



CANADA SOCCER
2021 ANNUAL REPORT: GOLDEN



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A MESSAGE FROM DR. NICK BONTIS, PRESIDENT

I am pleased to say that our sport was a shining light for many Canadians both in their local communities and on the global stage as the country and the world continued its recovery from the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. There has never been a better time to be involved in the world's game right here at home. In 2021, young footballers from coast to coast returned to play safely and our Women's and Men's National Teams captured the country's hearts over a record 43 international matches with not only their inspiring performances on the pitch, but also for what they represented off the pitch—diversity, equality and inclusion.

Together with our stakeholders in all provinces and territories and in our clubs and leagues, we safely and gratefully welcomed back the football community on the pitch, on the sidelines and in the stands. With double the number of registered players reuniting with their friends in clubs across the country, a sense of normalcy returned as video sessions became on field practices and most

importantly an opportunity to provide relief from the longer than anticipated hiatus that Covid-19 produced. Once our National Teams were permitted to play in Canada, we enthusiastically supported the golden generation of Canadian soccer in a sea-of-red.

As a fan, there is no greater feeling than seeing your flag raised in victory on the international stage. I was one of the record 4.4M Canadians that proudly sang the national anthem when Canada changed the colour of the medal to gold at Tokyo 2020, making them one of only two countries in the world to return to the podium three consecutive times in 2012, 2016 and 2020. Last year also marked a much-deserved recognition for captain Christine Sinclair who was rightfully presented with the first-ever Best FIFA Special Award in acknowledgement of her all-time goal scoring record for men or women which currently sits at 189 and counting.

As I stated at the start of my Presidency, it is crucial that we harness the incredible momentum that our Women's National Team Gold Medal performance created to secure private investment for the launch of women's professional soccer in our country. I am fully and unequivocally committed, and it has become a strategic priority for our Board.

The Men's National Team advancing to the Final Round of FIFA World Cup Qualifiers Qatar 2022™ for the first time since 1997 and a Semi-final appearance at the Concacaf Gold Cup for the first time since 2007 gave Canadians an opportunity to join the journey to return to the FIFA World Cup for the first time in 36 years. Beyond leaving the jersey in a better place for their country, a record four players competed in UEFA Champions League play in 2021

demonstrating that our players are proudly representing the flag for both club and country.

The success of our National Teams is built on the efforts of those who came before us both on and off the pitch. After years of investment, commitment and dedication to our vision, Canada Soccer has established itself as a leading football nation with our Men's and Women's National Teams uniting the country and inspiring the next generation.

I would be remiss if I did not, on behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and member associations, say thank you to two key members of our organization who have moved on from their roles with Canada Soccer. To Peter Montopoli, our organization's eleventh General Secretary and Joe Guest, our Deputy General Secretary during this tenure, I thank you both for your unwavering commitment, passion, and dedication for your leadership during a transformative time for the sport in our country.

I am humbled and honoured to lead the Canadian football community during this unprecedented period of growth for our sport and together we will DEVELOP, GROW and GOVERN as outlined in our new Strategic Plan for 2022 through 2026—a plan that will serve as our beacon leading into the co-hosting of the once-in-a-generation FIFA World Cup 2026™.



LEGACY OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Outgoing Canada Soccer General Secretary Peter Montopoli and Deputy General Secretary Joe Guest have made remarkable contributions to sport in Canada, especially these past 15 years during the most impactful era for soccer in our country. Mr. Montopoli will continue to create a legacy for the sport as the Chief Operating Officer Canada for the FIFA World Cup 2026™ while Mr. Guest has taken his retirement after a sporting career that included the positions of Referee Manager at the Football Association and then Director of Refereeing at Canada Soccer.

Canada Soccer established itself on and off the pitch during these past 15 years, most notably with the strengthening of the professional soccer landscape in Canada, establishing attendance records for international matches including Concacaf and FIFA events, and the unlocking of the potential for Canada Soccer's National Teams. In their final year, Canada Soccer's Women's National Team won a historic Gold Medal at the Olympic Games

while the Men's National Team returned to the Concacaf Final Round of FIFA World Cup Qualifiers for the first time since 1996-97.

They were both involved with the FIFA U-20 World Cup Canada 2007, with notably Mr. Montopoli serving as the National Event Director for the record-setting tournament which drew 1,195,239 cumulative spectators across 52 matches. The 30 June double-header at Stade Olympique drew an incredible 55,800 fans, which marked the first time in 24 years that a Canadian soccer match drew the highest attendance of the year for an in-stadia sporting event in Canada.

From 2008 to 2021, Canada Soccer's National Teams played more than 900 combined international "A" and youth international matches across the world. Three times in 2015 during the FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015™ in Edmonton and Vancouver and then once again in 2016 during FIFA World Cup Qualifiers in Vancouver, Canada Soccer set a national attendance record for an in-stadia, Canadian national teams sporting event played in Canada. The standing national record established 25 March 2016 featured 54,798 fans for the Canada-Mexico match at BC Place in Vancouver.

After setting the tournament attendance record at the FIFA U-20 World Cup Canada 2007, Canada Soccer helped establish tournament attendance records at the 2012 Concacaf Women's Olympic Qualifying in Vancouver (162,223 cumulative spectators across 15 matches) and then the FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015™ from coast to coast across the country (1,353,506 cumulative spectators across 52 matches). The FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015™ holds the record for the largest

cumulative attendance for a FIFA event excluding the men's FIFA World Cup™.

On the pitch, Canada Soccer's National Teams won or drew 90% of their competitive "A" matches played in Canada with 28 wins, eight draws and just four losses in 40 FIFA/Concacaf matches. Across the world, Canada Soccer's Women's National Team won the 2010 Concacaf Women's Championship, back-to-back Bronze Medals at the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Olympic Games, and then a Gold Medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in 2021. At Tokyo 2020, they were the first Canadian team to win three consecutive medals at the Summer Olympic Games and just the third nation in the world to win three medals in women's soccer.

Up next, Montopoli will lead Canada's hosting efforts for the 2026 FIFA World Cup™, including the eight-year runway that he helped established at Canada Soccer. In 2018, he served as Canada's Bid Director for the successful United 2026 bid that won the rights to co-host the FIFA World Cup™ alongside our neighbours Mexico and the United States.

