

# BILLIE JEAN KING CUP

2023 QUALIFIERS

BY ► GAINBRIDGE



## THE WORLD CUP OF TENNIS



**CAN** vs **BEL**



APRIL 14-15, 2023

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*David Haggerty*

**David Haggerty**

ITF President  
IOC Member

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Qualifier tie between Canada and Belgium in Vancouver. We are looking forward to a great two days of tennis, with nine ties taking place around the world this weekend.

The Billie Jean King Cup, the women's world cup of tennis, celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2023. Over the last six decades, it has grown to become the largest international team competition in women's sport, with a record 134 nations entered this year.

Formerly known as the Fed Cup, this historic competition was renamed in honour of Billie Jean King in 2020 – a fitting tribute to an individual who, in addition to being one of the game's all-time greats, has been a champion for equality and fought discrimination in all its forms throughout her life. It is the first time a major global team competition has been named after a woman, representing a landmark moment for sport.

After two challenging years in 2020 and 2021, it was wonderful to see tennis fans returning to stadiums and getting behind their teams in 2022. The Billie Jean King Cup creates a unique atmosphere, unlike any other event that the players experience on tour, and we are confident that the competition will be even bigger and better this season.

The prize for victory this weekend is a place in the 2023 Finals – and the chance to compete to be crowned world champions in November. The winning teams from this weekend's Billie Jean King Cup Qualifiers will join 2022 champions Switzerland and runners-up Australia at the 2023 Billie Jean King Cup Finals in November.

Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge is about more than the Finals and the Qualifiers. It is also the story of the 134 nations taking part across six continents in this global tournament that spans three further levels of competition. In every match, players take pride in playing for something bigger than themselves, representing their country with the dream of their nation progressing from regional level on to the Qualifiers. The Billie Jean King Cup is a vital tool for developing our sport in all these countries and delivering tennis for future generations.

I would like to pay tribute to all Billie Jean King Cup sponsors and partners, including title sponsor Gainbridge, with whom we began a six-year partnership in 2022. Through the partnership, women and men were paid equivalent prize money for competing at the Billie Jean King Cup and Davis Cup Finals last season. This was an important step towards achieving our ambition of closing the gender pay gap at all levels of the competition and part of the ITF's Advantage All strategy which supports gender equality throughout the sport. We would also like to recognise Microsoft, Tory Burch and Magellan, all of whom play an important role in helping our competition be the best it can be.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to Tennis Canada for their collaboration, and to acknowledge the work of everyone involved in organising this tie. Thank you also to the players and captains who give so much to making the Billie Jean King Cup such a special competition throughout the year.

**Enjoy the tennis!**



**Jennifer Bishop**

Past Chair of the Board  
Tennis Canada

On behalf of Tennis Canada and its Board of Directors, it is our pleasure to welcome you to this Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Qualifiers tie between Canada and Belgium.

The Canadian Billie Jean King Cup team presented by Sobey's is very pleased to be back in Vancouver, British Columbia for the second time in 12 months. We are looking forward to seeing a passionate crowd support their team at the Pacific Coliseum as our Canadians aim to book their place at the year-end Finals.

Billie Jean King Cup, the World Cup of Women's Tennis, remains a pillar of the women's High-Performance program in Canada. This weekend, we all have the privilege of watching a star-studded Canadian team on the court, assisted by world-class support staff off it.

2021 US Open finalist Leylah Annie Fernandez is joined by Vancouverite Rebecca Marino, two-time mixed doubles Grand Slam champion Gabriela Dabrowski and rising Canadian star Katherine Sebov.

Led by Team Captain Heidi El Tabakh, this incredible group of women, and those not selected who are waiting in the wings, have what it takes to go all the way in this competition and earn the crown of World Champions, just as their Davis Cup counterparts did in 2022.

As Tennis Canada continues to achieve its vision to be a world-leading tennis nation, we believe that by hosting this tie in Vancouver, more children will be inspired to pick up a racquet and take up the sport.

We would like to thank our volunteers, our commercial partners, and all of the staff who have worked hard to make this event possible. We would also like to thank the City of Vancouver and the Government of British Columbia for their support.

To our guests from Belgium, we welcome you to Vancouver, British Columbia and Canada!

To all of the tennis fans in attendance this weekend, we hope that you enjoy everything this world-class event has to offer.



**Michael Downey**

President and CEO  
Tennis Canada



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

April 14-15, 2023

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 2023 Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Qualifiers, taking place in Vancouver, British Columbia.

