

Evan Boechler is a PhD Candidate in the College of Kinesiology at the University of Saskatchewan, where his research focuses on land-based learning with Indigenous youth and educators in Northern Saskatchewan communities. His work combines narrative inquiry, relational methodologies, and Indigenous ways of knowing to explore how land-based programs shape cultural identity, belonging, and wellbeing among youth. Evan has also supported community-led physical activity and sport programming in Northern communities, working alongside community members to reduce barriers to participation for Indigenous youth and to strengthen programs that foster cultural connection, confidence, and long-term engagement in active living



Why is it important to be connected to the PHE Canada Research Council?

Being connected to the PHE Canada Research Council is important to me because it creates opportunities to share research, build relationships, and contribute to national conversations that influence physical and health education across Canada. My work with Indigenous communities in Northern Saskatchewan focuses on how physical activity, sport, and land-based programs can reduce barriers to participation for Indigenous youth, particularly those related to access, resources, and culturally relevant programming. Engagement with the Research Council ensures these community-rooted perspectives can inform broader policy, practice, and advocacy aimed at creating more equitable and culturally grounded opportunities for all youth.

Evan Boechler's recent publications:

Boechler, E., Humbert, L., Schaefer, L., Hillis, D. (2025). Frenemies, Wannabies, and Jocks: Navigating the physical cultural capital ladder. *Sport, Education and Society*, 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13573322.2025.2472339>.

Boechler, E., Schaefer, L., Lessard, S., & Ferguson, L. (2025). Land-based learning and its impact on First Nations youth: Fostering wellbeing and cultural identity. [Abstract]. *Revue phénEPS/PHEnex Journal*, 15(2). Saskatoon, Canada. Vol. 15 No. 2 (2025): *Revue phénEPS-PHEnex Journal*