



GRINDSTONE AWARD FOUNDATION

IMPACT REPORT 2023/2024



ABOUT THE GRINDSTONE AWARD FOUNDATION

Our mission

Our mission is at the heart of everything we do. Every day, we strive to help more girls get involved in hockey, ensuring that any girl with the desire to play has the opportunity—regardless of financial circumstances. We are passionate about our work and look forward to continuing to create opportunities for young female hockey players for years to come!

Contact us to learn more: info@grindstoneaward.com.



280

GRANTS FOR ALL TIME

\$140,000

IN AWARDED FUNDING

GRINDSTONE

BY THE NUMBERS 2023/24

351

Number of registration applications received.

160

Number of registration grants awarded

151

Number of equipment applications.

50

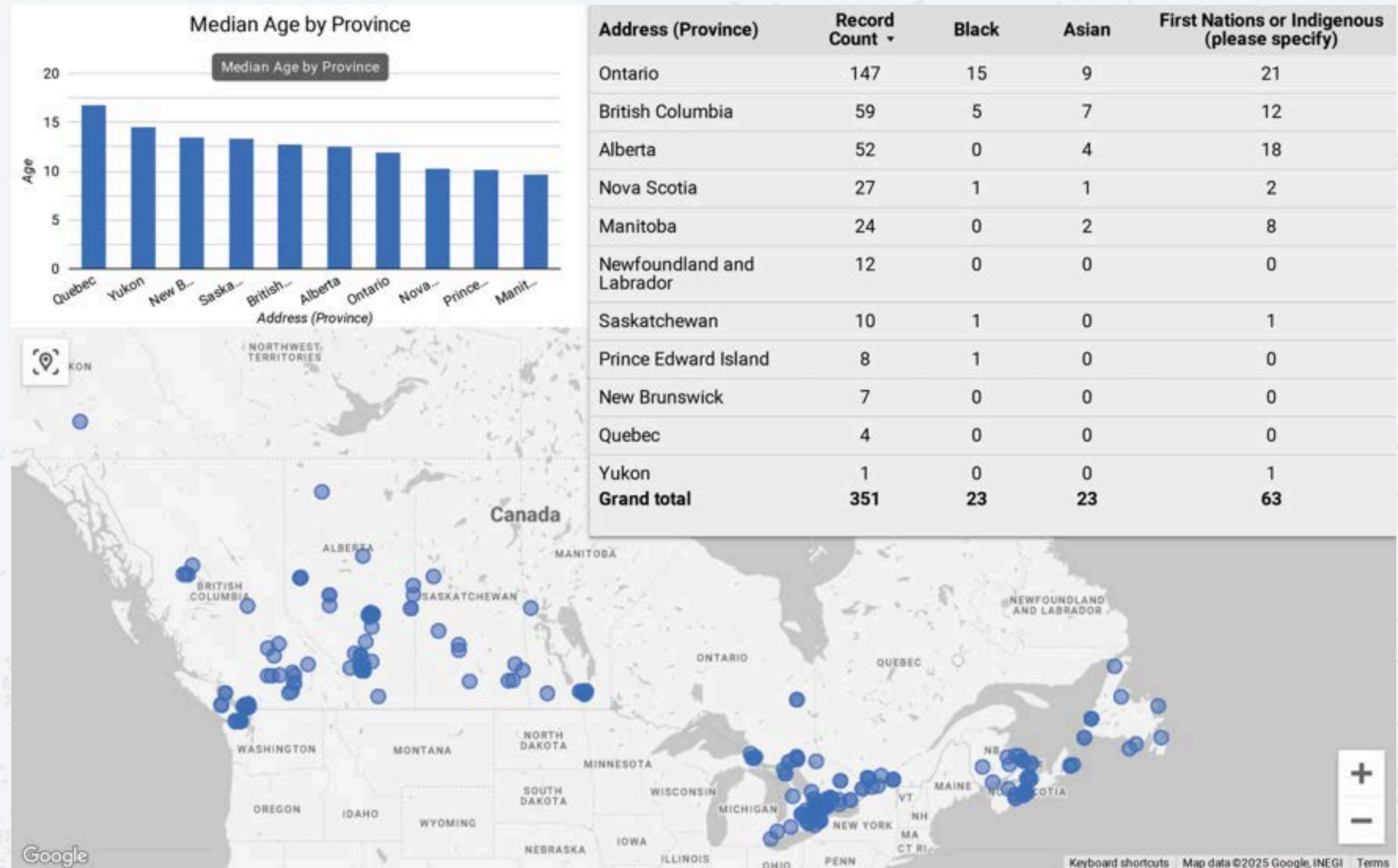
Number of equipment sets provided in partnership with the NHLPA.

GRINDSTONE

NATIONAL IMPACT

The Grindstone Award Foundation is a registered national charity committed to equity, diversity, inclusion, reconciliation, and accessibility (EDIRA) in each and everything we do from our Board of Directors' operations to our grassroots volunteerism.

