



Ice hockey is considered the world's fastest team sport and is popular in countries such as Canada, the United States, Scandinavia, and Russia. Hockey is the official winter sport in Canada and involves people of all ages at different levels of playing. In the International Ice Hockey Federation, there are 66 countries that are members. Of this membership Canada, the Czech Republic, Finland, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, and the United States are the only countries that have won Olympic medals in men's or women's hockey.

Let's take a look at Canada's role in the history of Olympic hockey:

- In 1920, hockey was played in early April as part of the Antwerp Olympic Summer Games. Canada won the gold medal easily.
- At the first Olympic Winter Games in 1924, which was held in Chamonix, France, Canada's hockey team won all five of its games and out scored its opponents 110 – 3.
- During the Lake Placid Winter Games in 1932, Canada needed a win or a tie to obtain another gold medal. Canada and the United States had to play to a draw in a marathon final game that was called after three scoreless overtime periods. Canada won the Gold for the most goals in the tournament and the United States the silver.
- The 1936 Winter Olympics took place in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, where Canada lost to Great Britain and finished second, winning the silver medal.
- In 1948, at the St. Moritz Winter Olympics, Canada and Czechoslovakia finished with identical 7-0-1 records. Canada won the gold medal on the number of goals scored in the tournament: 64-62.
- At the Winter Olympics in Oslo, Norway in 1952, Canada won the gold medal in hockey for the last time in the 20th Century.
- Things began to change at the 1956 Olympic Games in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy. The Soviet Union (Russia) entered its first Winter Olympics and won more medals than any other country, including the gold medal. Canada finished third behind the United States.
- The 1960 Winter Olympics Games were held in Squaw Valley, California. This is where the first "Miracle on Ice" took place. An unexpected American team defeated Canada, the Czechs, and the Soviets to win the first Olympic gold medal for the United States in hockey.
- In 1964, at the Innsbruck Winter Olympics, the Soviet Union won gold and began the year of international domination that lasted three decades. During this period of time, the Soviet hockey team won seven Olympic gold medals in eight Olympics.
- In 1972, Canada refused to send a hockey team to the Sapporo Winter Olympics. It also pulled out of international hockey in protest that the Soviets and other eastern bloc teams used professional players. The Soviet Union won the gold medal at the Olympics. Later that year, the Soviets



played against a team of Canadian NHL hockey stars in an exhibition series. Canadians were shocked by the excellent way the Soviets played even though Canada won the series by a single goal in the final game.

- In 1976, Canada did not send a hockey team to the Olympics Games in Innsbruck, Austria. Sweden also boycotted the games for the same reasons.
- The Winter Olympic Games were held in Lake Placid in 1980. During these games the "Miracle on Ice" took place for a second time. Another unexpected American team ended the tournament by beating the Soviets 4-3 and Finland 4-2 to win the gold medal. Canada finished in sixth place.
- The Calgary Winter Olympics took place in 1988. For the first time professional hockey players were allowed to play. Many could not become involved as the time of the Winter Games conflicted with their NHL playing schedule. During these games, Canada's hockey team placed 4th.
- At the Albertville Olympic Games in 1992, the Soviet Olympic team played under a new banner of the "Commonwealth of Independent States" as the USSR had dissolved a few months previous. It was during these games that the Soviet team won its final victory in one of the longest winning periods of any sport. All other Soviet Republics would compete under the name of their own country. At these games, Canada won the silver medal.
- In 1998, during the Nagano Winter Olympics, women's ice hockey made its debut. The United States won the first Olympic gold medal with Canada winning silver. The NHL allowed its players to play for their own national teams at the Olympics. Canada and the United States both finished out of the medals.
- In 2002, at the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, Canada won gold in the men's and women's tournaments. The United States won both silver medals. The victory for the Canadian men's hockey team came 50 years to the day after its ice hockey gold at the 1952 Winter Games in Oslo, Norway.
- At the Turin Winter Olympics in 2006, Canada's women's hockey team won the gold. Sweden defeated the USA to take silver, giving the USA team the bronze. Canada's men's hockey team placed 7th in the standings.
- At the 2010 Vancouver Olympics and the 2014 Sochi Olympics, Canada's Mens' and Womens' Hockey Teams won gold medals.
- At the PyeongChang Olympics in 2018 the Men's Hocky Team won bronze and the Women's Team won silver medals.
- How do you think our hockey teams will do at the Milan-Cortina Olympics in Italy?





When and where did each Olympic event take place?

1. One country began its thirty year domination over international hockey.

2. Canada withdrew from international hockey and boycotted this Winter Olympic Games.

3. Two hockey teams played an extraordinarily long final game for a gold medal.

4. Canada and Sweden both boycotted the Winter Olympic Games.

5. Women's hockey teams made their debut and Canada's team won the silver medal.

6. Canada's women's and men's hockey teams came home victorious.

7. An American hockey team unexpectedly won the first gold medal in men's hockey for the first time.

8. The Soviet hockey team ended its long winning period in the sport.

9. Canada's women's hockey team won the gold and the men's hockey team placed 7th.

10. NHL players were allowed to play international hockey for the first time.

11. Canada won its last gold medal in the 20th century.

12. Canada was defeated by a small country that is not known for its hockey skills.

Famous Canadian Olympians

Hockey's Wonder Woman

Marie-Philip Poulin



Marie - Phillip Poulin is a Canadian professional ice hockey centre and captain for the Montreal Victoire of the Professional Women's Hockey League (PWHL). She was born on March 28, 1991 and was raised in Beauceville, Quebec. Marie began figure skating at the age of four but did not enjoy it. At the age of five she started to play hockey to be like her brother.