KEY MOMENTS: 2008–2021

From 2008 to 2021, Peter Montopoli served as Canada Soccer's General Secretary while Joe Guest served as the Deputy General Secretary. Mr. Montopoli had previously served as the National Event Director for the FIFA U-20 World Cup Canada 2007 (starting at Canada Soccer in 2005) while Mr. Guest had served as Director of Refereeing (starting at Canada Soccer in 2006).



3.20

Canada won the Concacaf Women's U-17 Championship in Costa Rica.

2008



2009

7.22

The Impact de Montréal won the first edition of the Canadian Championship, lifting the Voyageurs Cup in Toronto.

2010

11.5

Canada qualified for the FIFA Women's World Cup Germany 2011™ after winning their semi-final match at the 2010 Concacaf Women's Championship in Cancun, QR, Mexico.



11.8

Canada won their second Concacaf Women's Championship.

1.19–1.29

Canada hosted the Concacaf Women's Olympic Qualifiers in Vancouver, setting a tournament record with 162,223 cumulative spectators across 15 matches.



8.9

Canada won bronze at the London 2012 Women's Olympic Football Tournament becoming the first team sport to win a medal at the Summer Olympics since 1936.

2011

3.3

Canada Soccer awarded the rights to host the FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015™.

6.26–7.5

Canada participated at the FIFA Women's World Cup Germany 2011™.

2012

1.27

Canada qualified for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament after winning their semi-final match at the 2012 Concacaf Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Vancouver, BC, Canada.

5.5

Canada Soccer implemented a revamped governance structure that took effect at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Members.

KEY MOMENTS: CONTINUED



8.5–8.24

Canada hosted the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Canada 2014. The tournament drew 288,558 spectators across 32 matches.

2013

4.13

The first match was played in the National Women's Soccer League, a new professional league co-founded by Canada Soccer, the Mexican Football Federation, and US Soccer.

2014

2015



6.6–7.5

Canada Soccer hosted the FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015™, setting a tournament record with 1,353,506 cumulative spectators across 52 matches. The competition was viewed by more than 750-million global television viewers while both the FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015™ and FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Canada 2014 supported \$493.6 million in economic activity in Canada.



2.19

Canada qualified for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament after winning their semi-final match at the 2016 Concacaf Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Houston, TX, USA.



8.19

Canada won bronze at the Rio 2016 Women's Olympic Football Tournament becoming the first team sport to win back-to-back medals in more than a century.

2016



3.25

Canada Soccer drew 54,798 fans for a Men's FIFA World Cup Qualifiers match at BC Place in Vancouver (Canada 0:3 Mexico), a national attendance record for an in-stadia, Canadian national teams sporting event played in Canada.

2017

4.10

Canada Soccer, Mexican Football Federation and US Soccer Federation sign letter of cooperation to bid for the right to host the FIFA World Cup 2026™.

KEY MOMENTS: CONTINUED

3.15

United Bid Committee submit their bid for the FIFA World Cup 2026™.

10.14

Canada qualified for the FIFA Women's World Cup France 2019™ after winning their semi-final match at the 2018 Concacaf Women's Championship in Frisco, TX, USA.

2018



6.13

Canada, Mexico and USA won their United 2026 bid to host the FIFA World Cup 2026™.

2019



4.27

The first match in the new Canadian Premier League was played at Tim Hortons Field in Hamilton, Ontario.



1.29

Christine Sinclair became the world's all-time international goalscoring record holder. She scored her 185th international "A" goal at the Concacaf Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Edinburg, Texas.

2020

2.7

Canada qualified for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament after winning their semi-final match at the 2020 Concacaf Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Carson, CA, USA.

2021

6.15

Canada Soccer's Men's National Team qualify for the Final Round of FIFA World Cup Qualifiers for the first time since 1996-97.



8.6

Canada Soccer's Women's National Team won Olympic gold at the Tokyo 2020 Women's Olympic Football Tournament in Japan.

2021 MOMENT OF THE YEAR: TOKYO GOLD

It was a moment that Canadians dreamed about that turned into reality this past summer at the Olympic Games in Tokyo: Canada Soccer's Women's National Team at the top of the podium for the first time. That moment—winning Olympic Gold on 6 August 2021 after a 1:1 draw with Sweden and then a 3-2 victory on kicks from the penalty mark—was the Top Canada Soccer Moment of 2021.

It was a historic year for Canada, a year in which they posted seven wins, seven draws and three losses along with an Olympic Gold Medal and a Women's National Team record 12-match unbeaten streak in international competition. They became just the third nation in the world to win three Olympic medals in women's soccer (after USA and Germany) and one of the only two nations in the world to win an Olympic medal in each of the last three Olympic Games (Brazil in men's soccer and Canada in women's soccer). They were also named the Canadian Team of the Year by both the Canadian Press and Postmedia.

The 12-match unbeaten streak carried the Women's National Team through to the Olympic Football Tournament in Japan. Canada earned five points through their first three group matches, with draws against Japan and Great Britain as well as a 2:1 victory over Chile. Canada then eliminated Brazil on kicks from the penalty mark in the Quarterfinals and beat USA in the semi-final on a 1:0 penalty goal by Jessie Fleming —Canada's first victory over USA in 21 years.

In the Olympic Final on 6 August, Fleming scored the 1-1 equalizer on a penalty kick—awarded to Canada after captain Christine Sinclair was taken down inside the box. From there, the Final went to kicks from the penalty mark for the first time in the tournament history. On kicks, Canada goalkeeper Stephanie Labbé made two crucial saves before Julia Grosso scored the medal-winning goal to capture Canada Soccer's Women's National Team their first ever Olympic Gold Medal.









WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM CELEBRATION TOUR

After winning their Olympic Gold Medal, Canada Soccer kicked off the Women's National Team Celebration Tour in the nation's capital on 23 October 2021. Ahead of the first two matches as part of the October FIFA international window, players and staff were celebrated at a private reception and dinner banquet.

Canada won both October matches against New Zealand: 5:1 at Ottawa on 23 October and then 1:0 at Montréal on 27 October. The Women's National Team Celebration Tour was scheduled to continue with additional matches during the FIFA international windows in 2022.





CHRISTINE SINCLAIR HONOURED WITH THE BEST FIFA SPECIAL AWARD

Christine Sinclair, the world's all-time international goalscoring record holder, was honoured as a recipient of The Best FIFA Special Award on Monday 17 January 2022. Sinclair, who broke the world record with her 185th international "A" goal in 2020, was recognised alongside Cristiano Ronaldo, who received The Best FIFA Special Award in recognition of breaking the men's record with his 110th international "A" goal.

