

HOST INFORMATION PACKAGE



“Lead, Develop and Promote Positive
Lifelong Hockey Experiences”

U13 TIER 1 BC HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS

CRANBROOK, BRITISH COLUMBIA
MARCH 14 - 18, 2026



WELCOME MESSAGE

The City of Cranbrook and the East Kootenay Avalanche, representing the Cranbrook Minor Hockey Association, proudly welcome all players, coaches, families, officials, and volunteers to the 2026 U13 Tier 1 BC Hockey Championship.

We're excited to host this prestigious event and share our community's deep love for hockey. With a proud history of grassroots and competitive play, Cranbrook is honoured to showcase our city, our people, and our passion for the game.

Nestled in the Kootenay Region, the heart of the Rocky Mountains, Cranbrook offers small-town warmth and big adventure. From local shops and restaurants to the nearby Kimberley Alpine Resort and Western Financial Place, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

We respectfully acknowledge the traditional territories of the Ktunaxa Nation and the ʔaq'am Community, and we're grateful to celebrate sport on this beautiful land.

Welcome to Cranbrook — and best of luck to all teams competing for the 2026 U13 Tier 1 BC Championship!



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CONTACT INFORMATION

Cranbrook Minor Hockey Association
PO Box 20065, Cranbrook, BC V1C 7G9

EAST KOOTENAY AVALANCHE U13 TIER 1 CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

Ashley Harris, Host Committee Co-Chair
Email: ashleymccrea@gmail.com

Phone or text: 250-581-4412

Ryan Shanks, Host Committee Co-Chair
Email: rpcelectric@gmail.com

Phone or text: 250-270-2701

Tamarra Pryhitko, Teams Liaison/Accommodations
Email: tamarra@shaw.ca

Phone or text: 250-433-6949

Connie Thom, Teams Liaison/Accommodations
Email: cthom@rdek.bc.ca

Phone or text: 250-421-1388

BC HOCKEY REPRESENTATIVE

Kersti Toews
Email: president.omhmha@gmail.com

Phone: 250-706-8462

MEMORIAL ARENA

1432 2nd Street North
Cranbrook, BC V1C 3L2

Phone: 250-489-0257



*photo credit WHL arena guide website



GENERAL CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES – MARCH 15-18, 2026

BANQUET

The banquet will be held at:

Cranbrook History Centre

57 Van Horne Street South, Cranbrook, BC

Saturday, March 14th

Drop off 5:45pm-5:55pm

Banquet: 6:00-8:30pm



Step into a night of hockey history at our Original Six Banquet, celebrating the legendary teams that laid the foundation of the NHL. From the Canadiens to the Bruins, the Leafs to the Rangers; this evening honours the grit, style, and tradition of the game. Guests are invited to dress rink-ready — think sharp suits, bold coats, and confident swagger — just like your favourite NHL or PWHL player arriving for game night. Lace up your look and join us for a classic celebration - with modern flair.



Following dinner, guest speaker Russell Shepperd will deliver an uplifting and motivating address that celebrates the impact of mentorship, the importance of believing in young people, and the transformative power of sport. The theme of this tournament is “Harnessing the Power of Sport to Inspire Strong Minds and Healthy Bodies.”

Russell Shepperd, Lawyer – Former Teacher – Author of “The Grizzlies” Story

We are honoured to welcome Russell Shepperd as our keynote speaker for this year’s U13 Tier 1 Championship Banquet. Russell brings a unique blend of experiences as a lawyer, educator, and community advocate, best known for his inspiring work in the northern community of Kugluktuk, where he helped establish the lacrosse program that led to the acclaimed story “The Grizzlies.”

Through his journey, Russell learned profound lessons in **resilience, teamwork, and the true meaning of strength**—lessons taught to him not in a classroom or courtroom, but by the youth he served. His message is powerful, heartfelt, and deeply aligned with the values of sport, perseverance, and community.