At the age of 16, she made her Team Canada debut on the Under-18 National Team playing hockey during a three game exhibition in Prince George, British Columbia between Canada and the United States in 2007. Marie scored four goals and had one assist in two games against Sweden's National Women's Team who had won the Olympic silver medal in 2006. These points put her at the top of the list for the national women's team.

At the Women's Under 18 Championships in Calgary in 2008, Marie was the leading scorer. Her team won a silver medal and Marie finished the tournament with eight goals and two assists. On Canada's Under 18 Team, Poulin became the leading scorer in its history with 31 points in 17 games. She helped Canada to win silver medals at the I.I.H.F. World Women's Under 18 Championships in 2008 and 2009.

In 2009, Marie played on the Canadian Senior National Team who had won the silver medal at the World Championships in Finland. At the 2010 Winter Olympics, Poulin scored both goals to give Canada a 2-0 win in the gold medal game against the United States.

At the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, Poulin scored the game-tying and game winning goals in Canada's overtime game with the United States winning the gold medal.

After winning gold at the 2014 Olympics, Canada won silver at the next three World Championships and lost gold in the 2018 Olympics during the shootout. In 2019 Canada won a surprising bronze medal when Poulin's shot hit off the bar, went down, bounced over the line and quickly came back out.

Marie Philip Poulin is called "Captain Clutch" because she scores important goals when her team needs them most. In the 2022 Olympics, she scored the winning goal against the United States to help Canada win the gold medal. That victory gave her three Olympic gold medals, and she became the only hockey player in history to score in four different Olympic gold medal games.



Marie-Philip Poulin

Locate and record the answers to the following questions in sentences.

1. When did Poulin begin playing on the Under-18 National team?

2. How old was Marie when she started playing on the Under-18 National Team?

3. At which hockey tournament did Marie score eight goals and had two assists?

4. Which PWHL team does Marie-Philip Poulin play for and what position does she play?

5. Why did Marie not become a figure skater?

6. How did Marie impress people at the Women's Under 18 Championships in 2008?

7. Which team did Marie play for in 2009 and won a silver medal?

8. How did Marie help her team win the gold medal at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games?

9. Which country did Marie help to defeat at the 2010 and 2014 Winter Olympics to win gold medals?

10. Why is Marie-Phillip Poulin often called "Captain Clutch"?

Famous Canadian Olympians

Ice Hockey

Connor McDavid



Connor McDavid is a Canadian hockey player who is known as one of the best in the world. He was born on January 13, 1997, and he plays centre for the Edmonton Oilers. The Oilers chose him first overall in the 2015 NHL Draft, which means they believed he was the top young player that year.



Connor started playing hockey when he was very young, and he often played against older kids. His dad coached him, and Connor worked hard to improve his skills. As a child, he won four championships with his team, the York Simcoe Express. Later, he joined the Toronto Marlboros, where he won awards for being the best player in the league.

When Connor was only 15, he was given “exceptional player status.” This special rule allowed him to play in the Ontario Hockey League earlier than most players. He became a star right away. In his final OHL season, he scored 120 points and won many awards. He also played for Team Canada and helped win gold medals at two major international tournaments.

Connor joined the Edmonton Oilers in 2015, but his first season was tough because he broke his collarbone. Even though he missed three months, he was still named one of the best rookies in the NHL. The next year, at only 19 years old, he became the youngest captain in NHL history. Connor kept getting better and better. At age 20, he scored 100 points and won the Art Ross Trophy for being the top scorer in the NHL. In 2024, he led the Oilers to the Stanley Cup Final and won the Conn Smythe Trophy as the most valuable player in the playoffs.

Throughout his career, Connor has won many awards. He has been named an NHL All Star many times and has won the Fastest Skater competition four times. He has also won the Hart Trophy, given to the league’s most valuable player, three times — and once he won it unanimously, something only Wayne Gretzky had done before.

Connor will play for Team Canada at the 2026 Winter Olympics. Fans across the country are excited to see him represent Canada on one of the biggest stages in the world.



Connor McDavid

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What NHL team does Connor McDavid play for?

2. Why was Connor given "exceptional player status" at age 15?

3. How old was Connor when he became the youngest captain in NHL history?

4. What major award did Connor win during the 2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs?

5. Name one reason people consider Connor McDavid one of the best players in the world.

Ice Hockey

1. 1964, Innsbruck W.O.
 2. 1972, Sapporo Winter Olympics
 3. 1932 Lake Placid Winter Olympics
 4. 1976, Innsbruck, Austria
 5. 1998, Nagano Winter Olympics
 6. 2010, Vancouver Olympics
- 2014 Sochi Olympics
7. 1960, Squaw Valley Olympic Games
 8. 1980, Lake Placid
 9. 2006, Turin Winter Games
 10. 1988, Calgary Winter Olympics
 11. 2010, Vancouver Olympics
 12. 1936, Garmish Partenken-chen, Germany

Marie – Philip Poulin

1. In 2007
2. 16
3. Women's Under 18 Championships in Calgary
4. Montreal Victoire, centre
5. She wanted to play hockey and be like her brother
6. She scored eight goals and had two assists
7. The Canadian Senior National Team
8. Scored both goals
9. The United States
10. Because she scores important goals when her team needs them most.

Connor McDavid

1. He plays for the Edmonton Oilers.
2. Because he was so skilled that he was allowed to play in the OHL early.
3. He was 19 years old.
4. He won the Conn Smythe Trophy.
5. Answers may vary: his speed, scoring ability, awards, 100 point seasons, etc.