Sinclair was also one of three members from Canada Soccer's Women's National Team shortlisted for FIFA awards based on their 2020-21 performances for club and country (from October 2020 through August 2021). Sinclair was a candidate for The Best FIFA Women's Player, Stephanie Labbé was a candidate for The Best FIFA Women's Goalkeeper (she finished as the runner up in voting), and Bev Priestman was a candidate for The Best FIFA Women's Coach.



THE BEST

FIFA SPECIAL AWARD

— CHRISTINE SINCLAIR —

WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM

Canada finished their memorable Olympic Gold Medal year with a 0:0 away draw against Mexico in the second of a two-match friendly series in Mexico City, Mexico. The draw closed out an incredible year in which Canada posted seven wins, seven draws and three losses along with a Women's National Team record 12-match unbeaten streak and a world title at the Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Canada are Olympic champions (Tokyo 2020), two-time bronze medal winners (2012 and 2016), and two-time Concacaf champions (1998 and 2010). In all, Canada have participated in seven consecutive editions of the FIFA Women's World Cup™ (1995–2019) and four consecutive editions of the Women's Olympic Football Tournament (2008–2021).

At Tokyo 2020, Canada Soccer's Women's National Team became the first Canadian team to win three consecutive medals at the Summer Olympic Games and just the third nation in the world to win three medals in women's soccer.





DATE	MATCH	RESULT	MATCH TYPE	LOCATION	VENUE
18 FEB	CANWNT V USA	0:1	SHEBELIEVES CUP	ORLANDO, FL	EXPLORIA STADIUM
21 FEB	CANWNT V ARG	1:0	SHEBELIEVES CUP	ORLANDO, FL	EXPLORIA STADIUM
24 FEB	CANWNT V BRA	0:2	SHEBELIEVES CUP	ORLANDO, FL	EXPLORIA STADIUM
9 APR	CANWNT V WAL	3:0	WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY	CARDIFF, WAL	EXPLORIA STADIUM
13 APR	CANWNT V ENG	2:0	WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY	STOKE-ON-TRENT, ENG	STOKE CITY STADIUM
11 JUN	CANWNT V CZE	0:0	WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY	CARTAGENA, ESP	ESTADIO CARTAGONOVA
14 JUN	CANWNT V BRA	0:0	WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY	CARTAGENA, ESP	ESTADIO CARTAGONOVA
21 JUL	CANWNT V JPN	1:1	WOMEN'S OLYMPIC FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT (FIFA)	SAPPORO, JPN	SAPPORO DOME
24 JUL	CANWNT V CHI	2:1	WOMEN'S OLYMPIC FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT (FIFA)	SAPPORO, JPN	SAPPORO DOME
27 JUL	CANWNT V GBR	1:1	WOMEN'S OLYMPIC FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT (FIFA)	KASHIMA, JPN	IBARAKI KASHIMA STADIUM
30 JUL	CANWNT V BRA	0:0	WOMEN'S OLYMPIC FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT (FIFA)	RISHU, JPN	MIYAGI STADIUM
8 AUG	CANWNT V USA	1:0	WOMEN'S OLYMPIC FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT (FIFA)	KASHIMA, JPN	IBARAKI KASHIMA STADIUM
6 AUG	CANWNT V SWE	1:1	WOMEN'S OLYMPIC FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT (FIFA)	YOKOHAMA, JPN	YOKOHAMA STADIUM
23 OCT	CANWNT V NZL	5:1	WOMEN'S CELEBRATION TOUR	OTTAWA, ON	TD PLACE
26 OCT	CANWNT V NZL	1:0	WOMEN'S CELEBRATION TOUR	MONTREAL, QC	STADE SAPUTO
27 NOV	CANWNT V MEX	1:2	WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY	CIUDAD MEXICO, MEX	CENTRO DE ALTO RENDIMIENTO DE MEXICO
30 NOV	CANWNT V MEX	0:0	WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY	CIUDAD MEXICO, MEX	ESTADIO AZULGRANA

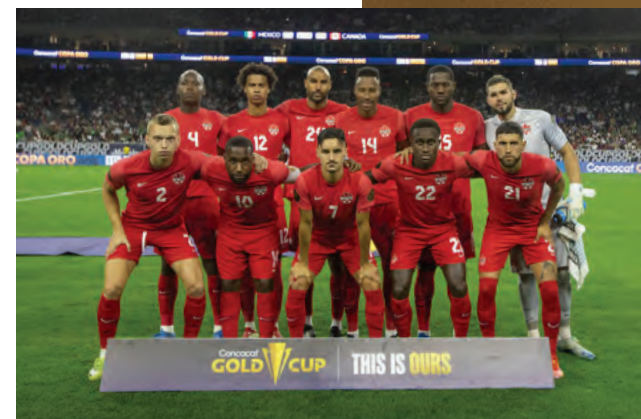
MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM

Canada has built plenty of momentum in a landmark year for the Men's National Team Program that featured a record 19 international matches including FIFA World Cup Qualifiers and the Concacaf Gold Cup. Canada posted a record of 13-4-2 with nine clean sheets and a record 55 goals scored. Canada also set a record with eight consecutive wins and reached the Concacaf Gold Cup Semifinals for the first time since 2007.

Canada played eight of their 14 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers in the Concacaf Final Round from September through November 2021: three matches in September, three matches in October, and two matches in November.

To reach the Concacaf Final Round, Canada won their First-Round group against Aruba, Bermuda, Cayman Islands and Suriname, then eliminated Haiti in a head-to-head Second Round series. This marks the first time since 1996-97 that Canada reached the Concacaf Final Round of FIFA World Cup Qualifiers.

From the youth level, Canada Soccer's Men's U-23 National Team reached the Semifinals at 2021 Concacaf Men's Olympic Qualifying, losing 2:0 to Mexico who qualified alongside Honduras for the Olympic Games. Through an aligned Men's National Team Program, this international tournament experience (with matches against El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras and Mexico) was an important next step for Canada's young players on their journey to the Men's National Team.