Please communicate any dietary restrictions or allergies to the Team Liaisons on page 3.

COACHES MEETING

The Coaches meeting will be held immediately after the banquet at the event venue. Team Managers and Officials are welcome to attend.

TEAM DRESSING ROOMS

Dressing rooms will be assigned and posted for each game.

OPENING CEREMONY

The Opening Ceremony will be held at the Memorial Arena, on Sunday, March 15th at 6:45pm, before the final game of the day. All teams are required to attend.

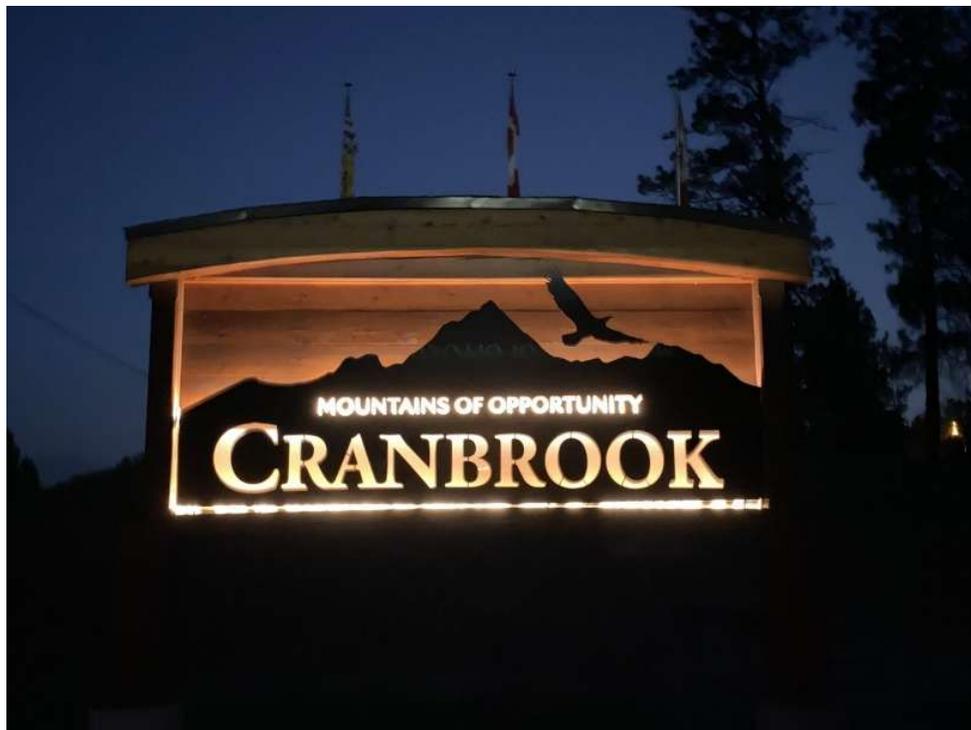
CLOSING CEREMONY

The Closing Ceremony will be held immediately after the final game, on the ice surface. The BC Hockey Representative will present the Championship Banner. All teams are not required to attend.