The Billie Jean King Cup is the premier international team competition in women's tennis, recently renamed in honour of former world tennis champion and advocate for gender equality, Billie Jean King. This qualifier sees Team Canada take on Team Belgium for the chance to advance to the 2023 Finals. I am certain that everyone in attendance will be captivated by the high level of skill and athleticism on display.

I would like to thank Tennis Canada and the many volunteers for their hard work in planning this event. Please accept my best wishes for an exciting and memorable competition.

Sincerely,

*The Rt. Hon. Justin P.J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada*

*Le très hon. Justin P.J. Trudeau, C.P., député  
Premier ministre du Canada*

Du 14 au 15 avril 2023

Chères amies, chers amis,

Je suis heureux de présenter mes salutations chaleureuses à toutes celles qui participent à la rencontre de qualification de la Coupe Billie Jean King de 2023, par Gainbridge, tenue à Vancouver.

La Coupe Billie Jean King est la principale compétition internationale par équipe de tennis féminin, récemment renommée en l'honneur de l'ancienne championne mondiale de tennis et défenseure de l'égalité des sexes, Billie Jean King. Lors de la rencontre de qualification, le Canada affrontera la Belgique pour obtenir la chance d'accéder à la finale de 2023. Je suis convaincu que le haut niveau d'habileté et d'athlétisme que l'on verra aux finales du tournoi captivera toute l'assistance.

Je tiens à remercier Tennis Canada et les nombreux bénévoles qui ont travaillé sans relâche pour coordonner l'événement. Je vous souhaite une compétition passionnante et mémorable.

Cordialement,



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COLOMBIE-  
BRITANNIQUE

A MESSAGE FROM  
PREMIER  
DAVID EBY



UN MESSAGE DU  
PREMIER MINISTRE  
DAVID EBY

As Premier of the Province of British Columbia, I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending and participating in this exciting Billie Jean King Cup tie between Team Canada and Team Belgium.

Tennis is a fun, fast-paced game offering a wide range of physical, mental, and social benefits. Vancouver is fortunate to be a part of this unforgettable event with some of the best tennis players in the world competing for a spot in the 2023 finals. I have no doubt that this match will showcase the skills and determination of each team, and I am confident that the players will leave it all on the court.

To the players, coach, officials and fans – good luck and have fun!

En tant que premier ministre de la province de la Colombie-Britannique, j'aimerais souhaiter une chaleureuse bienvenue à toutes les personnes qui assistent et participent à cette passionnante rencontre de qualification de la Coupe Billie Jean King entre l'équipe canadienne et l'équipe belge.

Le tennis est un sport amusant et rapide offrant une large gamme d'avantages physiques, mentaux et sociaux. Vancouver a la chance de participer à cet événement inoubliable avec certaines des meilleures joueuses de tennis au monde qui se disputent une place dans les finales de 2023. Je suis convaincu que ce match mettra en valeur les compétences et la détermination de chaque équipe, et je suis certain que les joueuses vont se donner à fond sur le terrain.

Je tiens à souhaiter bonne chance à toutes les joueuses, tous les entraîneurs, les officiels et les supporters. Amusez-vous!

HONOURABLE DAVID EBY, PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
L'HONORABLE DAVID EBY, PREMIER MINISTRE DE LA COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE



## Welcome to Vancouver

On behalf of my colleagues on Vancouver City Council and Park Board, I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the Billie Jean King Cup Qualifiers tie between Canada and Belgium. Our city is delighted to welcome back Tennis Canada to Vancouver and we look forward to making this year's event the best ever!

As Mayor, I am proud of our city's world-class hosting reputation and we are thrilled to cheer on these incredible female athletes. The tie will be a fabulous showcase of some of the best athletes our country, and the world, has to offer. By attending, watching and following, you're directly supporting and elevating women's sport in Canada.

I want to commend Tennis Canada and the local organizing committee for their hard work and confidence in Sport Hosting Vancouver as a host partner. I encourage all visitors while you are here to take advantage of everything Vancouver has to offer. An exciting variety of attractions and experiences only found on the west coast, matched with a hyperlocal culinary scene and iconic mountain views make Vancouver one of the world's greatest cities.

Now GO CANADA GO! We look forward to celebrating the 60th year of the Billie Jean King Cup with you.

Thank you.



Ken Sim

Mayor  
City of Vancouver

Tennis Canada wishes to celebrate the Davis Cup title and congratulates Team Canada for this historic win at the World Cup of tennis.