DATE	MATCH	RESULT	MATCH TYPE	LOCATION	VENUE
3 MAR	CANMNT V BER	5:1	FIFA WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS	ORLANDO, FL	EXPLORIA STADIUM
29 MAR	CANMNT V CAY	11:0	FIFA WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS	BRADENTON, FL	IMG ACADEMY
5 JUN	CANMNT V ARU	7:0	FIFA WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS	BRADENTON, FL	IMG SOCCER COMPLEX
8 JUN	CANMNT V SUR	4:0	FIFA WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS	BRIDGEVIEW, IL	SEATGEEK STADIUM
12 JUN	CANMNT V HAI	1:0	FIFA WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS	PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAI	STADE SYLVIO CATOR
15 JUN	CANMNT V HAI	3:0	FIFA WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS	BRIDGEVIEW, IL	SEATGEEK STADIUM
11 JUL	CANMNT V MTQ	4:1	CONCACAF GOLD CUP	KANSAS CITY, KS	CHILDREN'S MERCY PARK
15 JUL	CANMNT V HAI	4:1	CONCACAF GOLD CUP	KANSAS CITY, KS	CHILDREN'S MERCY PARK
18 JUL	CANMNT V USA	0:1	CONCACAF GOLD CUP	KANSAS CITY, KS	CHILDREN'S MERCY PARK
25 JUL	CANMNT V CRC	2:0	CONCACAF GOLD CUP	ARLINGTON, TX	AT&T STADIUM
29 JUL	CANMNT V MEX	1:2	CONCACAF GOLD CUP	HOUSTON, TX	NRG STADIUM
2 SEPT	CANMNT V HON	1:1	FIFA WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS	TORONTO, ON	BMO FIELD
5 SEPT	CANMNT V USA	1:1	FIFA WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS	NASHVILLE, TN	NISSAN STADIUM
8 SEPT	CANMNT V SLV	3:0	FIFA WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS	TORONTO, ON	BMO FIELD
7 OCT	CANMNT V MEX	1:1	FIFA WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS	CIUDAD MÉXICO, MEX	ESTADIO AZTECA
10 OCT	CANMNT V JAM	0:0	FIFA WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS	KINGSTON, JAM	NATIONAL STADIUM
13 OCT	CANMNT V PAN	4:1	FIFA WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS	TORONTO, ON	BMO FIELD
12 NOV	CANMNT V CRC	1:0	FIFA WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS	EDMONTON, AB	COMMONWEALTH STADIUM
16 NOV	CANMNT V MEX	2:1	FIFA WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS	EDMONTON, AB	COMMONWEALTH STADIUM

FUTSAL NATIONAL TEAM

Canada Soccer's Futsal National Team Head Coach Kyt Selaidopoulos named a 14-player roster ahead of the start of the 2021 Concacaf Futsal Championship that took place from 3-9 May 2021 in Guatemala City.

Canada took on three teams in the tournament with a 4:2 win against Haiti on 4 May, a 5:1 loss against Costa Rica and drew the match 1:1 against Panama but lost 4:3 in a penalty shootout.

Joshua Lemos was unbeaten in both of his international matches at the Concacaf Futsal Championship, a 4:2 win over Haiti and then the 1:1 draw with Panama before Canada were eliminated on penalty kicks. It was Lemos' third Concacaf Futsal Championship since 2012.

The 32-year-old goalkeeper was Canada's star player at the 2021 Concacaf Futsal Championship in Guatemala, bringing Canada to within a win of qualifying for the FIFA Futsal World Cup.



DATE	MATCH	RESULT	MATCH TYPE	LOCATION	VENUE
4 MAY	CAN V HAI	4:2	CONCACAF FUTSAL CHAMPIONSHIP	CIUDAD GUATEMALA, GUA	DOMO POLIDEPORTIVO
5 MAY	CAN V CRC	1:5	CONCACAF FUTSAL CHAMPIONSHIP	CIUDAD GUATEMALA, GUA	DOMO POLIDEPORTIVO
7 MAY	CAN V PAN	1:1	CONCACAF FUTSAL CHAMPIONSHIP	CIUDAD GUATEMALA, GUA	DOMO POLIDEPORTIVO

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

The Canada Soccer Players of the Year award celebrated Canada's top two footballers in recognition of their achievements with both the National Teams and their respective clubs. Voting was conducted by Canadian coaches and media.

Alphonso Davies was named the Canadian Player of the Year for the third time in four seasons after setting the Men's National Team record with eight assists, winning his third-straight Bundesliga title, and becoming the first Canadian to win the FIFA Club World Cup with FC Bayern München.

Olympic champion Jessie Fleming was named the Canadian Player of the Year for the first time after leading Canada in matches, starts and minutes played while also co-leading Canada in goals scored. She also helped Chelsea FC win the FA Women's Super League, the FA Cup, the FA League Cup, and reach the Final of 2020-21 UEFA Champions League.

As part of the 2021 Canada Soccer Player Awards, Theo Corbeanu and Jade Rose were named Canada Soccer Youth International Players of the Year while Joshua Lemos was named the Canada Soccer Futsal Player of the Year.



DEVELOPMENT

OVERVIEW

In 2021, Canada Soccer was in a transition year in the Development Department, with coach education pivoting to a virtual learning environment due to the ongoing pandemic. This adjustment also necessitated changes to the processes associated with Club Licensing.

There were also transitions in staffing, with Stuart Neely stepping down from his role as Manager of Coach Education and Jim Loughlin assuming this role as of April 1 2021. This change allowed for a review of the structure of the Development Department that led to the creation of the new role of Manager of Development—Programming with a focus on supporting program development and operation concentrating on representation of women, marginalized, and underrepresented groups across Canada. Former Women's National Team member and A-Licence coach, Kristina Kiss, took on this role.

CLUB LICENSING

Work continued on the implementation of the Canada Soccer Club Licensing Program throughout 2021. In all, 103 new Licences were granted in 2021, representing eight Member Associations. This included two National Youth Club Licences, five Member Association Youth Club Licence—Level 2, 43 Member Association Youth Club Licence—Level 1, and 53 Standards for Quality Soccer Licences.

Canada Soccer and its Member Associations continued to work towards the requirement that all amateur clubs that operate a youth program hold, as a minimum requirement, the Standards for Quality Soccer Licence by the start of the 2023 season. At the end of 2021, there were 256 licenced clubs representing nine member associations (59 National Youth Club Licences, 21 Member Association Youth Club Licence—Level 2, 81 Member Association Youth Club Licence—Level 1, and 91 Standards for Quality Soccer Licences).



COACH EDUCATION

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to have a large impact on coach education; however, it also presented new opportunities to leverage technology to support coaches and coach developers. The new Grassroots Coach Education Program was launched with significant overhauls to the Active Start, FUNdamentals, Learn to Train, and Soccer for Life workshops.