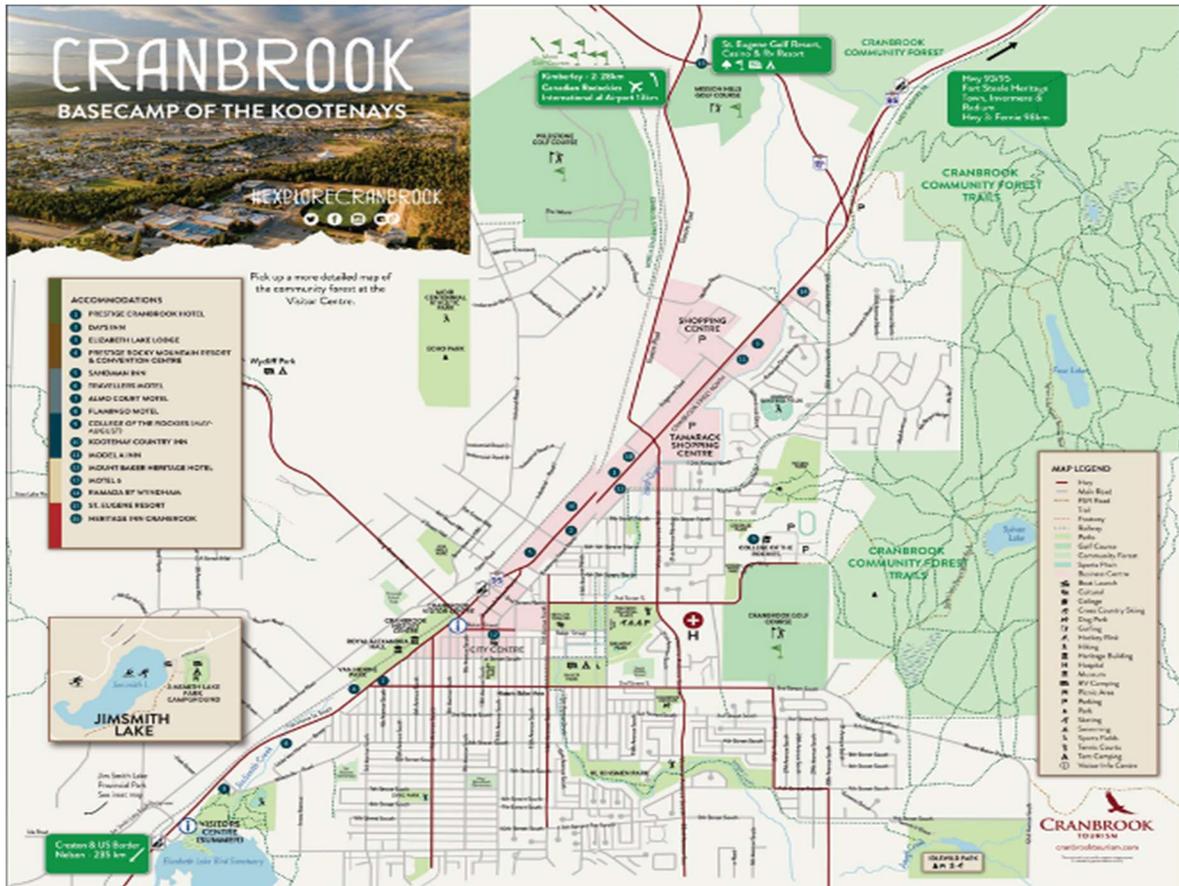
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- The registration desk will open each day, one hour before the first scheduled game in the lobby of the Memorial Arena.
- Team check-in packages will include a schedule, a map of Cranbrook, and discount offers/vouchers.
- Emergency medical coverage will be on-site, at the rink, during each game.
- Meal & snack options will be offered on-site by local food trucks.



MAP OF CRANBROOK

KOOTENAY ROCKIES BROCHURES AND MAPS



The **Kootenay Rockies** is **British Columbia's Mountain Playground**. It is the birthplace of adventure travel, and each community has its own story to tell. Explore the shelves of amazing guides for the Kootenays – view brochures as a virtual magazine, save it to your Favourites, share with a friend, learn about the region, order a brochure to receive in the mail...all for free.



WHERE IS CRANBROOK?

FROM VANCOUVER: Travel along Highway 1 (Trans-Canada) to the highway junction in the community of Hope, BC. At the highway junction there are three highway routes leading into the interior of BC. Highway 3 (Crowsnest) is the quickest route traveling east from Hope on Highway 3 to Cranbrook.