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## Team Canada's record, history, and leaders

Since the launch of the Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge (formerly known as Fed Cup) in 1963, Team Canada has participated in the event every year – except for 1965 – and boasts a record of 106 wins and 73 losses. Their best result came in 1988 when the team reached the semi-finals, losing to the eventual champions, Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic).

### Best performance

Thanks to the incredible tennis played by Helen Kelesi, Jill Hetherington, and Rene Simson, the Canadian team was able to reach the Final Four in 1988. Their road to the semi-finals began with a 2-1 win against Korea, followed by back-to-back sweeps over Finland and Sweden. Hetherington was heavily relied on in Team Canada's run, winning five of her six rubbers.

### Leaders

- Most total wins: Aleksandra Wozniak (40)
- Most singles wins: Aleksandra Wozniak (32)
- Most doubles wins: Sonya Jeyaseelan (17)
- Most ties played: Aleksandra Wozniak (36)
- Most years played: Jill Hetherington (14)

### Recent years

In 2020, in addition to adopting a new name, the Billie Jean King Cup introduced a new format that saw the creation of the Billie Jean King Cup Finals. To gain entry into the Finals, teams must win their Qualifiers tie, which Canada was able to do last year, overpowering the Latvians 4-0 in Vancouver.

Here is how Canada fared at the Billie Jean King Cup in 2022:

- Finals Round-Robin vs. Switzerland (1-2 L)
- Finals Round-Robin vs. Italy (3-0 W)
- Qualifiers vs. Latvia (4-0 W)

With a win this weekend against Belgium, the Canadian team would secure a spot for the third time in as many years at the Billie Jean King Cup Finals. They're yet to beat the Belgians in Billie Jean King Cup action, as they currently trail their head-to-head 3-0.



Team Canada Captain

## Heidi El Tabakh

**Date of Birth:** September 25, 1986 (Age 36)

**Birthplace:** Alexandria, Egypt (Moved to Oakville, Ontario)

This weekend, Heidi El Tabakh will be captaining Team Canada for the sixth time in her career. So far, under her guidance, Canada has won ties against the Netherlands, Serbia, and Latvia – all by dominating scores of 4-0. El Tabakh is hoping for a similar result against Belgium as she looks to send her country to its third Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Finals since taking over as Team Captain in 2019.

Before becoming Canada's Team Captain, El Tabakh played on the WTA Tour, reaching career-high rankings of No. 146 in singles and No. 173 on the doubles circuit. She's won a total of 17 ITF titles (7 singles, 10 doubles) and has played in the main draws of two WTA 1000-level events – the National Bank Open presented by Rogers and the Qatar Total Open. Additionally, El Tabakh has competed in the qualifying rounds of all four Grand Slams, advancing to the main draw on two occasions at Roland Garros.

Since retiring from professional tennis in 2016, El Tabakh has coached multiple programs within Tennis Canada, including leading the country's Junior Billie Jean King Cup team. Her experience on and off the court has allowed her to become the great leader she is today, which is always apparent when she and the Canadian team take to the courts during Billie Jean King Cup competitions.

Canada currently holds the sixth spot in the rankings and will look to climb up the leaderboard with a strong showing in 2023. All of it starts now against the strong and wily Belgian squad.

**BILLIE JEAN KING CUP**

BY GAINBRIDGE

Canada vs Belgium - 2023



# TEAM CANADA

## Leylah Annie Fernandez

- **Date of Birth:** September 6, 2002 (Age 20)
- **Birthplace:** Montreal, Quebec
- **Career-High Ranking:** No. 13
- **BJK Cup Ties Played:** 6
- **BJK Cup Record:** 8-3  
Singles: 6-3  
Doubles: 2-0
- **Notable BJK Cup Moment:** Needed only 44 minutes to beat then-world No. 28 Martina Trevisan of Italy 6-0, 6-0 at the 2022 Finals.
- **Career Highlight:** Defeated three Top 5 players – Naomi Osaka, Elina Svitolina, and Aryna Sabalenka – en route to the 2021 US Open finals.



## Rebecca Marino

- **Date of Birth:** December 16, 1990 (Age 32)
- **Birthplace:** Toronto, Ontario
- **Career-High Ranking:** No. 38
- **BJK Cup Ties Played:** 8
- **BJK Cup Record:** 7-8  
Singles: 4-6  
Doubles: 3-2
- **Notable BJK Cup Moment:** Clinched the upset over defending champions France with a win in doubles during the group stage of the 2021 Finals.
- **Career Highlight:** Achieved an inspiring milestone in 2022 by re-entering the Top 100 for the first time in 10 years.



