



WESTERN CANADA JUNIOR B LACROSSE INVITATIONAL

MacDonald Cup
Western Canada Junior B Lacrosse INVITATIONAL
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macdonaldcup.ca

TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT – Cranbrook Blackwolves

May 1st, 2023 – We are excited to announce our second confirmed team for this this year’s invitational!!

The Cranbrook Blackwolves represent the East Kootenays of British Columbia, drawing many of their players from Cranbrook and Kimberley. This season marks some exciting changes and developments for the Cranbrook Lacrosse Association; most notably the announcement of a new name and logo, the Cranbrook Blackwolves (ka·kin). This change brings with it the end of the Cranbrook Outlaws and the start of a new era with the lacrosse club.

The Cranbrook Outlaws ended the 2022 season as Alberta provincial champions in Junior B, Tier 2; they also went undefeated during the regular season. Head coach Russ Sheppard’s vision to grow and develop the Cranbrook Lacrosse organization in recent years has paved the way for the team’s new identity.

The Cranbrook Blackwolves name and logo allow the Cranbrook Lacrosse Association to adopt many aspects, both direct and subtle, that align with the Indigenous roots of the game and to utilize a name that has much meaning within the Indigenous community.

The wolf is a sacred animal within almost every Indigenous circle in North America. The wolf is often thought to represent Loyalty, Strength, Strong Family Ties, Intelligence and Discipline. The black wolf often strikes fear because of its majestic look, and many agree that the black wolf is the most intimidating of all the wolves.

The Cranbrook Lacrosse Association initiated discussions with the Ktunaxa Indigenous people to develop an understanding of the place that the Creators Game holds within our area’s history. Cranbrook Lacrosse is not only committed to the long-term development of lacrosse within our Indigenous community, but to ensure that they seek appropriate advice on being culturally respectful and appropriate.

“It was time for our organization, that promotes and plays this beautiful Indigenous rooted game, to take the next step in honoring and respecting its history and to develop a closer relationship with the sports local stewards” commented Cranbrook Lacrosse Association president Barb Stevenson.

“ʔaᑭam is pleased to collaborate with the Cranbrook Lacrosse Association and create a meaningful partnership that will honour our ancestors and their relationships with ʔamakʔ is Ktunaxa.” - Bonnie Harvey

The Junior Blackwolves are led by head coach Russ Sheppard and assistant coach Clayton Fenney. The team consists of 25 players who will represent not only the growth and history of Cranbrook Lacrosse, but also the historical roots of a game they love. As first-time participants at the MacDonald Cup, the Blackwolves are looking to make an impact and demonstrate their development as a team.

This event will be held in the new arena at the Port Coquitlam Community Center from **August 9-13, 2023**, which will precede the 2023 Founders Cup. The active planning committee has members from all 4 provinces and is **looking for volunteers and sponsors to make this a great event.**

For more information, please contact the organizing committee at: westcan.jrbchampionships@gmail.com
More information will be updated throughout the year on our website: macdonaldcup.ca