

## Mike Gillis



Mike Gillis is a former hockey executive and professional hockey player. From Sudbury, Ontario, Gillis began to draw attention in the hockey world during his junior career, playing for the Kingston Canadians of the Ontario Major Junior Hockey League (OMJHL). His impressive play in junior led to his selection as the 5th overall pick in the 1978 NHL Draft by the Colorado Rockies.

Gillis' NHL career spanned from 1978 to 1984, during which he played for the Colorado Rockies and Boston Bruins. Gillis skated in 246 games in the NHL before his on-ice career was unfortunately hampered by injuries, which led to his early retirement from professional hockey.

Transitioning from player to advocate, Gillis earned a law degree from Queen's University and became a prominent player agent, representing numerous high-profile NHL players and advocating for player rights and better contract terms. His expertise and reputation as an agent paved the way for his transition into an executive role.

In April 2008, Gillis was named the General Manager of the Vancouver Canucks. His tenure was marked by innovative approaches to team management, including advancements in player health and performance analytics. Under his leadership, the Canucks achieved significant success, including back-to-back Presidents' Trophies in 2011 and 2012 and an appearance in the 2011 Stanley Cup Final. Gillis was awarded the Jim Gregory General Manager of the Year award during the 2011-12 season as the NHL's top general manager.

After his tenure with the Vancouver Canucks, Gillis taught a sports law course at the University of Victoria during the spring of 2016. He also took on a role as a consultant for the NHL Players' Association (NHLPA) starting in 2021. He was also involved in the search for a new Executive Director for the NHLPA.