## Katherine Sebov

- **Date of Birth:** January 5, 1999 (Age 24)
- **Birthplace:** Toronto, Ontario
- **Career-High Ranking:** No. 148
- **BJK Cup Ties Played:** 5
- **BJK Cup Record:** 4-2  
Singles: 3-1  
Doubles: 1-1
- **Notable BJK Cup Moment:** Kicked off her BJK Cup career with four straight wins (3 singles, 1 doubles).
- **Career Highlight:** Won all three of her qualifying matches at the 2023 Australian Open to clinch her first main draw appearance at a Grand Slam event.



## Gabriela Dabrowski

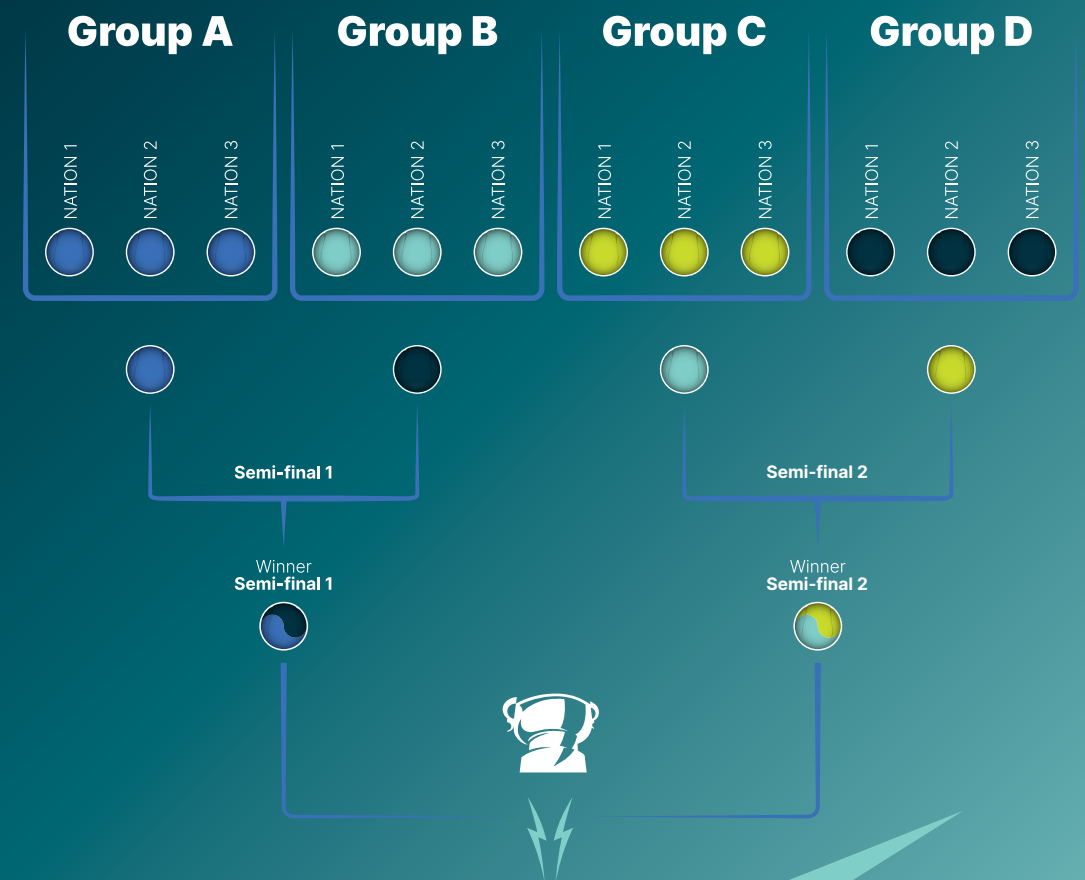
- **Date of Birth:** April 1, 1992 (Age 31)
- **Birthplace:** Ottawa, Ontario
- **Career-High Ranking:** No. 4 (doubles)
- **BJK Cup Ties Played:** 19
- **BJK Cup Record:** 11-12  
Singles: 0-5  
Doubles: 11-7
- **Notable BJK Cup Moment:** Decisively won all three of her BJK Cup matches in 2022, dropping only nine games in the process.
- **Career Highlight:** Two-time Grand Slam mixed doubles champion (2017 Roland Garros, 2018 Australian Open), and 13-time WTA doubles title winner.





# THE WORLD CUP OF TENNIS

7-12 NOVEMBER 2023



**WORLD CHAMPIONS**

7-12 NOVEMBER 2023

# Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Qualifiers Bracket



While Team Canada presented by Sobeys takes on Belgium this weekend, other Qualifiers ties are taking place across the world to see who else will seal a place in the year-end Finals. As finalists in 2022, Switzerland and Australia have qualified automatically.