In 2021, more than 7,750 Grassroots Theory Workshops were completed, which represents a very strong start to a new approach to the delivery of grassroots coach education. Also, there was a total of 263 new (13 A Licence, 79 B Licence, 112 Youth Licence, 59 Children's Licence) and 46 renewed (20 A Licence and 26 B Licence) Advanced Coach Education Licences issued. Within the Advanced Coach Education Program, online delivery continued with 390 coaches participating in the English delivery

and another 78 coaches in the French Delivery of the Children's, Youth, B and B (Part 2) Licence workshops. The new Youth Licence—Goalkeeping workshop ran its first pilot with 32 coaches participating and 6 new Coach Developers receiving training to deliver the workshop. The second pilot of this workshop was scheduled to begin in February of 2022.

In support of increasing representation and diversity within coach education, in 2021, the Advanced Coach Education Program delivered an all-women's C Licence for League 1 Ontario with 52 Coaches, four women Learning Facilitators and one woman Mentor Master Coach Developer participating. An additional 20 new coach developers (12 women and eight men) were trained to facilitate the Advanced Coach Education Program workshops.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

Upon moving into the Manager of Development: Programming role, Kristina Kiss worked on developing a national Women's Soccer Strategy. As a starting point, a two-part Women's Soccer Survey was created and launched to explore, understand, and establish the state of play on known barriers within women's soccer in Canada.

Phase 1 involved moderated online interviews with 50 women involved in the game. Phase 2, a national community survey, was scheduled to be launched in early 2022. The results of the Phase 2 surveys will contribute to a strategy designed to grow the game and confront and surmount challenges currently being faced by women and girls in Canadian soccer.

TOTAL COACHES: 21,769

MALE: 16,045

FEMALE: 5,724

REFEREES

Canada Soccer referees Lyes Arfa and Pierre-Luc Lauzière were both new to the FIFA List of International Referees in 2021. Arfa and Lauzière were two of 15 Canadians on the FIFA List eligible for international appointments. Before their appointment to the FIFA List, both Arfa and Lauzière had played key roles as officials at the Canadian Premier League's 2020 Island Games in Charlottetown, PEI.

Also in 2021, Marie-Soleil Beaudoin, Chantal Boudreau, Stéphanie Fortin and Myriam Marcotte were nominated as candidates for the FIFA Women's World Cup Australia/New Zealand 2023™. Drew Fischer, meanwhile, was named as a Video Assistant Referee to both the Concacaf Gold Cup (including the Final Match) as well as the FIFA Club World Cup™. Micheal Barwegen was appointed to the Concacaf Gold Cup as well as the 2021 Concacaf Champions League Grand Final while David Gantar was appointed

to the Concacaf Gold Cup as well as the 2021 Canadian Championship Final. Oscar Mitchell-Carvalho, meanwhile, was appointed to the MLS Cup Final. In its third year, the Canada Soccer NextGEN Program featured 34 officials. These developing officials are eligible for appointment to professional competitions in Canada including the Canadian Championship and Canadian Premier League.

In October, Canada Soccer hosted a Female Referee Symposium in Toronto, bringing together female referees from across Canada who were nominated by their Provincial/Territorial Member Association. The symposium featured young officials who were provided with education, insights and shared experiences through classroom and field exercises. The symposium was led by FIFA Referee Instructors Michelle Pye and Héctor Vergara alongside Carol Anne Chénard and Sheena Dickson.



TOTAL REFEREES: 12,675

MALE: 9,914

FEMALE: 2,763



GROW

ACTIVE START SOCCER FESTS

Although the pandemic continued to impact the number of Canada Soccer’s Active Start Soccer Fests in 2021, the season wrapped up with 52 community soccer clubs hosting fun-filled festivals from coast to coast-to coast.

Over the past year, Canada’s largest grassroots soccer program connected nearly 25,000 Active Start participants under the age of 12 and nearly 43,000 total on-site attendees including families, volunteers, and coaches across the Canadian soccer community. First introduced in 2020, Canada Soccer’s guidance and venue assessment tool helped local clubs assess and manage the risk associated with staging an Active Start Soccer Fest in their community.

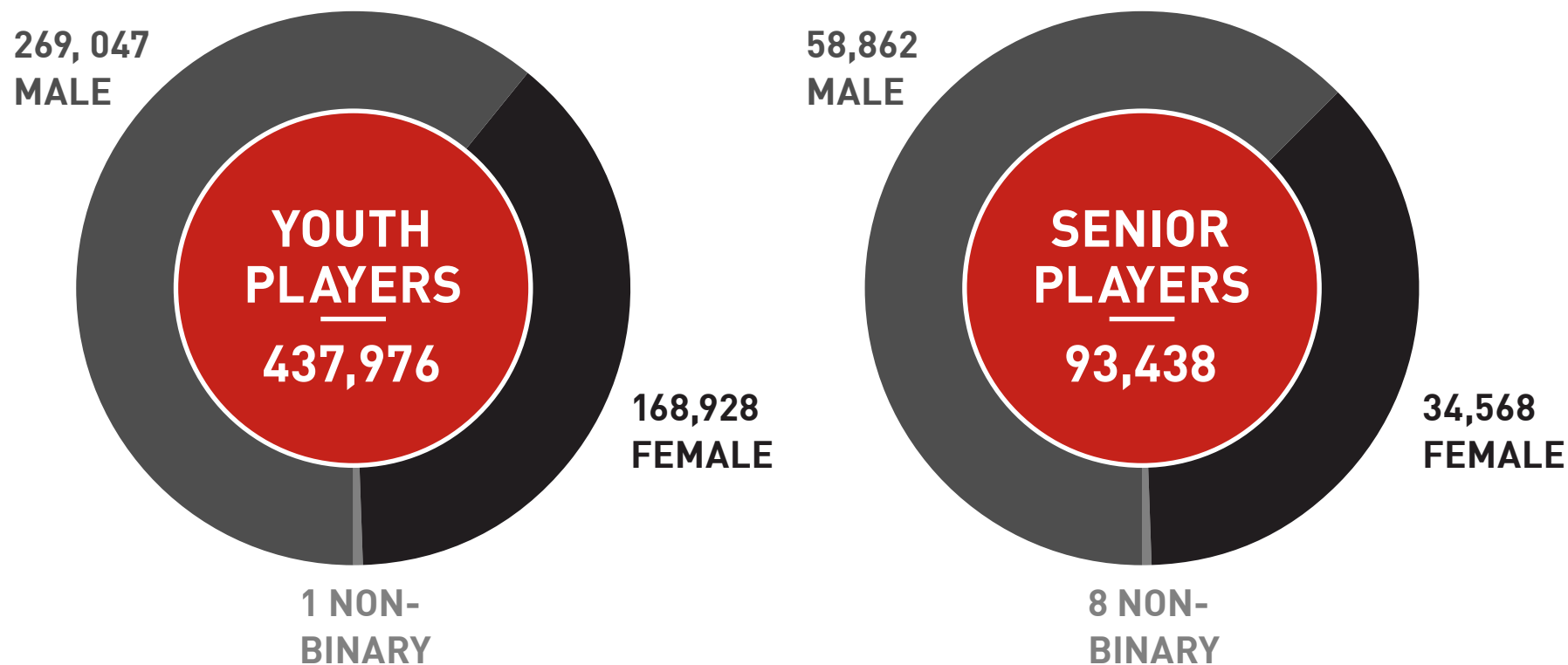
As Canada’s leading grassroots soccer program, Active Start Soccer Fests deliver financial, promotional, and technical resources that contribute to the hosting of community soccer celebrations in collaboration with community soccer clubs. Canada Soccer recognizes and thanks the program’s community club partners who contribute significant time and energy to create the best possible experience, encouraging lifelong participation in the beautiful game.



