the sport of tennis. The long-term vision for the project is entirely aligned with Tennis Canada's safe sport actions and our goal to improve the lives of Canadians through tennis.

Under the strategy, Tennis Canada has joined forces with several partner organizations, including Game Plan, the Canadian Olympic Committee, the Canadian Paralympic Committee, Own the Podium, the Canadian Centre for Mental Health and Sport and the University of Ottawa, to provide support services, education and tools to help live a balanced life. In addition, Tennis Canada has begun working with its partners and experts to develop a long-term, sustainable mental health strategy for our elite players.

Tennis Canada's commitment to Safe Sport

Tennis Canada is considered a leader in safe sport and is fully committed to becoming a signatory of Abuse Free Sport in January 2023. For several years, Tennis Canada has had an independent mechanism in place that was available to participants at all levels, coast-to-coast.

Through our Tennis Professionals Association (TPA) and in partnership with our Provincial Tennis Associations, Tennis Canada requires coaches to be fully certified in safe sport and has implemented annual background checks as part of its safeguarding practices.

Furthermore, Tennis Canada has launched a national education and awareness campaign in partnership with its Provincial Tennis Associations whereby athletes and parents can check their coach's certification status to better understand their requirements.