

UPDATE TO THE SPORT AND RECREATION SECTOR



This newsletter is intended to provide you, our stakeholders and partners, with a snapshot of what the Division has been working on and what we anticipate in the months ahead. This is part of our ongoing efforts to ensure you are as current as possible on work underway at the Ministry. As always, we are interested in your advice and input and welcome suggestions for matters you would find valuable in future updates.

Ontario 150

2017 marks the 150th anniversary of Canada and Ontario. It is a once-in-a-generation chance to celebrate who we are, and share our dreams for the next 150 years. This celebratory year will be a time of excitement and inspiration which will be a chance for the province, as a founding member and leader in Confederation, to engage all Ontarians and play a leading role in commemorating and celebrating its 150th anniversary. Effective July 6th, 2016 the Ontario 150 Secretariat joined the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Three application-based programs were developed including: the Community Capital Program, the Community Celebration Program and the Partnership Program. Applications are open and due early Fall.

For more details on events, funding and programs please visit www.Ontario.ca/150.

Ontario Athletics Commissioner (OAC)

In April of this year, oversight of the Office of the Athletics Commissioner (OAC) was transferred from the Ministry



of Government and Consumer Services to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Three professional combative sports – boxing, kickboxing and mixed martial arts – are regulated under the Athletics Control Act, which is administered by the Athletics Commissioner under the direction and control of the Minister. It is the Commissioner's role to license participants, promoters and officials to ensure the proper conduct of events and to protect the health and safety of participants and the integrity of the sport. This move consolidates responsibility for amateur and professional combative sport in a single ministry, which will enable government information and services related to combative sports to be provided through a single window.

Trails

On June 9, 2015 the *Supporting Ontario's Trails Act, 2016* received Royal Assent. This legislation will help the trails sector more effectively develop, operate and promote trails while enhancing the experience for all trails users. Upon Royal Assent, schedule 5 – amendments to the *Public Lands Act* came into force. The remaining schedules, including the *Ontario Trails Act, 2016* and amendments to the *Occupiers' Liability Act, Trespass to Property Act, Motorized Snow Vehicles Act* and *Off-Road Vehicles Act* will come into force on a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

We would like to thank everyone in the trails sector for their continued support throughout this process. Without these valued partnerships, trails legislation would not exist in Ontario.

Quest for Gold Featured Athletes

Brenda Bowskill of Whitby is representing Canada at the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio in the single-handed Radial Sailing class. Brenda qualified for support through this ministry's Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program in 2009 as an Ontario Card athlete, and since 2010 has received the Quest for Gold Canada Card funding. Brenda also receives training support through the Ontario High Performance Sport Initiative (OHPSI), a program funded by the Ministry and operated by the Canadian Sport Institute Ontario (CSIO).

At 24, Rio will be Brenda's first Olympic Games. *"I am so excited to have been selected as the Radial representative for the 2016 Rio Olympics! This journey has challenged me as an athlete and a person in so many ways. To have the privilege to represent my country on the biggest sporting stage in the world is an honour. I am very much looking forward to making my Olympic debut!"*



FPT Update

On June 8 and 9, 2016, a conference of federal, provincial and territorial (F-P/T) ministers responsible for sport, physical activity and recreation was held to discuss issues and opportunities to advance health-enhancing sport and physical activity and recreation in Canada.

Ministers discussed:

- concussions and head injuries;
- safety in sport;
- sport and recreation infrastructure needs; and
- physical activity and the Framework for Recreation in Canada;

The ministers expressed interest in strengthening the relationship with the education sector in each respective jurisdiction; working towards a coordinated understanding of physical literacy; and strengthening participation amongst women and girls and other under-represented groups in sport.

They are committed to working together with the sector using innovative approaches to make opportunities for sport, physical activity and recreation participation more inclusive.

Reflecting the governments' increased commitment to promoting sport, physical activity and recreation among Indigenous Peoples, ministers received presentations on the status of Indigenous sport development as well as a progress report on the 2017 North American Indigenous Games, to be hosted in Toronto and their expected impact on Indigenous sport development. Ministers agreed on the importance of collaboration with Indigenous Peoples with a view to increase opportunities for participation in sport, physical activity and recreation.

The next meeting of F-P/T ministers is scheduled to take place in July 2017, just prior to the Winnipeg 2017 Canada Summer Games in Manitoba.