The losing nations will compete in the Play-Offs in November.

## Winners Advance to 2023 Finals

Join Australia and Switzerland who qualify automatically as 2022 finalists

## Team Belgium's record, history, and leaders

Belgium played in their first Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge competition in 1963, losing their debut 3-0 to an Australian squad led by none other than 24-time Grand Slam champion Margaret Court. They managed to earn their first win in 1969 and currently hold a record of 82 wins and 76 losses. In 2001, Belgium became the eighth country to clinch the Billie Jean King Cup title, defeating Russia in the finals 2-1.

### Best performance

Given that Belgium's 2001 team had future World No. 1s Kim Clijsters and Justine Henin, it came as no surprise that they were able to reach the championship tie – sweeping Germany, Australia, and Spain en route to the finals. Against Russia, with the prestigious trophy on the line, Clijsters and Henin proved to be too tough to handle, each winning their singles matches in straight sets. Belgium also reached the final in 2006 but fell to Italy in the deciding doubles rubber.

### Leaders

- Most total wins: Sabine Appelmans (32)
- Most singles wins: Sabine Appelmans (25)
- Most doubles wins: Els Callens (17)
- Most ties played: Sabine Appelmans (33)
- Most years played: Kirsten Flipkens (18)

### Recent years

In 2020, in addition to adopting a new name, the Billie Jean King Cup introduced a new format that saw the creation of the Billie Jean King Cup Finals. To gain entry into the Finals, teams must win their Qualifiers tie, which Belgium was able to do last year with a walkover against Belarus.

Here is how Belgium fared at the Billie Jean King Cup in 2022:

- Finals Round-Robin vs. Australia (0-3 L)
- Finals Round-Robin vs. Slovakia (1-2 L)
- Qualifiers vs. Belarus (W/O)

This weekend, Belgium looks to clinch their third consecutive appearance at the Billie Jean King Cup Finals with a win over Canada. They currently lead their head-to-head 3-0.

### Team Belgium Captain

## Wim Fissette

**Date of Birth:** March 22, 1980 (Age 43)  
**Birthplace:** Sint, Truiden, Belgium

For the first time in his career, Wim Fissette will be captaining Belgium at the Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge. The 43-year-old from Sint-Truiden, Belgium, is taking over the captaincy duty from Johan Van Herck – who had been the team captain since 2019.

Fissette is a successful coach on the WTA Tour and has worked with the likes of Victoria Azarenka, Kim Clijsters, Simona Halep, Angelique Kerber, and Naomi Osaka. As a coach, he's won six Grand Slam titles, most recently at the 2021 Australian Open when Osaka defeated Jennifer Brady 6-4, 6-3 at Rod Laver Arena.

Prior to his coaching career, Fissette played professionally and peaked at World No. 1298 in the rankings. Now a Billie Jean King Cup captain, Fissette hopes to bring his country – currently sitting at No. 14 in the world – back to the Billie Jean King Cup Finals.



KEY    [#] Seeded    (c) Choice of ground    \* Choice of ground if decided by lot



# TEAM BELGIUM

## Ysaline Bonaventure

- **Date of Birth:** August 29, 1994 (Age 28)
- **Birthplace:** Rocourt, Belgium
- **Career-High Ranking:** No. 84
- **BJK Cup Ties Played:** 14
- **BJK Cup Record:** 9-8  
Singles: 5-2  
Doubles: 4-6



## Kirsten Flipkens

- **Date of Birth:** January 10, 1986 (Age 37)
- **Birthplace:** Geel, Belgium
- **Career-High Ranking:** No. 13
- **BJK Cup Ties Played:** 32
- **BJK Cup Record:** 18-33  
Singles: 14-20  
Doubles: 4-13



## Greet Minnen

- **Date of Birth:** August 14, 1997 (Age 25)
- **Birthplace:** Turnhout, Belgium
- **Career-High Ranking:** No. 69
- **BJK Cup Ties Played:** 2
- **BJK Cup Record:** 2-1  
Singles: 1-1  
Doubles: 1-0



## Yanina Wickmayer

- **Date of Birth:** October 20, 1989 (Age 33)
- **Birthplace:** Lier, Belgium
- **Career-High Ranking:** No. 12
- **BJK Cup Ties Played:** 20
- **BJK Cup Record:** 26-13  
Singles: 23-9  
Doubles: 3-4





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## Carlota Lee continues to give back to the B.C. tennis community

Chair of the Odlum Brown Vancouver Open looks ahead to this weekend's tie, discusses her community engagement and fundraising efforts.