PROVINCE/TERRITORY	FESTIVALS
Alberta	4
British Columbia	8
Manitoba	3
New Brunswick	5
Newfoundland	4
Nova Scotia	7
Ontario	13
Prince Edward Island	1
Québec	6
Yukon	1

GOVERN

DEMOGRAPHICS



TOTAL PLAYERS: 531, 414

TOTAL COACHES: 21,769

TOTAL REFEREES: 12,675

TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS, COACHES & REFEREES: 565,858

GOVERN

PROFESSIONAL SOCCER AROUND THE WORLD

Alphonso Davies became the first Canadian soccer player to win the men's FIFA Club World Cup title in February 2021. He was also one of more than a dozen Canadian players that won league titles in Europe when he captured his third Bundesliga championship in May at FC Bayern München. Alongside Davies, Jonathan David became the first Canadian to win the French Ligue 1 title with Lille OSC.

In women's football, Jordyn Huitema and Ashley Lawrence helped Paris Saint-Germain FC win the French Division 1 while Jessie Fleming won the FA Women's Super League with Chelsea FC in England, Cloé Lacasse won the Campeonato Nacional Feminino with SL Benfica in Portugal, Alyssa Lagonia won the Super League with Servette FC Chênois in Switzerland, and both Chandra Bednar and Caroline Kehrer won the Noi Liga NB with Ferencváros TV in Hungary. Fleming also won the FA Cup and the FA League Cup while Lacasse won the Taça da Liga.

In men's football, Scott Arfield won the Scottish Premiership with Rangers FC, Milan Borjan won

the Serbian SuperLiga with Red Star Belgrade, and both Atiba Hutchinson and Cyle Larin won the Turkish Süper Lig with Besiktas JK. Hutchinson and Larin also won the Turkish Cup and Turkish Super Cup while David Wotherspoon won both the Scottish Cup and Scottish League Cup with St. Johnstone FC.

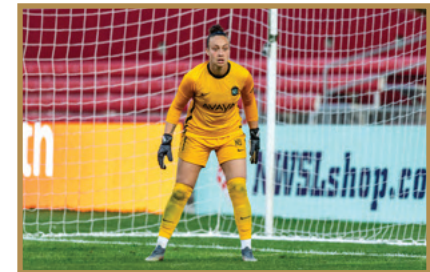
In North America, Christine Sinclair captained Portland Thorns FC to the NWSL Challenge Cup and NWSL Shield as well as the Women's International Champions Cup. Tajon Buchanan helped New England Revolution win the 2021 MLS Supporters' Shield while Liam Fraser helped Columbus Crew SC win the 2021 Campeones Cup.

David and Larin were the first two Canadians to score 30 or more goals for club and country in a calendar year since the turn of the century. Larin scored 36 goals, including his Men's National Team record 14 goals for Canada in 2021. David scored 34 goals in 2021 and set a record for most goals by a Canadian in a top-5 men's European league (13 goals in 2020-21 and even more in 2021-22).

In North America, 45 Canadian players featured in at least one MLS match, including 10 of whom played for a record 10 different American-based teams. Canadians featured in a record 742 MLS matches in 2021 (more than a 50% gain on the previous record from 2019), made 500 starts, and played 45,403 minutes, an important development from the partnership between Canada Soccer and MLS to drive Canadians into High Performance environments through the Homegrown Player initiative. Maxime Crépeau, the Whitecaps' Player of the Year, was the Canadian leader with 2,430 minutes played.

In the NWSL, 14 Canadian players featured in at least one match for eight different teams. Rookie of the Year nominee Victoria Pickett led all Canadians with 1,503 minutes played while Goalkeeper of the Year nominee Kailen Sheridan finished second with 1,440 minutes.

In UEFA Champions League, Jordyn Huitema set a Canadian record for most goals in a campaign (six from October to December 2021) and most career goals in the competition (12).



GOVERN

CANADIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

The 2021 Canadian Premier League began on 26 June with “The Kickoff” with each team playing eight matches in a single-site bubble at Winnipeg’s IG Field due to COVID-19 restrictions. All clubs returned to play in their home venues in late July. Atletico Ottawa made their home debut at TD Place on 17 August, setting a league attendance record of 12,064.

Pacific FC defeated two-time reigning champions Forge FC in the Canadian Premier League Final by a score of 1:0 to lift the 2021 North Star Shield at Tim Hortons Field in Hamilton, ON. Alessandro Hojabrpour scored the championship winning goal and was named Man of the Match. Forge FC competed in the Concacaf League for their third consecutive season, advancing to the semi-finals and qualifying for the 2022 Concacaf Champions League. Canadian goalkeeper Jonathan Sirois (Valour FC) won the Golden Glove, and Canadian Alessandro Hojabrpour (Pacific FC) won the Best Under 21 Canadian Player of the Year.



MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

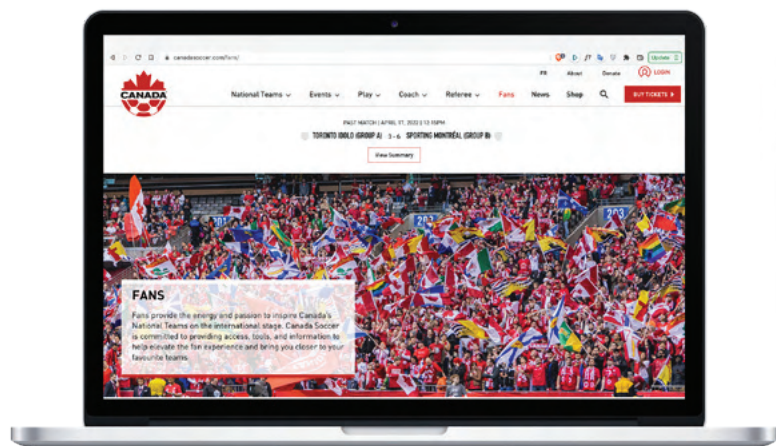
- Canada Soccer introduced a new brand identity for the Canadian Championship in 2021. Influenced by the core principles of celebrating the best of Canadian soccer and building on the vibrant heritage of the competition, with the emblematic Voyageurs Cup at the heart of the design and dynamic maple leaf visual, the refreshed brand symbolizes the sport of soccer’s ability to unite and connect our country from coast to coast. As part of the new brand launch, customized club marks were introduced featuring each participating club’s primary colour to reference and reinforce the unique regional characteristics that combine to make the competition a national celebration of our sport.
- Canada Soccer launched a game changing new retail partnership with Fanatics, the global leader in sports merchandising. As part of this partnership, the official online store was launched—CanadaSoccerStore.com—featuring the largest collection of Canada Soccer licensed apparel and products anywhere.
- Canada Soccer expanded its licensing program, introducing new licensing partners Mustang Sports and Sports Vault who are both industry leaders in developing high quality fan hard goods. More licensees are expected to come on board in 2022 in response to the high demand for Canada Soccer licensed product.



- Canada Soccer safely welcomed fans back to stadiums in accordance with all public health guidelines and once again provided a sea of CanadaRED support for our National Teams.
- In total, 177,097 fans attended the seven National Team home matches hosted from September through November across the country, an average of 25,299 per match.
- Highlights included the more than 93,000 fans that braved wintery conditions at Edmonton's Commonwealth Stadium to support Canada Soccer's Men's National Team two critical FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ Qualifiers wins over Costa Rica and Mexico in November and the nearly 30,000 fans who joined the Women's National Team Celebration Tour matches in Ottawa and Montréal in October:
 - New Canadian broadcast audience records were set as momentum grew behind Canada Soccer's Men's National Team FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ Qualifiers run.
 - The eight MNT broadcasts across Sportsnet, TSN and RDS generated an average audience of 437,000+.
- The Canada v Mexico match broadcast on November 16 was the most watched soccer match ever on Sportsnet, generating a total reach of 3.5M+ viewers across all broadcast platforms.
- Canada Soccer announced partnership renewals with key supporters Allstate Canada and Toyota Canada while introducing new partnerships with Storage Vault and Oat Canada reflecting the growth of the Canada Soccer brand's commercial strength in the marketplace.
- Canada Soccer developed and launched a dynamic, multi-platform 'Play' campaign in collaboration with its Member Associations. The PLAY campaign served as a Canada-wide marketing initiative to speak to all Canadians as a call to action for a safe and responsible return-to-Play, including both those new to the game as well as the vibrant community of participants, all drawn to the game in unique ways. The campaign messaging and creative reflected the authentic representation of every day Canadian soccer culture and stories, and featured Canada Soccer icons Christine Sinclair and Alphonso Davies along with a diverse range of members of the Canadian soccer community.

CANADA SOCCER ON DIGITAL MEDIA

Canada Soccer's revamped CanadaSoccer.com that was launched in 2020 as part of an organization wide digital transformation has increased visitors to the site by 180% and page views by 153% while driving 32% growth of the organization's social channels across all platforms. The new custom database served the organization's needs in a record year of National Team activity and houses player, competition, and organization stats, profiles, and media integrated within a world-class competition management solution.



609K FOLLOWERS

ACROSS ALL SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS +32%

CANADASOCCER.COM

1.2M

VISITORS IN 2021
+180%

3.8M

PAGE VIEWS IN 2021
+153%



207K

FOLLOWERS IN 2021
+73%



198K

FOLLOWERS IN 2021
+21%



204K

FOLLOWERS IN 2021
+16%



145K

FOLLOWERS IN 2021
+34%

FINANCIALS

Canada Soccer continued to work closely with its Member Associations, stakeholders, and partners to ensure the viability of the organization during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In unprecedented times, we embraced the opportunity to return to the pitch in a safe and responsible manner while also maximizing our revenue potential to ensure the continued financial sustainability of the organization.

The organization wide focus remained to strive for the realization of our strategic objectives while also adapting to the financial pressures created by the ongoing pandemic. Most importantly, we never lost sight of future opportunities created by our Women's National Team Gold Medal performance at Tokyo 2020 and the Men's National Teams qualification to the Final Round of FIFA World Cup Qualifiers for the first time since 1987.

