

## Female Box Nationals 2018 - Halifax, NS



**2018 Team BC Female Bantam Team - GOLD**

Photos Courtesy:  
Andrea Da Silva



**2018 Team BC Female Midget Team - Silver**

Photos Courtesy:  
Carrie Dunnett

**Female Bantams**-The Female Nationals were held July 21-25 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. A determined Bantam squad headed to Nova Scotia with golden aspirations after losing in the gold game one year ago. After a slow start, the Bantams gelled together and posted a 4-2 round robin record. An opening game 6-4 loss to Ontario set the tone and made the athletes dig deeper to raise their level of play. A bounce back 15-1 win over Nova Scotia got BC on track, only to drop a physical 4-3 loss to Alberta. The Bantam girls regrouped to rattle off three straight victories 4-3, 9-0 and 6-5 over Ontario, Nova Scotia and Alberta respectively. BC advanced to the finals and was ready for their rubber match with Team Alberta. BC opened the scoring on a Jordan Baxter shot 7 minutes into the game, only to increase the lead to 2-0 on a Malaena Michielin marker. Alberta cut the lead to one before Mya Stewart-Parsons regained a 3-1 lead to end the second. Alberta fought back to tie the game at three on two goals in less than five minutes. BC's Jordan Baxter scored the final two tallies for her hat trick at the 13:45 mark in the third, en route to a stunning victory to win the Bantam gold medal and be crowned National Champions. Team BC top scorers overall were Teagan Ng (6G, 3A), Jordan Baxter (5G, 4A), Malaena Michielin (5G, 5A), Keira Martin (3G, 5A) and Alyssa Clark (1G, 7A). Goaltenders Ella Friesen and Ainslee Rushton posted a team 3.14 goals against average over 7 games. Teagan Ng and Ainslee Rushton were Team BC's tournament all-star selections. "I believe the girls learned when we all work together, hard work and teamwork will beat individual talent," said Downey. "I'm very proud of the girls and what they accomplished – it was a very rewarding experience. This group of athletes were very coachable, hardworking, and selfless players which made this experience very special and one I won't soon forget."

**Female Midgets**-High hopes of a repeat gold medal were on the minds of the Team BC Female Midgets. Head Coach, Matthew Black, and his staff, prepared the athletes for the Nationals grind and finished the round-robin with a perfect 4 win and 0 loss record for first place. Team BC outscored their opponents 29-9 in round robin play. Game scores were: 11-2 and 4-0 over Nova Scotia, and 8-4 and 6-3 over Team Ontario. Team BC met rival Team Ontario in the gold game. Ontario took a quick 2-0 by the 6:04 mark of the first frame until Breanna Hollingshead opened the scoring for BC. Ontario continued the fast paced game with two more goals to end the first 4-1. Ontario poured it on to make it 5-1 just 0:28 into frame two. The teams traded goals late in the second with Ontario ahead 6-2. BC's Lauren Black got the score to 6-3, but the western girls just couldn't catch their stride as Ontario potted two late goals and went on to win the gold medal 8-3. Team BC top scorers were Raegan Mackenzie (6G, 3A), Teagan Dunnett (4G, 5A), Lauren Black (7G, 1A) and Callie Foreman (2G, 4A). Goaltenders Leona Sinclair and Madison Kokoska posted a team 3.40 goals against average over 5 games. Lauren Black and Raegan Mackenzie were Team BC's tournament all-star selections.

"The Midget girls worked very hard but could not get past the strong shooting of Team Ontario," noted Coach Black. "The momentum did not go our way in the final game but despite that, we played hard right to the end. The girls enjoyed their experience despite losing the final game. As a young team, with only one returning Midget player, the girls played very well and gave the competition a huge challenge. We are well positioned to build on our success for next year."