FROM CALGARY: Travel Highway 1 (Trans-Canada) west to Banff National Park and then continue to the provincial border of British Columbia. Continue driving west on Hwy #1 to the community of Golden, BC. From Golden, travel Highway 93/95 south to Cranbrook, BC. Or travel south on Highway 2 and then west on Highway 3 (Crowsnest). Or travel south on Highway 2 to Nanton, AB. From Nanton, travel west on Highway 533 until you reach Highway 22 (Cowboy Trail). Follow Highway 22 south to where it meets Highway 3, following Highway 3 to Cranbrook.



BRITISH COLUMBIA

FROM	KMS
Golden	246
Revelstoke	395
Kimberley	29
Nelson	231
Vernon	541
Kelowna	530
Prince George	879
Fort St John	1105
Terrace	1455
Vancouver	842
Victoria	969
Calgary	391
Edmonton	682
Spokane	295

AIRPORTS

Cranbrook is home to the Canadian Rockies International Airport which is serviced by Air Canada and WestJet with numerous flights per day from Vancouver and Calgary.



CAR RENTALS

Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Budget Car Rental
National Car Rental

Phone: 778-517-8084
Phone: 250-489-4371
Phone: 778-517-8084

TAXI

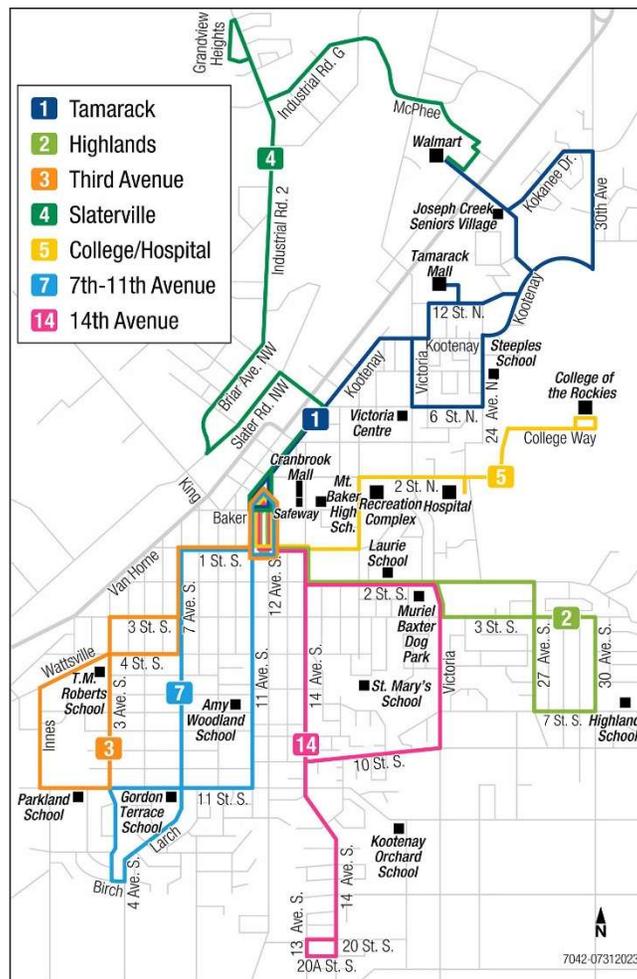
Key City Cabs
Star Taxi

Phone: 250-426-1111
Phone: 250-426-5511

TRANSIT

Cranbrook Transit System

Phone: 250-417-3178



ACCOMMODATIONS

With hundreds of rooms available in close vicinity of the Memorial Arena, there is ample opportunity for guests to be within a short walk of the venue.

From RV parts to charming bed-and-breakfasts to major hotels, whatever your taste in accommodations, Cranbrook has a comfortable place to suit all needs. No matter where visitors stay, they will find the Cranbrook-area hosts to be the friendliest and most accommodating.