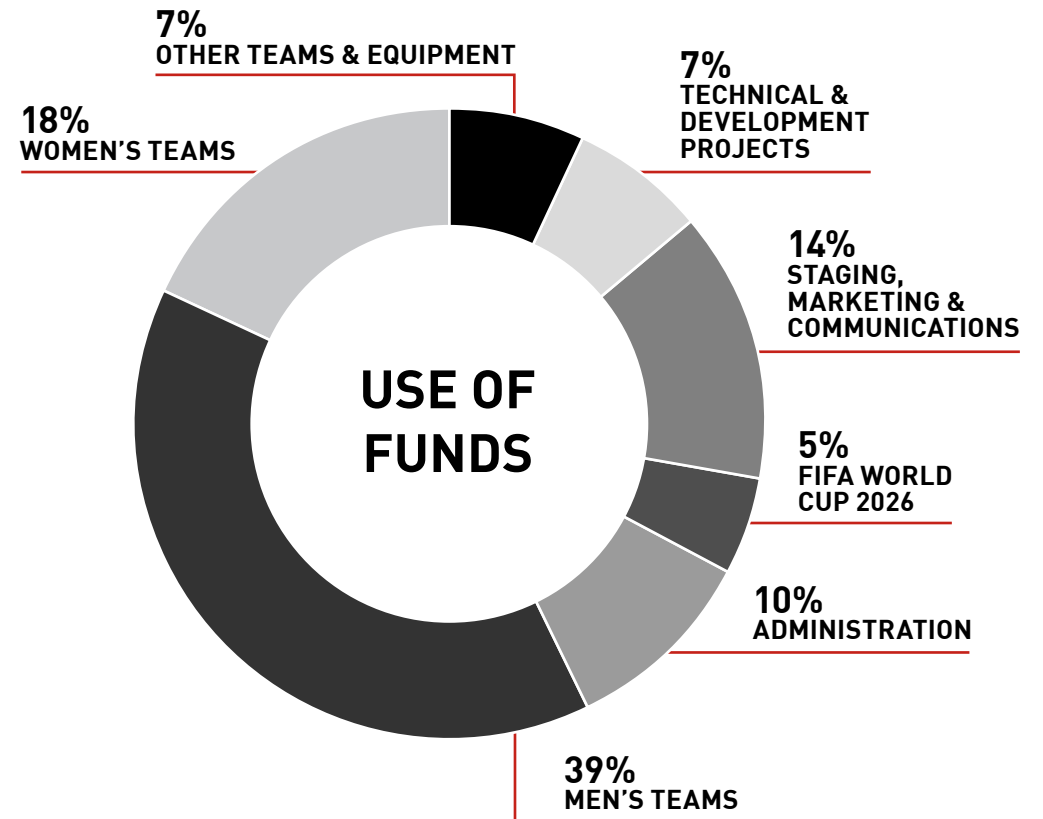
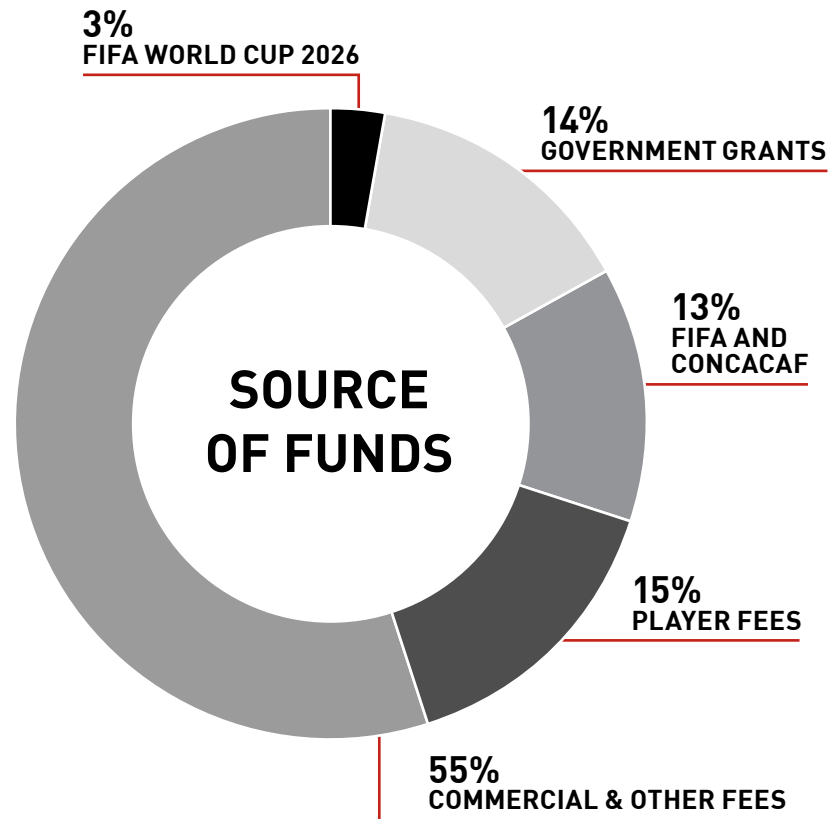
We would like to thank our partners who provided access to COVID-19 relief funds including FIFA, Concacaf, Government of Canada, Sport Canada, and the Canadian Olympic Committee. These funds were critical to our ability to continue operations and to provide financial relief to our Member Associations.

- Commercial revenue grew by 289% in 2021 over 2020 largely attributed to the easing of pandemic restrictions that allowed for the safe return to play from the grassroots to the National Team levels and the subsequent success of both our Women's and Men's National Teams on the pitch. Due to the reduction of revenues in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, FIFA and Concacaf provided one-time financial assistance in 2021 to assist National Teams' return to play with an increase of 70% to their funding.
- Membership fees increased by 100% with the safe return of twice the amount of players returning to play in 2021 compared to 2020.
- Returning to the pitch resulted in a 149% increase in investment across programs and staging from 2020 to 2021 and a 24% increase from 2019. The focus remains on the development of the next generation of Canada's coaches and high-performance players while also sustaining success with the Women's and Men's National Teams.
- The Women's National Team continued to build upon previous back-to-back Olympic bronze medals to capture the Gold Medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. The team featured in all FIFA windows in 2021 ahead of Tokyo 2020 and their incredible achievement was celebrated with the first two Celebration Tour matches in Ottawa, ON and Montréal, QC.

FINANCIALS

- The Men's National Team participated in their most condensed FIFA World Cup Qualifiers Qatar 2022™ schedule as a result of the ongoing pandemic. From March 2021 through to the end of the year, the team competed in 14 of the 20 matches to secure a spot at Qatar 2022.
- Technical development continues to be a priority for Canada Soccer and amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic there was a concerted effort to not only continue but to expand the connection with the Canadian soccer community. The adaptation to an online environment continued with an associated 47% increase in investment in education programs that reached more Canadians in remote locations.
- Strong government support saw an increase of 5% in funding through Sport Canada and Own the Podium as well as through the Federal CEWS program.
- Canada Soccer remains united with our neighbors, Mexico, and the United States in continuing our investment in preparation as co-hosts for the FIFA World Cup 2026™—the largest single sporting event in the world. Considerable collaboration and planning occurred in 2021 with all levels of government including the candidate host cities and provinces as well as the federal government.
- With the ever-expanding Canada Soccer Nation getting stronger year over year, 2021 continued to prove that collaboration and shared goals will strongly impact how we collectively DEVELOP, GOVERN, and GROW our sport as we continue our path to co-hosting the once-in-a-generation FIFA World Cup 2026™.

FINANCIALS



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Mauro Biello

*Men's National Team Assistant Coach,
Men's EXCEL U-18 to U-23 Program Director*

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Men's National Team Assistant Coach*

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Robyn Gayle

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Men's EXCEL Operations Manager

Jan Lang

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Bev Priestman

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Cindy Tye

Head Coach, Women's U-20 National Team

Joey Lombardi

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