



GEORGE KINGSTON

2016 ALBERTA HOCKEY HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



George Kingston, PhD, is one of Canada's best known and most successful coaches, with a resume that includes almost two decades at the University of Calgary, stints with five National Hockey League teams, Canada's Olympic and national team programs, and work with five other international programs.

George's coaching career started at the University of Calgary, where his Dinosaur teams achieved a 245-128 record and five Western Canadian university championships during 16 seasons, 1968-88.

In the NHL, George coached with five teams, including serving as the inaugural head coach and vice president of hockey operations for the expansion San Jose Sharks, 1991-93. He also worked as an assistant coach with the Calgary Flames (1980-82), Minnesota North Stars (1988-89), Atlanta Thrashers (1999-2001), and Florida Panthers (2001-07).

Sandwiched around his time in the NHL, George played an active volunteer role with Hockey Canada. One of his most notable accolades was as head coach of Team Canada in 1994, winning Canada's first gold medal in 33 years at the IIHF World Hockey Championships in Italy. George also worked with the 1980, 1984, 1988 and 1994 Olympic teams, including serving as Director of Operations/ General Manager/ Mentor Coach for Team Canada's silver medal winning effort in Lillehammer in 1994. He won a gold medal at the 1988 Spengler Cup as the head coach of Team Canada, and was the assistant coach and general manager for two other Spengler Cup gold medals. George's influence on hockey extends well beyond Canada's borders, as he has helped develop and improve programs in Norway, Germany, Mexico, Lithuania, and Austria.

His international work includes:

- Germany: 1994-98, National Men's Team head coach, participated in the final round of the 1996 World Cup of Hockey.
- Norway: 1989-91, head coach National Men's and Under-20 teams, and special consultant for the 1994 Lillehammer Olympics; 2007-2010, National Woman's Team coach, National Men's Team assistant coach, helping the men's team qualify for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics; assistant coach of the Men's Sledge Hockey team bronze medalists at the Vancouver Paralympic Games.
- Mexico: 2010-12, assistant coach/ consultant with Men's, Under 18 and Under 20 national teams that competed at the IIHF Division 2 and Division 2B world championships.
- Austria: 2012-13, assistant coach with EC Salzburg; consultant for Salzburg Hockey Academy.





- Lithuania: 2013-14, assistant coach with the Men's National Team at the IIHF Division 1B world championships (Bronze medal); 2015-16 assistant coach.

George has also helped improve the game of hockey through his extensive research into all aspects of the game. The current IIHF Coaching Certification curriculum is based on the template that he and Clare Drake developed for Certification of Canadian hockey coaches. He served eight years as a Coaching Association of Canada board member and chair. He is well-known for his combination of coaching, research and presentations to the IIHF, NHL and numerous world hockey forums. He was also a presenter at the Alberta Hockey Summit in 2013. Currently, he serves as the volunteer Managing Director of the NHL Coaches' Association, and is assisting the International Paralympic Committee in delivering player development camps and program assistance in various countries.