We believe that everyone, regardless of socioeconomic barriers, should have the chance to step onto the ice to learn all of the positive values and lessons that can be applied to life off the ice.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

\$500 =
1 GRINDSTONE GRANT
=
1 MORE GRINDSTONE
GIRL ON THE ICE



TELUS partnered with Grindstone at the **2023 IIHF Women's World Championships** in Brampton, Ont, and provided \$10,000 to get 20 Grindstone girls on the ice.



The **Vancouver Canucks** hosted Grindstone for its annual Women's Empowerment Night in both 2023 and 2024, and the **Canucks for Kids Fund** generously donated \$20,000 in each year.



In 2023 and 2024, Team Canada forward **Danielle Serdachny raised a total of \$4,500** in support of Grindstone while hosting her Serdachny all-female elite summer hockey camp in Edmonton, Alta.



In partnership with the **National Hockey Players' Association (NHLPA)** through its Goals and Dreams Fund, 50 Grindstone Award applicants received full sets of brand new gear for 2023/24. The cost of equipment remains a large barrier to getting girls into the game of hockey. This donation represents the NHLPA's support through Grindstone equipment grants for a third straight year.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



WickFest, an **international girls' hockey festival** hosted by four-time Olympic gold medalist **Hayley Wickenheiser**, welcomed Grindstone to their tournaments across the country, including Calgary and Vancouver. Grindstone was able to raise funds as well as awareness for the charity at these events.



Jenna M. Prestidge, the author of a series of children's books titled **"Rosie the Hockey Player"** teamed up with Grindstone and has donated a portion of proceeds from her book sales to the charity in 2023 and 2024. The series is geared towards encouraging more girls to give hockey a try by highlighting the joys of playing on a team.

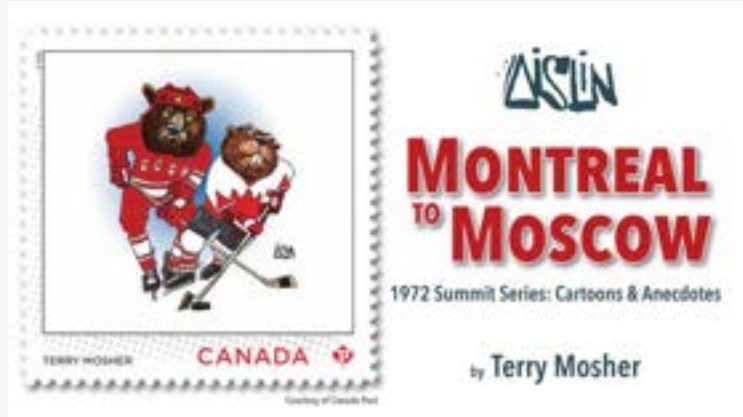


Retire My Number continues to partner with Grindstone, donating \$3,000 in 2023 alone, from the sales of banners displaying the numbers of Team Canada players to girls' minor hockey associations across the country.



Canada's National Women's Team players support and sponsor the Grindstone Award Foundation through 2023/24 and continue to do so in countless ways through individual fundraisers, welcoming us to their events and repping Grindstone swag.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



Terry Mosher, a cartoonist under the name AISLIN provided Grindstone with a \$2000 donation in 2023 from book proceeds. Terry Mosher joined the Montreal Gazette in 1972 as their editorial cartoonist. He was sent to Moscow to cover the second leg of the Summit Series, the eight-game hockey series between Canada and the Soviet Union. The book, *Montreal To Moscow: 1972 Summit Series Cartoons & Anecdotes*, was published with hockey legend Yvan Cournoyer by Aislin Inc. Publications.



Participants and sponsors at the **Lake Bonavista Girls Hockey Weekend** in Calgary, AB, donated enough money in August 2023 to support grants for five girls to play hockey this season and \$5365 raised in 2024!



HMC Lawyers based out of Alberta, along with Grindstone's Legal Director Kristen Hagg and HMC colleague Michael Hokanson, donated several tickets to give young girls and their families the chance to watch the Calgary Flames play live at the Scotiabank Saddledome, as well as donated \$5000 in 2023 and 2024.



The Grindstone Award Foundation is excited to continue supporting and standing behind the new **Professional Women's Hockey League (PWHL)** as it shatters female hockey records and glass ceilings. Thank you to the PWHL for giving little girls a platform that allows them to dream big when it comes to life on and off the ice. And thank you to the many individual PWHL players who continue to raise money and rally behind the Grindstone Award Foundation as we continue to grow our charity. We look forward to working together to grow female hockey, both on and off the ice, together. The future is bright indeed.



Grindstone attended the 50th Annual Little Native Hockey League (LNHL) tournament in Markham, Ont. in March. This is the **largest annual ice hockey tournament for First Nations youth in Ontario**. In addition to raising funds through donations and merchandise sales, attending the event allowed Grindstone to spread the word about what we do, and it also allowed us to understand how we can better serve our Indigenous communities across Canada.

