

BLACK LEADERS IN SPORTS DAY (BLSD)

ABOUT BLACK LEADERS IN SPORTS DAY

Black Leaders in Sports Day (BLSD) is an annual national gathering hosted by ICSN that convenes emerging and established Black leaders from across Canada's amateur sport system. Launched in 2025 as the first event of its kind in Canadian history, BLSD was created to address systemic inequities in sport, strengthen leadership pathways, amplify lived experiences, and build a national network of support and accountability. The event grew from a single-day convening in 2025 to a two-day national gathering on Parliament Hill in 2026, where Black sport leaders met directly with Senators and Members of Parliament to advance solution-focused dialogue and deliver a formal Call to Action to the federal government.

YEAR-OVER-YEAR GROWTH

Metric	BLSD 2025	BLSD 2026
Date	April 2, 2025	February 23-24, 2026
Format	1-day national convening	2-day Parliament Hill convening
Location	Ottawa, Canada	Ottawa, Parliament Hill
Attendees	Black sport professionals (90)	80 emerging & established leaders
Key Partners	CRRF, Canadian Women & Sport	Federal government, senators, MPs
Provinces Represented	Across Canada	9 provinces (BC to Newfoundland)
Formal Advocacy	Community building & dialogue	4-point Call to Action to government

COMBINED IMPACT



WHO IS IN THE ROOM

- Sport administrators, coaches, officials, and sport medicine professionals
- Researchers, marketing professionals, and community advocates
- Emerging sport professionals, recent graduates, and students
- Representatives from national, provincial, and community sport organizations
- Federal government officials, senators, ministers, and policymakers

WHY THIS WORK MATTERS — THE EVIDENCE

Statistics Canada, 2025 18% of sport participants experienced or witnessed racism. Racialized participants: 26%. Racialized individuals are 3x more likely to report unfair treatment.	MLSE Foundation 2026 The proportion of Black youth in Ontario experiencing racism in sport has more than doubled since 2021. Black youth are twice as likely to experience unsafe hazing.	Black Girls & Sport Report, 2025 1 in 2 Black girls feel they must downplay their cultural identity in sport. 48% experienced racism in school sport. 54% participate less than once per week.
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THE 2026 CALL TO ACTION

- Participants at BLSD 2026 formally submitted the following four asks to the federal government:**
- #1 Embed measurable anti-racism and inclusion policies into existing sport funding and oversight structures, including mandatory education, reporting mechanisms, and transparent accountability processes.
 - #2 Develop a national EDI framework for sport with accountability structures for NSOs, MSOs, and PTSOs to report racism and discrimination incidents.
 - #3 Foster meaningful cross-sector collaboration between Black and racialized sport organizations and government, sport bodies, health, education, and justice sectors.
 - #4 Continue to support and expand initiatives removing barriers and increasing Black and racialized participation in sport and physical activity.

VOICES FROM BLSD

"What an amazing feeling to be surrounded by other leaders from across the country to have open and honest conversations with various members of our government. The networking was something I valued the most and added fuel to continue the work we are all doing."

"Grateful to join Black Leaders in Sport for an important and inspiring conversation on representation in Canadian sport. Thank you ICSN for your critical work!"

LOOKING AHEAD

Black Leaders in Sports Day continues to grow as a national platform for leadership, policy engagement, and community building. ICSN is committed to expanding BLSD annually to ensure Black leaders in sport have a sustained, permanent space to collaborate, advocate, and drive measurable change across the Canadian sport system. The work continues.

CONNECTING IT TO THE FUTURE OF SPORT COMMISSION

- Leadership Development: Builds pathways for Black leaders in sport.
- Representation & Inclusion: Elevates Black voices and lived experiences.
- Policy & Advocacy: Drives action on equity, anti-racism, and accountability.
- Collaboration: Connects sport, government, and community leaders.
- System Change: Supports a more inclusive future for Canadian sport.