

A HURDLE TO SUCCESS

The Path for Pan Am/Parapan Am Legacy

Join us for this **FREE Symposium Exploring Intersections of Race, Education and Sport**

Saturday September 27
University of Toronto Scarborough

9:00am – 4:00pm
Bussing provided

The Hurdle to Success Symposium focuses on Indigenous and racialized student-athletes. These athletes are expected to balance academic, athletic, career, personal, and community responsibilities, and face unique challenges in doing so due to issues such as ongoing discrimination and socio-economic barriers.

The **Symposium on September 27th** invites athletes, their families, and those involved in sport in the community, in the education system, and at the provincial and national level to come together. The Symposium features an array of discussions and activities that will provide an opportunity to collectively examine how to improve the pathways to university, college, and elite sport for Indigenous and racialized youth - and how to improve systems to support their success in sport, education and beyond.

The **Pan Am/Parapan Am Games** is coming to the Greater Toronto Area in 2015. The Games are a crucial step on the path to international athletic excellence. This incredible multi-sport mega-event also provides a tremendous opportunity to examine the role of sport in the lives of Indigenous and racialized youth. Before they can be contenders for events like the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games, athletes typically access sport through post-secondary schools.

Elite sport participation is seen as a means to access scholarships for college or university, which is important because: (1) higher education levels are linked to greater opportunities in the areas of employment and income, and (2) universities and colleges feature many world-class coaches and facilities, offer the best in sports medicine and sports science, and play a central role in developing the nation's high-performance athletes. But we know that post-secondary schools also feature discrimination and exclusions related to race.

Most people assume that Black students are welcomed in sports because Black men dominate popular professional sports such as basketball or football, yet anecdotal evidence suggests Black student-athletes are not well represented in most of Canada's high performance sports or college and university teams. Indigenous students are underrepresented among university graduates and also among post-secondary student-athletes. Other racialized groups, such as South and East Asians, have high numbers in the post-secondary school classrooms, but are much less common on their courts, rinks, and fields. There is even less support for Indigenous and racialized athletes with disabilities and for female athletes. It is therefore necessary to examine issues around Indigenous and racialized student-athletes' access to college and university, the supports necessary to foster their success at school, and the recruitment strategies used to engage Canada's top talent in sports and para-sports.

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The Hurdle to Success Symposium will explore three main areas:

Access and recruitment

- *What are the barriers that prevent high-school athletes from entering post-secondary sports?*
- *How can teachers/counsellors/parents assist elementary and high-school athletes?*
- *What training do recruiters need to enhance recruitment of athletes who are racialized, female, and/or living with a disability?*
- *How can club sport be made more accessible?*

Retention

- *How do students merge sports with their academic endeavours?*
- *Once they have entered post-secondary schools, what challenges and opportunities do Indigenous and racialized athletes face?*
- *What resources can student-athletes access for assistance with their training and their academics?*

Transition to Elite Sport

- *What are the barriers Indigenous and racialized student-athletes face in terms of becoming an amateur or professional athlete?*
- *What opportunities are there for female athletes and athletes with disabilities in elite sport?*
- *What are the pathways to become involved in other sport professions including literary, technical, and creative positions of sport media; sport governing positions; coaching; event hosting, administration, marketing and business aspects of sport management; and other dimensions of sport-media-events?*

The **Physical Activity and Sport Act** of 2003 confirms the Government of Canada's policy regarding the full and fair participation of under-represented groups in the Canadian sport system. We have the some of the tools in place to capitalize on the academic and athletic strengths of our Indigenous and racialized student-athletes, but we need to develop a plan to improve the supports for our youth. **Join us** for the day to help build that plan.

Hurdle to Success is brought to you by the University of Toronto's Anti-Racism & Cultural Diversity Office, Centre for Sport Policy Studies, Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education, First Nations House, Hart House, and Professor Bruce Kidd, Warden at Hart House and Interim Principal for University of Toronto Scarborough. Other organizing committee members include the Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Parapan American Games Ignite Program and the University of Toronto Scarborough.

Visit our Eventbrite page for a detailed discussion paper on the issues noted here, further details on the symposium and to register:
<http://ahurdletosuccess.eventbrite.ca>