



## Canadian Rugby Foundation provides grant funding from Monty Heald Fund to support Canada's Senior Women's 15s ahead of Rugby World Cup

July 19, 2022 (Langford, BC) – Rugby Canada is delighted to announce that the Canadian Rugby Foundation has provided substantial grant funding from the Monty Heald Fund to support Canada's Senior Women's 15s program as they continue their preparations for this year's Rugby World Cup.

Seeded No. 3 entering the World Cup, Head Coach Kevin Rouet's side will head to New Zealand in September ahead of action getting underway in October. Prior to that, the Women's 15s team will host Italy in Langford, BC followed by Wales in Halifax, NS in their final warmup fixtures on home soil. Click [here](#) to buy tickets.

Set up in 2015, the Monty Heald Fund – named after former Rugby Canada President, Monty Heald – was originally intended to supplement Rugby Canada funding to ensure that players selected for Canada's Senior Women's 15s team were not required to “pay to play” from their own resources.

Since then, as the program has evolved, the Fund now provides supplementary resources to create more opportunities for the Senior Women's national team to train together and cover additional program costs.

The Monty Heald Fund is operated by the Canadian Rugby Foundation, with whom Rugby Canada announced a [new memorandum of agreement](#) in May which focusses on increased collaboration and co-operation, communication and joint fundraising efforts between the two organizations.

The funds allocated in this latest grant will help ensure the current Women's 15s team have additional time together in the build-up to the Rugby World Cup, in turn providing the program with increased opportunity to train and refine their plans. That includes portions of the early soft centralization of a large group of players ahead of this weekend's test match against Italy, the Women's 15s' first at home in seven years, as well as additional days together in Halifax next month.

“As our organizations continue to collaborate, we are delighted to provide this grant from the Monty Heald Fund to Canada's Senior Women's 15s national team,” said Jeff Chan, Executive Director of the Canadian Rugby Foundation. “We are sure it will have a significant impact as the team continues on its journey to New Zealand.”

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Chair of the Monty Heald Fund, Stephanie White added, “We are grateful to our donors that allow the Monty Heald Fund to support these amazing athletes as they work toward their goal of competing for Canada at the Rugby World Cup. As women’s rugby deservedly continues its growth worldwide, this funding will help our team compete for a podium position in New Zealand. As a proud alumna, I know the value this support provides to our National team toward their preparations.”

“We are extremely grateful for the support of the Monty Heald Fund, the Canadian Rugby Foundation and all donors that have made this possible,” commented Rouet. “These funds have already and will help us ensure we maximize our preparation time leading into the Rugby World Cup in New Zealand.”

For anyone wishing to join this effort, we invite additional donations to the Monty Heald Fund online [HERE](#).

### **About Rugby Canada**

Rugby Canada is the national governing body of the sport of Rugby Union in Canada. They administer and operate Men’s and Women’s Senior and Junior National programs in both rugby 15s and 7s, as well as govern the Club and community game for more than 30,000 registered participants from coast to coast in conjunction with ten Provincial Union members.

Rugby Canada is headquartered at the Al Charron National Training Centre in Langford, BC, residing on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish and Lekwungen/Songhees peoples, with staff also working from Vancouver, Toronto and Ottawa. Rugby Canada business operations, programs and events are delivered nationwide, including the internationally recognized HSBC Canada Sevens annual tournament.

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