Sport Symposium Highlights

Game ON made a commitment to hold an annual Sport Symposium that would bring together Ontario's leaders in the field of sport to report back on the results of implementation of the plan and discuss current issues and trends.

On April 30, 2016, the ministry held the 2016 Sport Symposium at the Allstream Centre in downtown Toronto. Over 200 participants from across the province attended, including representatives from provincial sport organizations/multi-sport organizations (PSO/MSOs), universities, foundations, sport facilities, volunteers, athletes, officials, academics and government officials. In addition to providing an overview of *Game ON*, presentation and discussion topics included:

- Recognizing sport achievement
- The role foundations can play in supporting a strong sport sector in Ontario
- Sport recognition policy update
- Women and girls in sport
- Sport research and trends

The ministry is currently reviewing survey feedback completed by symposium participants which will be incorporated into the planning of a future Symposium.

Premier's Roundtable on Women and Girls

On March 24th, 2016, Premier Wynne convened a roundtable on women and girls in sport, with key subject matter experts and leaders from the sector. Minister Coteau, Parliamentary Assistant Kiwala, Minister McCharles, and members from the Minister's Sport

Advisory Panel were also in attendance. Key themes emerging from the discussion included:

- The importance of equity policies
- The role of sport in schools
- PSO access to schools
- Costs as a barrier to participation
- Role models to inspire

Following the roundtable, the Minister's Advisory Panel wrote to Premier Wynne, thanking her for convening the roundtable, which they described as "*inspiring, and we were energized with the success stories and determination shared by everyone in the room*".

Research

The Ministry has commissioned the Centre for Sport Policy Studies at the University of Toronto to complete a research project on Women and Girls in Sport. The first draft of the research project has been submitted by the consultant, and reviewed by ministry staff and members of the Minister's Sport Advisory Panel. A more complete draft reflecting comments and changes is expected by the end of the month, with the final product anticipated by end of summer.

Games

Games Ontario

Ontario Games host selection has been finalized and was announced on August 11, 2016:

- The City of Orillia has been selected to host the 2018 Ontario Winter Games.
- The City of London has been selected to host the 2018 Ontario Summer Games.
- The City of Mississauga has been selected to host the 2018 Ontario 55+ Summer Games.

Games Ontario will be working with each host municipality to transition from a bid committee to a functioning Games Organization Committee.

Games Ontario successfully hosted 3,500 athletes, 500 coaches/managers and 400 officials at the 2016 Ontario Summer Games – August 11-14 in the City of Mississauga. Prior to the Ontario Summer Games, the City of Midland successfully hosted 1,250 athletes at the 2016 Ontario 55+ Summer Games.

Work continues with the City of Brantford/County of Brant to host the Ontario ParaSport Games February 10-12, 2017 and the Town of Cobourg to host the Ontario 55+ Winter Games February 21-23, 2017. Canada Games – Four cities submitted bids for the 2021

Canada Summer Games: the City of Greater Sudbury, the Region of Kitchener and Waterloo, Niagara Region and the City of Ottawa. Technical reviews of each bid are underway and will determine with bids that will move onto the final bid phase where a host will be selected in Spring 2017.

Team Ontario Mission Staff was [announced](#) on July 29, 2016 for the 2017 Canada Summer Games. Mission Staff will be working with each Provincial Sport Organization to help them prepare for the 2017 Canada Games.

2016 Ontario Aboriginal Summer Games

The Aboriginal Sport and Wellness Council of Ontario (ASWCO) hosted the first 2016 Ontario Aboriginal Summer Games in partnership with the Six Nations of the Grand River on July 19-21, 2016.

The 2016 Aboriginal Summer Games welcomed athletes, coaches, managers, volunteers and officials from across the province.

The Games provided over 240 athletes aged 13-18 with skill development and competition opportunities in seven different North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) sports that include archery, athletics, canoe/kayak, golf, lacrosse, rifle shooting, swimming. The Aboriginal Summer Games was an opportunity to learn and practice new sports and master other sports preparing athletes for the 2017 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) being hosted in Ontario for the first time.

These Games provided an opportunity for athletes to be identified for the North American Indigenous Games.

To facilitate participation in the event, bus transportation was provided from the North-West, North-Central, North-East, and Central regions. Opening Ceremonies took place to honour local traditions as well as those of other Indigenous cultures.