You can't begin to discuss tennis in Vancouver, or British Columbia for that matter, without mentioning Carlota Lee. Tournament Chair of the Odlum Brown VanOpen since 2017 and involved in the tournament for over 15 years, she is a driver of the sport in Western Canada.

"My tennis journey began in grade ten. Our math teacher was Mrs. Bardsley, Tony Bardsley's mother," Carlota said. "She put together the school's tennis team and was our coach. She knew I was playing other school sports, like volleyball, basketball, and track, so she asked me whether I was interested in learning how to play tennis. I immediately said yes, and she brought us old wooden tennis racquets and basically taught us how to play. I picked it up relatively fast and fell in love with the sport."

Carlota's work in elevating the VanOpen has seen it become a must-play event on both the men's Challenger circuit, the women's ITF and, more recently, WTA circuit and has ensured it's a destination for many of Canada's top players. Among the countless initiatives she has implemented, the housing program, which has become a signature of the event, is one she's most proud of.

"It started with ten families back in 2006, and over the years I have twisted all my friends' arms to house players," Carlota said. "The joke around the club was that if someone saw me, they would turn the other way to try to avoid me, as they all knew what I was going to ask them. But in all seriousness, my friends have always obliged to all my requests. Sometimes, knowing their house configuration, I would add a player or coach.

"So, over the years, the number of families has grown to 58. One year, we had Anne Keothavong staying with us. She won the VanOpen in 2007 and is the current captain of Great Britain's BJK Cup team. The entire Canadian team, including captain Heidi El Tabakh, have stayed in private housing while playing at the VanOpen over the years."

"I always make sure all our Canadian players are looked after," Carlota continued. "Even for Indian Wells, for example, I've reached out to the players in the team that are playing to make sure they have private housing if they so wish."

However, Carlota's contribution to the community doesn't amount to an annual professional tennis event. Under her leadership, every June prior to the tournament, a community day is hosted. Working with CLICK and Tennis BC's Girls in Action, each child that attends receives a racquet, can of balls, breakfast and the opportunity to take part in a tennis workshop. They're then encouraged to hit on their public courts with their friends.

"Vancouverites are passionate about tennis," she commented. "Since our West Coast weather is nicer than other parts of Canada we can play outdoors a lot. Tennis is definitely a very popular sport in the area."

In 2019, Carlota was diagnosed with Parkinson's but that hasn't had an impact on her work in the community. Instead, she has increased her efforts to become

an advocate for those battling the disorder. She joined PD Avengers, a worldwide group of people with Parkinson's, along with their families and friends, and helped raise \$425,000 for the Pacific Parkinson's Research Institute at UBC via its Porridge for Parkinson's breakfast fundraiser.

Additionally, Carlota and her husband, Derek, led a campaign which provided \$5.5 million in funding to Capilano University's Centre for Childhood Studies. Just last year, Carlota received an honorary Doctor of letters, honoris causa from Capilano University, the highest form of recognition the university grants.

"I always love giving back to the community and helping others," Carlota added. "I hint it's part of my DNA! Being diagnosed with Parkinson's has not stopped me. I have shown that if you are passionate about something, nothing is going to stop you, not even having a health setback. Like I always say, I may have Parkinson's but Parkinson's does not have me!"

With Team Canada presented by Sobeys taking on Belgium this Friday and Saturday, when asked how pleased she is to have a Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Qualifiers tie back in the city for a second year running, Carlota responded: "It's super special! Vancouver has an avid tennis community and great supporters of Canadian tennis. Having one of our very own, Rebecca Marino, on the team makes it even more exciting to watch!"



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## Pacific Tennis Centre in Burnaby

### A community-serving tennis centre to meet the needs of a healthy, active British Columbia

Tennis Canada is investing in growing the sport of tennis in British Columbia through supporting athletes at all levels, developing much-needed sports infrastructure, and delivering competitive opportunities, including attracting world-class events like this Billie Jean King Cup tie. And a key part of this strategy is to build a new state-of-the-art facility: the Pacific Tennis Centre (PTC).

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

While municipalities are all reporting waitlists for use of their covered facilities, there is not a publicly accessible, affordable, all-weather facility in BC that is focused on delivering a full spectrum of inclusive community racquet sports programming. The PTC will meet this need in BC.

