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Heated Rivalry announces 4 Canadians joining the cast of season 2

Emily Hampshire, Sabrina Jalees and Robert Naylor and drag queen Priyanka join the Crave TV show

[Cynthia Jimenez](#) · CBC Books · Posted: Aug 13, 2026 1:44 PM MST | Last Updated: August 14

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Emily Hampshire, Robert Naylor, Sabrina Jalees and Priyanka (left to right) join the cast of *Heated Rivalry* (Jesse Grant/Getty Images, Rodin Eckenroth/Getty Images, Tommaso/Getty Images, Kevin Winter/Getty Images)

Things are heating up in the world of hockey romance again. Five new faces are joining the cast of Crave's *Heated Rivalry*.

Canadian actress Emily Hampshire will play Vanessa, a sex shop worker, Canadian comedian and actress Sabrina Jalees as sports agent Farah Jalali and drag queen Priyanka as Tarek, an office assistant.

Hampshire is best known for her work in the sitcom *Schitt's Creek* and the TV series *12 Monkeys*. Jalees is the former host of the radio and web show *Laugh Out Loud* and a writer for *Canada's Got Talent*.

Priyanka won the first season of the reality TV show *Canada's Drag Race*.

Other cast members announced were Canadian actor and musician Robert Naylor as goaltender Wyatt Hayes and Swedish actor Edvin Ryding as rookie hockey player Luca Haas.

Naylor is known for voicing D.W. Read in the animated series *Arthur* and Ryding starred as Prince Wilhelm in Netflix's *Young Royals*.

The new casting announcement was posted to [Instagram](#) on Thursday.

Crave has said season two of *Heated Rivalry* will continue to follow the story of hockey rivals-turned-lovers Shane Hollander and Ilya Rozanov from the sixth novel of Rachel Reid's Game Changer series, *The Long Game*. Game Changers is a series of hockey romance novels that take place in the same universe with characters stories' overlapping.

Everyone's obsessed with *Heated Rivalry*. Could it change how we see gay sex on screen?

Hudson Williams and Connor Storrie are to reprise their starring roles in the TV adaptation.



Connor Storrie, left, and Hudson Williams, right, as hockey players Ilya Rozanov and Shane Hollander. (Bell Media)

Season one of the show adapted books one and two of Reid's series, *Game Changer* and *Heated Rivalry*.

Now with this new casting announcement it is likely the third novel in the series, *Tough Guy* will be adapted as well. Vanessa and Tarek are friends of Fabian Salah, the love interest of hockey player Ryan Price in *Tough Guy*.



Role Model and Tough Guy are novels by Rachel Reid. (Harlequin, Caleb Latreille, Harlequin)

The show will also incorporate the stories of Troy Barrett, a hockey player traded to Ilya's new team, and Harris Dover, a social media manager, from the fifth novel of the series, *Role Model*, in the upcoming second season.

Heated Rivalry Season 2 cast announcement sparks criticism from some fans over body diversity

Crave [announced](#) Justice Smith was cast as Harris and the *Julie and the Phantoms* star Charlie Gillespie as Troy on Aug. 7.

Season 2 of *Heated Rivalry* will premiere in spring 2027.

Corrections

- An earlier version of this story used a photo of Edvin Ryding, and incorrectly identified him as Robert Naylor. The photo has been updated.
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