

GAME OF HOPE

The Chris Lesanko Story

Changing Lives Through Resilience, Innovation and Hope

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Game of Hope: The Chris Lesanko Story is a completed 27-minute observational documentary that tells the remarkable true story of Saskatchewan athlete Chris Lesanko. Once one of Canada's most accomplished young lacrosse players, Chris's future appeared limitless. At just twenty-one years of age, however, a tragic accident left him with an incomplete spinal cord injury and tetraplegia, forever altering the course of his life.

For many, such a devastating injury would have marked the end of lifelong ambitions. For Chris, it became the beginning of a different journey—one defined by extraordinary determination, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to helping others.

Rather than accepting the limitations traditionally associated with severe spinal cord injuries, Chris pursued innovative rehabilitation methods that challenged conventional thinking. His determination not only transformed his own outlook and quality of life, but also helped introduce Activity Based Therapy (ABT) to Canada through the creation of specialized rehabilitation centres that now serve individuals living with spinal cord injuries and neurological conditions.

Directed through an intimate observational lens, *Game of Hope* follows Chris's journey from celebrated athlete to internationally respected advocate for rehabilitation and disability inclusion. Through candid interviews, archival footage, observational scenes, and deeply personal reflections from family, friends, colleagues and rehabilitation professionals, the documentary explores not simply what Chris lost, but what he chose to build in its place.

The film demonstrates that hope is not passive optimism—it is action. It is perseverance. It is the willingness to challenge accepted limitations in pursuit of a better future, both for oneself and for others.

Today, *Game of Hope* has been completed and is entering the next stage of its journey. We are seeking sponsorship partners who share our commitment to health, accessibility, inclusion, education, and community engagement. Support will enable the documentary to reach audiences through film festivals, educational institutions, rehabilitation hospitals, healthcare organizations, community screenings, disability advocacy groups, sporting organizations, broadcasters, and streaming platforms.

By partnering with *Game of Hope*, sponsors become part of a larger conversation about resilience, innovation, accessibility, and the extraordinary potential of the human spirit. Together, we can ensure Chris Lesanko's story continues to educate, inspire, and create meaningful change for audiences across Canada and beyond.