The PTC is a proposed tennis and racquet sports facility that will be Tennis Canada's flagship centre in Western Canada, delivered in partnership with Tennis BC and the City of Burnaby. Once all of its three phases are completed, the PTC will feature 12 covered courts, up to 14 outdoor courts, including hard and clay, as well as dedicated pickleball courts.

The facility will be a world-class, community-serving tennis centre that is inclusive and accessible, helping grow tennis as a sport and meeting the needs of a healthy, active British Columbia and Western Canada. Over 80% of the court time will be made available for affordable, year-round use for community, with the hope that many kids and adults will discover the sport, become life-long participants and improve their lives through tennis.

Regardless of their income, recreational and competitive players of all ages, stages, abilities and backgrounds will be able to benefit from the numerous programs that will be offered, including after-school

programs, school programs, aspiring athlete programs and programs for persons with a disability.

The PTC will also become the first and only home of Tennis Canada's National Wheelchair Tennis Program and will act as a flagship for accessibility and inclusivity in sport for years to come. Moreover, it will act as the new home of our National Junior Training Program, and help provide new competitive opportunities for competitive players in Western Canada.

When the federal and provincial government confirm funding for Phases I and II, courts could be open to the public in just over a year with the proper financial backing.

Learn more about the Pacific Tennis Centre and see how you can show your support for the project by scanning this QR code:

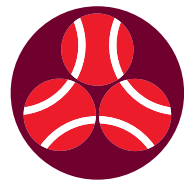


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BILLIE JEAN KING CUP  
BY GAINBRIDGE



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# Game. Set. Equity. A long-term commitment towards gender equity in Tennis

On March 21, Tennis Canada, in partnership with National Bank, officially unveiled the Game. Set. Equity. commitment, an ambitious and holistic strategy that will advance gender equity at all levels of the tennis ecosystem in Canada, from playgrounds to the professional tours. Created by Tennis Canada, the Game. Set. Equity. commitment will be delivered through five key pillars that align with the International Tennis Federation's Advantage All strategy:



Specific targets for each pillar over the next five years have been set by Tennis Canada and are available on [tenniscanada.com/game-set-equity/our-commitment/](https://www.tenniscanada.com/game-set-equity/our-commitment/). Some highlights include achieving a minimum of 40% women at the board and senior management level at Tennis Canada, increasing the number of active women coaches and officials to 40% and striving to offer equal prize money and visibility to both WTA and ATP players at the National Bank Open presented by Rogers.

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#GIRLSSETMATCH

## An Ambassadors' Circle for Game. Set. Equity.

*"Over the last few years, Tennis Canada was able to realize important milestones towards gender equity in tennis, most notably by securing a 10-year partnership with National Bank in 2021 with a proportionate amount of the investment earmarked for advancing the participation and retention of women and girls in tennis," said Michael Downey, CEO of Tennis Canada. "However, the launch of Game. Set. Equity. marks the beginning of a new era for Canadian tennis. It will be the first time in our history that our sport has a clear long-term road map for creating sustainable change for women and girls in all areas of tennis, from high-performance and coaching to leadership and beyond. We are really excited to see how things will unfold in the years to come."*

— Michael Downey, CEO of Tennis Canada

Tennis Canada also announced that many key figures in Canadian tennis will join their efforts and unite to create the first Ambassadors' Circle of the Game. Set. Equity. commitment. Among the 17 people who added their voices to the cause is Vancouver's Rebecca Marino, who is a member of Team Canada presented by Sobeys for the Billie Jean King Cup tie hosted in British Columbia this week.

*"I feel very privileged to be part of this group of women and men who will strive to make gender equity the norm in Canadian tennis," said Rebecca Marino. "Growing up and even today, being involved in tennis has had a huge impact on my personal development and I would love nothing more than to see more women and girls get involved in the sport and benefit from the same opportunities as men and boys do."*

— Rebecca Marino, Team Canada

Bringing together various women and men dedicated to achieving gender equity in our sport, the Circle of Ambassadors includes individuals from all areas of tennis: coaches, current and retired professional athletes, members of the media, directors in tennis organizations, business leaders and community development leaders.

To get the complete list of ambassadors and to learn more about our commitment towards gender equity in tennis, visit the Game. Set. Equity. section on our official website: [www.tenniscanada.com](https://www.tenniscanada.com)

Learn more at [TennisCanada.com/game-set-equity](https://www.tenniscanada.com/game-set-equity)





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champions.**



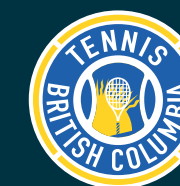
Show your love for the game by leaving it all on the court today for Canada's future tennis champions.