HOTELS ROOM BLOCKS SECURED FOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Prestige Rocky Mountain Resort, Booking Code: CMHA2025	Phone: 877-504-2176
Prestige Cranbrook Hotel, Booking Code: CMHA2025	Phone: 250-417-0444
Ramada Hotel, No Booking Code	Phone: 250-489-8028
Heritage Inn, No Booking Code	Phone: 250-489-4301
Days Inn, Booking Code: Minor Hockey Season Promotion	Phone: 250-426-6683

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

St. Eugene Resort & Casino	Phone: 866-292-2020
Sandman Hotel	Phone: 250-426-4236
Motel 6	Phone: 250-426-6266
The Baker Hotel	Phone: 250-908-7888
Travellers Motel	Phone: 250-426-4208
Elizabeth Lake Lodge	Phone: 250-426-6114
Model A Inn	Phone: 250-489-4600
Kootenay Country Inn	Phone: 778-517-5888



MEALS & ENTERTAINMENT



*photo credit city of Cranbrook website – restaurants

Hidden gems and local favourites are what Cranbrook is made of. The food is no exception! Able to satisfy every palate, you just have to ask yourself what you're craving today. There are no lack of options when choosing where to fill your belly. Cranbrook offers culturally diverse dining options such as Thai, Indian, Mexican, Vietnamese, Chinese, Jamaican and Indigenous. There are also many award-winning modern-fare establishments downtown, and across the city. Talented culinary teams are found all over Cranbrook! Choose from the list below or discover a new favourite off the beaten path.

UNIQUE-TO-CRANBROOK RESTAURANTS

The Heid Out Restaurant & Brewhouse

Phone: 250-426-7922

Allegra

Phone: 250-426-8812

Fire Hall Kitchen & Tap

Phone: 778-520-0911

Perry's Pizza & Grill

Phone: 250-489-3525

Fenwick & Baker Public House

Phone: 250-420-4971

Ella's

Phone: 778-517-5297

Sakura Sushi & Grill

Phone: 250-426-0098

Family Thai Restaurant

Phone: 778-517-5711

Numa at St. Eugene Golf Resort & Casino

Phone: 250-420-2025



FAMILY FAVOURITE CHAINS & ESTABLISHMENTS

Boston Pizza
Denny's Restaurant
ABC Country Restaurant

Canadian 2 for 1 Pizza
Mr. Mike's Steakhouse Casual
East Side Mario's

FAST FIXES

Subway
Wendy's
Opa
KFC
Dairy Queen Grill & Chill

McDonald's
Popeye's Chicken
A&W
Pizza
TacoTime Cantina

CAFES

Hot Shot's Café
Tim Horton's
Kootenay Grounds Café & Bookstore

Max's Place
Munch Café & Deli
Kootenay Roasting Company

ENTERTAINMENT

- Landmark Cinemas
1500 Cranbrook Street North (Tamarack Centre) Phone: 250-417-3288
- Key City Theatre
20 14th Avenue North Phone: 250-426-7006
- Encore Brewing & Bowling
1400 4 Street North Phone: 778-517-5885
- Arq Mountain Centre
1924 Industrial Road 2 Phone: 250-189-0620
- Kootenay Indoor Golf
600 Cranbrook Street North Phone: 236-505-2212
- Western Financial Place
1777 2 Street North Phone: 250-489-0220