In July 2023, **Team Canada** forward **Brianne Jenner** hosted the Grindstone Award Foundation at her **Summer Hockey Academy** in Ontario, providing a number of free spots for girls in financial need. Teammate **Jamie Lee Rattray** also coached and stopped by the Grindstone volunteer booth to encourage donations, raising a total of \$2000.

CONTINUING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



In August 2023, fellow Olympic gold medalists Renata Fast and Emma Maltais of Team Canada welcomed the Grindstone Award Foundation at their 2023 Fast & Maltais Summer Hockey Camp For Girls in Burlington, Ont.

In August 2023, the Jillian Saulnier Foundation welcomed the Grindstone Award Foundation, along with several Olympic gold medalists with Canada's National Women's Team, at her second annual Heart of Gold Golf Classic in Halifax, N.S., which raises funds for various charities.



In June 2023, several of our volunteers joined Team Canada alumna and Olympic gold medalist Laura Stacey's fourth annual LS7 Sticks In For Charity Road Hockey Tournament in Etobicoke, Ont. the Grindstone Award Foundation continues to be one of her partner charities.





In 2023, the Grindstone Award Foundation continued its close collaboration with the **Professional Women's Hockey Players Association (PWHPA)** and the Toronto Six of the **Premier Hockey Federation (PHF)**. The PWHPA hosted Grindstone at events such as its Dream Gap Tour, while the PHF regularly welcomed us to all home games of the Toronto Six, who went on to win the 2023 Isobel Cup.

The Grindstone Award Foundation continues to work with **U SPORTS** women's hockey teams such as the **McGill Martlets**, who serve as incredible role models to young female hockey players including our grant recipients. We're extremely grateful for McGill University being so welcoming to the Grindstone Award Foundation, and for all of the support and enthusiasm we receive from teams, leagues and associations across the country. The Grindstone brand continues to grow thanks to this important community support.



CONTINUING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



2-time Olympic gold medalist and 3-time world champion, **Natalie Spooner**, created her own line of merchandise - the 24 Corner Store - and donated \$4,000 in proceeds from sales to Grindstone. Thanks to this generous donation, Grindstone was able to get 8 more girls into hockey this past season. Natalie has been a longtime supporter of Grindstone and has continually used her platform to advocate for the charity.

In 2024, Grindstone was thrilled to welcome **Toronto Sceptres forward, Emma Woods**, as our newest ambassador. Emma brings with her a wealth of passion for growing the female game. She runs an annual camp in Creston, BC, aimed at giving more youth the chance to play the game of hockey. Emma successfully ran a donation campaign and was able to raise \$5,000 for Grindstone.





Sarah, 28, of Burlington, Ont, passed away suddenly in November 2023. Loved by many, Sarah, a competitive goaltender, always loved the game of hockey and she believed in giving back. Sarah's mother reached out to Grindstone to make a **legacy donation** to honour her daughter's memory.



The **North Shore Winter Club** U13 A1 Girls team, fresh off winning the provincial championships, donated \$2,500 to Grindstone as part of the **team's fundraising initiative** for the season. At the start of the season, the team allocated some of the funds they raised to support their various tournament costs throughout the season, to be donated to a charity. It allowed them to support others who might not be as fortunate as they are to be able to play the game.



Ways to Donate

We simply couldn't be more honoured or humbled at requests to designate Grindstone as a charity of choice for any sort of fundraising efforts, be it in memory of, a birthday, or any other event.

'Thank you' is not enough.



The Grindstone Award Foundation is currently run solely by a committed and passionate group of volunteers who are helping us spread our mission to “help her play” across the country.

We are truly grateful for each and every volunteer. Each one of you fully represents the values we want to help inspire by getting more girls into the game we all love.



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!



DANIELLE BELL PRESIDENT



JEHAN JIWA VICE PRESIDENT



PAULA BUSCH TREASURER



SUE BEDIER SECRETARY



TANYA GIAQUINTO DIRECTOR - OUTREACH



KRISTEN HAGG DIRECTOR - LEGAL



KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE DIRECTOR - MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



MELISSA TALARO DIRECTOR - GRANTS



HALEY RATH DIRECTOR



DAWN WIDDIFIELD DIRECTOR



And thank you to our Board of Directors for leading the way. **We love what we do to “help her play.”**

**THANK YOU TO
OUR SPONSORS**

PLATINUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



HOW CAN YOU HELP GRINDSTONE “HELP HER PLAY”?

Donate • Sponsor • Volunteer

Spread the word at the rink and in your community.

Follow us and share our posts on social media.

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HOW ELSE CAN YOU CONNECT WITH GRINDSTONE?

For more information or to discuss partnership or sponsorship opportunities, please email info@grindstoneaward.com

Donate



Volunteer