**Donate today.**

Make a donation at [tenniscanada.com/donate](https://tenniscanada.com/donate) or scan here:



## What is Tennis BC?



### Your Provincial sports organization... and more!

If you play tennis in BC, you've likely heard of Tennis BC, but you may wonder exactly what we do! Tennis BC is the governing body of the sport in our province, one of more than 60 different provincial sports organizations. Our mandate is to "inspire and enable British Columbians to play tennis." So how do we do that?

### From beginner to advanced: players and coaches

We help to ensure quality of coaching and quality of programming for players of all ages and abilities. We are responsible for coaching-certification from Instructor to Club Pro 2, providing clubs and recreation centres throughout the province with qualified, Safe Sport certified coaches. In addition, Tennis BC runs high-performance programming, including training and tournaments from Rookie Tours for new junior competitors, to provincial tournaments for juniors and masters players.

### Stringing it all together

Along with these basic tennis-based programs, we strive to make tennis accessible for everyone in our province. Programs include partnerships with local YMCAs, schools, mentorship programs for girls, and programs run in conjunction with Tennis Canada. Of particular interest during the Billie Jean King Cup are the many women-led and women-populated initiatives that Tennis BC brings to girls and women across the province.

### Players to leaders: girls with game

Statistically, girls drop out of sports at a higher rate than boys: only 18 percent of women 16-63 play a sport, and only 28 percent of instructor-certified coaches are women. We want to help remove some of the barriers! For many girls, it's about feeling comfortable, fitting in, and seeing others like them. Through our programs, Tennis BC, partners with community groups to support girls and women in tennis and beyond!

Inspire Through Sport is a full-circle program mentoring junior women players who are aspiring coaches.

Girls participate in a 10-month-long, women-led course, learning leadership skills and coaching credentials. Inspire Through Sport was piloted successfully in BC in 2022 and continues to grow!

Participants find more than sports education; they find friends, mentors, and marketable skills. They build self-belief, self-reliance, and self-esteem, embracing the idea of becoming confident future leaders.

Girls. Set. Match. is a Tennis Canada/Tennis BC initiative that gets girls out playing in a fun and competitive team environment. Many of these participants go on to the Inspire program!

Girls In Action began in 2013 as program for at-risk youth in underserved communities. It promotes the values of success, self-belief, and encourages girls to try something new.

Women's Leagues run throughout the province, providing adults with an opportunity to compete in a team-based environment.

For more information, check us out at [tennisbc.org](https://tennisbc.org) where you can find out all the latest Tennis BC news and more.

“ Pressure is a privilege –  
It only comes to those  
who earn it. ”

~ *Billie Jean King*

Proud to support the  
athletes whose successes were  
forged under pressure.



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## About Tennis Canada

Founded in 1890, Tennis Canada is a non-profit, national sport association with a mission to lead the growth, development and promotion of tennis in Canada and a vision to be a world-leading tennis nation. We value teamwork, passion, integrity, innovation and excellence. Tennis Canada owns and operates the premier National Bank Open presented by Rogers WTA and ATP Tour events, four professional ATP and ITF sanctioned events and financially supports four other professional tournaments in Canada. Tennis Canada operates junior national training centres/programs in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. Tennis Canada is a proud member of the International Tennis Federation, the Canadian Olympic Committee and the Canadian Paralympic Committee, and serves to administer, sponsor and select the teams for Davis Cup, Billie Jean King Cup, the Olympic and Paralympic Games and all wheelchair, junior and senior national teams. Tennis Canada invests its surplus into tennis development.

For more information on Tennis Canada please visit our website at: [www.tenniscanada.com](http://www.tenniscanada.com)  
and follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

### Purpose

To improve the lives of Canadians through tennis.

### Vision

To be a world-leading tennis nation.

### Mission

To lead the growth of tennis in Canada.

### Values

We value teamwork, passion, integrity, innovation, excellence and accountability.

### Tennis Canada Organizing Committee

Andre Rolemberg, Ariane Desrosiers, Brooke Wowchuk, Caterina Lombardi, Claudine Ferragut, Danielle Mele, David Toms, Eleonore Lapierre, Florence Gauthier, Francis Cheng, Francis Milloy, Genevieve Marchand, Greg Jauncey, Jason Maglantay, Jill Bridgman, Julie Gravel, Kelly Black, Nick Jahurali, Nicole Artuso, Noah Lemieux, Oliver Wheeler, Olivier Rault, Patrick Steski, Pete Borkowski, Stephane Courville, Valerie Tetreault

Tournament Director: Ryan Borczon

Tournament Chair: Gavin Ziv

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