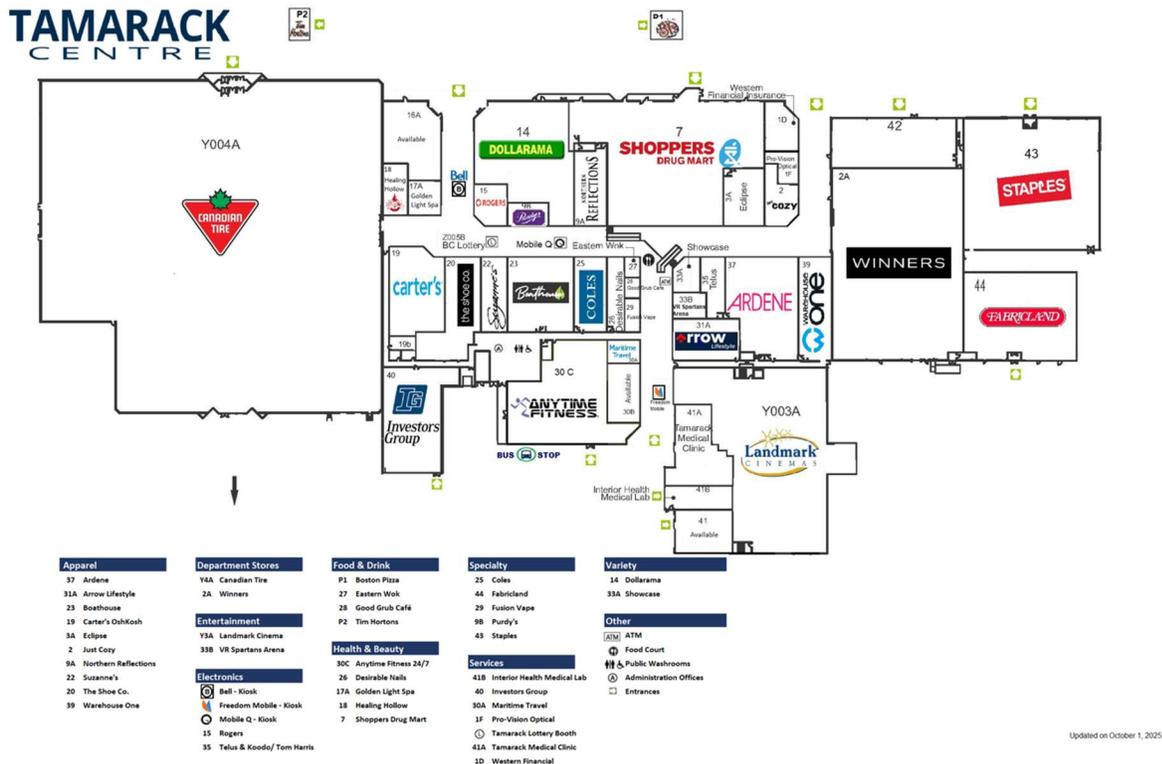


ATTRACTIONS IN CRANBROOK & NEARBY

Cranbrook Community Forest
 The Canadian Museum of Rail Travel
 Fort Steele Heritage Town
 Marysville Falls

Kootenay Trout Hatchery & Visitor Centre
 Kimberley Alpine Resort
 Fernie Alpine Resort
 Elizabeth Lake Wetlands

SHOPPING



→ Gerick Sports
 320 Cranbrook Street North

Phone: 250-464-9766

→ Player's Bench
 824 Kootenay Street North

Phone: 250-489-5969

→ Sport Chek
 2100 Willowbrook Drive

Phone: 250-426-5090

*Skate sharpening services are available at Player's Bench & Sport Chek



MEDICAL FACILITIES

- East Kootenay Regional Hospital - Primary emergency facility in town
13 24th Ave N, Cranbrook BC
- Cranbrook Urgent and Primary Care Centre - Non-emergencies
1311 2nd Street N, Unit 230, Cranbrook BC



COMMUNITY INFORMATION

KTUNAXA NATION

<https://www.ktunaxa.org/who-we-are/>

Ktunaxa (pronounced 'k-too-nah-ha') people have occupied the lands adjacent to the Kootenay and Columbia Rivers and the Arrow Lakes of British Columbia, Canada for more than 10,000 years. The Traditional Territory of the Ktunaxa Nation covers approximately 70,000 square kilometres within the Kootenay region of south-eastern British Columbia and historically included parts of Alberta, Montana, Washington and Idaho.

