



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 22, 2025

### **SOAR Initiative Canada Statement on the Upcoming Trial of Five Former Members of Canada's 2018 World Juniors Hockey Team**

**Toronto, ON** – SOAR Initiative Canada stands firmly with E.M., the complainant at the centre of Canada's 2018 World Junior Hockey Team sexual assault trial, and with all survivors of sexual violence who may be retraumatized by the renewed public attention on this case. As court proceedings move forward, we acknowledge the strength it takes for survivors to seek justice and to share their stories.

The following individuals are the defendants in the case::

- Michael McLeod, 27, charged with sexual assault and sexual assault by being a party to the offence.
- Alex Formenton, 25, charged with sexual assault.
- Cal Foote, 26, charged with sexual assault.
- Dillon Dubé, 26, charged with sexual assault.
- Carter Hart, 26, charged with sexual assault.

As this high-profile case receives national and international media attention, we urge members of the press, the public, and our institutions to centre the well-being and dignity of survivors. The pursuit of justice should never come at the cost of further harm or retraumatization.

The media coverage and public discourse surrounding this trial can evoke painful memories for many survivors. We urge media outlets to exercise sensitivity and discretion in their reporting, prioritizing the well-being of survivors using survivor-centred language, as well as maintaining the integrity of the legal process.

We call for continued accountability, compassion, and structural change to better protect and support survivors of sexual violence. We also recommit ourselves to the work of ensuring that survivors are heard, believed and supported.

To all survivors who feel impacted by the developments in this case: you are not alone. Your feelings are valid, and your story, safety and well-being matters. There is no singular 'right' way to respond to trauma, and support is available.

For those affected by this case, the following resources are available for support:

- **Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres (OCRCC)**  
Offers local crisis counselling and support across Ontario.  
Website: <https://sexualassaultsupport.ca/get-help/>
- **Talk4Healing**  
A culturally grounded helpline for Indigenous women, available 24/7.  
Website: <https://www.talk4healing.com> Phone: 1-855-554-HEAL (4325)
- **Assaulted Women's Helpline**  
A free, anonymous and confidential 24-hour telephone crisis line for women in Ontario who have experienced any form of abuse.  
Website: <https://www.awhl.org/contact-us> Phone: 1-866-863-0511

**For further comment or media inquiries, please contact:**

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**About SOAR Initiative Canada**

*SOAR Initiative Canada is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering survivors of sexual violence, intimate partner violence and child abuse to heal, thrive, and achieve long-term recovery through community connection. We advocate for systemic change to dismantle the barriers survivors face in accessing care, resources, and justice.*