Ted Nolan is a championship and award-winning coach, philanthropist, and role model. He is Ojibway and grew up on the Garden River First Nation in Ontario.

He went from skating on a backyard rink to minor and junior hockey, and then to being drafted by the Detroit Red Wings. As a young coach, he led the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds to Ontario Hockey League Championships in 1991 and 1992 and won the Memorial Cup in 1993. As a head coach in the NHL, he earned the Jack Adams Award for Coach of the Year in 1997. He led the Moncton Wildcats to the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League President's Cup in 2006. His international experience includes coaching the Latvian Men's National Team to the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

As a player and as a coach, Nolan faced discrimination and racism – he went from "loving the game to surviving the game" – though his success provided him with the opportunity to inspire Indigenous youth. In 2013, he set up the 3Nolans Hockey School with his sons Brandon and Jordan. They travel across Canada to develop the hockey skills and knowledge of Indigenous youth, and speak about the importance of active lifestyles and leadership in their communities.

In 2004, he started the Ted Nolan Foundation to honour his late mother Rose and established the Rose Nolan Scholarship Fund which has provided scholarships to Indigenous women continuing their education. The foundation raised almost \$2 million and awarded scholarships to over 130 women. Nolan works for the Chiefs of Ontario Regional Office and in fall 2023, Penguin Random House Canada will release his autobiography Life in Two Worlds.