For thousands of years, the Ktunaxa people enjoyed the natural bounty of the land, seasonally migrating throughout the Traditional Territory to follow vegetation and hunting cycles. They obtained all their food, medicine and materials for shelter and clothing from nature – hunting, fishing and gathering throughout the Territory, across the Rocky Mountains and on the Great Plains of both Canada and the United States. European settlement in the late 1800s, followed by the establishment of Indian Reserves led to the creation of the present Indian Bands. Ktunaxa citizenship consists of Nation members from six Bands located throughout historic traditional Ktunaxa territory. Five of those Bands are located in British Columbia, Canada.

ʔaq'am

<https://www.aqam.net/about>

ʔaq'am is a member community of the Ktunaxa Nation. As a community, they share many values – recognizing the importance of family, unity and co-operation, effective communication, love and kindness, respect, safety and security, inclusion, education and learning, healthy and balanced living – and take pride in their heritage, language and culture. We value natural law and practice stewardship of the land, water, animals, and plants. The vision of the Ktunaxa ancestors continues to guide them through traditions, customs, language, and beliefs. They strive to govern effectively and maximize their lands and resources for the benefit of all living things and future generations, in accordance with their values and principles. They recognize Ktunaxa rights and title. The Band Council consists of a Chief and four counsellors, all elected through the Band's own election process. ʔaq'am members are employed in a variety of fields, including local government, hospitality, construction, transportation, tourism, forestry, and entrepreneurial pursuits. The ʔaq'am administration operates a diverse range of programs and services, including the ʔaq'amnik' Elementary school, ʔaq'amnik' Daycare, ʔaq'amnik' After School and Summer Programs, Community Education Services, Community Health, Economic Development, Lands/Natural Resources and Housing and Administrative Services. These functions are operated centrally at the Band's Administration Building. The ʔaq'am Community has the largest population of all Ktunaxa Nation Bands and the largest land base, occupying



18,420 acres. ʔaq̓am members work together to foster a vibrant, healthy community in which everyone has a role to play.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN METIS ASSOCIATION

<https://www.cranbrookmetis.com/info.html>

The Rocky Mountain Métis Association is the local Métis chartered association in Cranbrook, Kimberley and Creston. The RMMA represents the Métis people, culture, traditions, and cultural belongings. The Métis Nation emerged from within the Métis Nation Homeland during the seventeenth century as a result of the French and English fur trade. At that time, Canada did not exist as a country, and the provincial governments we know today in western Canada would not exist for another 200 years. Marriages between European fur traders and First Nation women produced children of mixed ancestry, who eventually became known as Métis, or Country Born people. Establishing relationships with Aboriginal women gave fur traders valuable contacts with tribal communities, and tribal communities regular access to trade goods. The women were also able to teach the traders local languages, show them how to survive on the land and tend to domestic affairs such as preparing food, constructing shelters, and making clothing. Daughters born from these unions usually carried on traditional roles taught by their mothers. Sons grew up to enter the fur trade, become hunters, trappers, or canoe men. Those with schooling were able to become clerks or interpreters at the trading posts. The development of a unique Métis culture began to unfold.



BC HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP ONLINE STORE

Championship merchandise can be purchased here:

<https://bchockeyu13tier1championship.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

Order by March 8th to have your order shipped to the event for distribution. Orders placed after that date will be shipped to the purchaser at an additional fee.



