



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION  
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

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# NEWS RELEASE

## **Olympian Auch, Clifton students share the Right To Play**

*Three-time Olympic medalist, Athlete Ambassador visits Clifton for national Today We Play event*

Three-time Olympic medalist Susan Auch and Right To Play Junior Leaders from Clifton School are sharing the transformative power of play during Today We Play—a Right To Play school-based event initiative that brings the organization’s proven play-based learning programs into Canadian classrooms. The Clifton leaders will join students across the country who are all playing to advocate social justice, build character and give back to the community.

The Clifton students were trained to become Right To Play Junior Leaders at a January workshop. These trained students will be facilitating games that educate their fellow students about children’s rights; games such as Avoiding the Bully empower students with skills they will use throughout their lives.

**Auch will open the day’s festivities at Clifton School, 1070 Clifton Street, on Thursday, May 8 at 9 a.m.**

The former speed skater will discuss the power of sport to transform lives, as well as Right To Play’s international humanitarian goals and the achievements of the student leaders.

“Play is a powerful and universal teaching tool that can enhance a child’s education. That’s what makes Today We Play such a unique and exciting initiative,” says Right To Play President and CEO Johann Koss, “Today We Play is uniting thousands of Canadian students and teaching them how we use play to help improve children’s lives around the world. It’s also bringing the power of play into classrooms across Canada to help children learn the skills to cope with everyday challenges, build the confidence to fulfill their potential and become the leaders of tomorrow.”

(More)

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Right To Play is a global organization that uses the transformative power of play to educate and empower children facing adversity. Through playing sports and games, Right To Play helps children in more than 20 countries to build essential life skills and better futures, while driving lasting social change. Founded in 2000 by four-time Olympic gold medalist and social entrepreneur Johann Olav Koss, Right To Play is headquartered in Toronto and has national offices in Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, and regional offices in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and South America. The programs are facilitated by over 600 international staff and more than 13,500 local volunteer Coaches.

Last October, Right To Play visited 11 schools in the WSD (including Clifton) during the National Inspirational Speaker Series, which was made possible by the Department of Foreign Affairs Trade and Development. Seven Division schools also took part in the organization's Play Academy to train Junior Leaders for their schools.

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