Russell Athletic Dri-Power® Fleece Hoodie

\$69.99

2 Colors



Russell Athletic Youth Dri-Power® Fleece Hoodie

\$64.99

2 Colors



Russell Athletic Fleece Crew Neck Sweatshirt

\$64.99

2 Colors

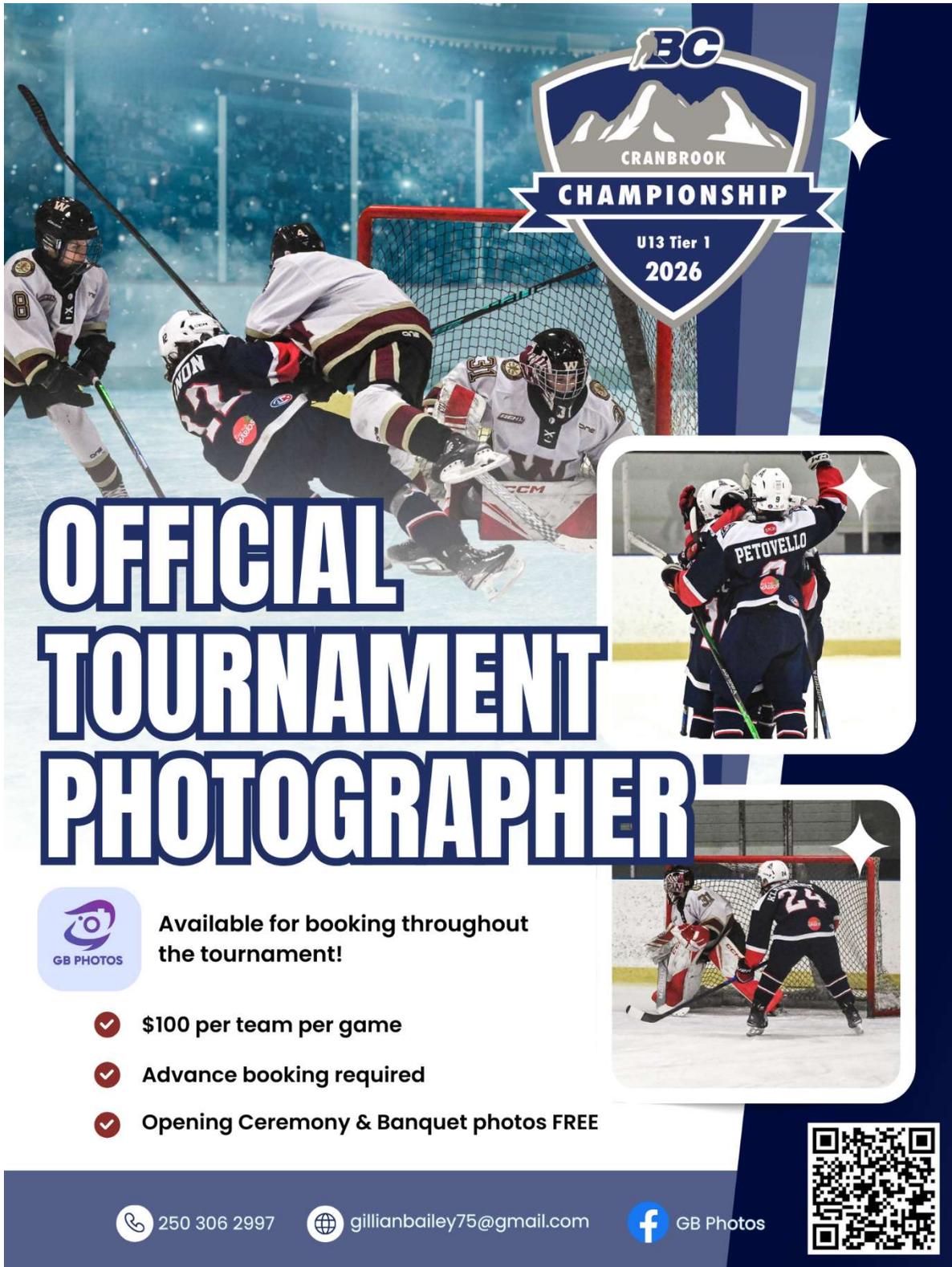


ATC Adult Everyday Cotton Blend Tee

\$24.99

2 Colors





OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT PHOTOGRAPHER

Available for booking throughout the tournament!

- ✓ \$100 per team per game
- ✓ Advance booking required
- ✓ Opening Ceremony & Banquet photos FREE

 250 306 2997
  gillianbailey75@gmail.com
  GB Photos