Invictus Games

The 2017 Invictus Games will take place from September 26– 30 in Toronto, with the province is providing up to \$10 million in support. The Games will feature more than 600 competitors from 16 countries competing in 12 adaptive sports. These Games will leverage the use of the legacy venues from the Pan/Parapan Am Games such as the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre.

Pachi

Pachi was launched on June 10th, 2016 as the new mascot for Games Ontario and Team Ontario cheerleader. A process for stakeholders to request/book Pachi is currently being developed, and a memo will be released to make this announcement.

Rowan's Law

Ensuring Ontarians have access to information and resources needed to prevent, identify and manage concussions is a priority for the government. On June 9, 2016, Rowan's Law Advisory Committee Act received Royal Assent and will come into force on September 9, 2016. The act serves to establish a committee who will be tasked with:



- Reviewing the 49 recommendations made by the Coroner's Jury Inquest into the death of Rowan Stringer;
- Reviewing legislation, policies and best practices from other jurisdictions with respect to head injuries;
- Making recommendations on how to implement the jury recommendations, how to prevent and mitigate head injuries in sports and how to create awareness about head injuries in sports; and
- Making other recommendations with respect to head injury prevention or treatment.

The committee will be required to provide a report to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport by September 9, 2017, and the Minister will be required to table the report in the Legislature and publish it on a government website.

The committee will be comprised of up to 15 members appointed by the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, and nominated by the Ministries of Education, Health and Long-Term Care, Children and Youth Services and Advanced Education and Skills Development. Ministry staff are working to establish the committee by early Fall 2016.

Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund (OSRCF)

The 2016-17 OSRCF call for applications closed on January 21, 2016, receiving the largest intake of requests to date. As you may know, the program provides non-capital, project-based funding to organizations across Ontario for delivery of sport, recreation and physical activity projects. We are pleased to report that funding decisions were finalized and communicated earlier than we have any previous year. This year, OSRCF will support 129 local/regional and provincial level projects to increase opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to get active, stay fit and lead healthier lives. [All of the successful individual OSRCF project information has been posted on the Grants Ontario website.](#)

Updates on Previous Newsletter: Minister's Advisory Panel For Sport

As announced in *Game ON* - The Ontario Government's Sport Plan, the province established a Minister's Advisory Panel on Sport that is comprised of prominent sport sector leaders and experts. This Advisory Panel provides expertise and diverse perspectives on the role of sport in Ontario and will provide advice to the government as it implements Game ON. In its first year, the Advisory Panel has been tasked with investigating opportunities to advance women and girls in sport. The Advisory Panel held its third meeting in May 2016, and attended a Premier's Roundtable on Women and Girls in Sport in March 2016. Following the Premier's roundtable, the Advisory Panel sent a letter to the Premier with some recommendations on how to advance opportunities for girls and women in sport. The Advisory Panel is scheduled to meet again regarding women and girls in sport in early Fall 2016.

Truth and Reconciliation

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was established in 2008 with a five year term to inform Canadians about what happened in residential schools, document experiences reported by survivors, their families and communities, and guide and inspire a process of reconciliation and renewed relationships based on mutual understanding and re

spect. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report includes 94 Calls to Action directed at governments of all levels; five of the Calls to Action were specific to sport, recreation and physical activity.

On May 30, 2016 the Premier released an action plan entitled "*The Journey Together: Ontario's Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples*". Within MTCS, the Community Programs Unit and the Culture Division are working jointly to engage with the Indigenous communities to support Youth Cultural Camps in Indigenous communities to build leadership and promote awareness of traditional knowledge and languages through hands-on activities.

Upcoming Events of Interest

- CAO National Coaches week
- Sport Leadership conference in BC; a few of our staff are attending
- 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio De Janeiro
- National Coaches Week (**September 17th – 25th, 2016**)
 - ◇ Ontario Coaching Excellence Awards (September 17th, 2016)

Organizational Comings and Goings

We warmly welcome the Honourable Minister Eleanor McMahon to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Eleanor was elected to the Ontario legislature in 2014 as MPP for Burlington. On June 13, 2016 she was appointed as Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Previously she served as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, where she initiated a review of the Conservation Authorities Act. Eleanor also founded the Share the Road Cycling Coalition which launched in 2008. This coalition is a provincial cycling policy and advocacy organization created to unite cycling organizations across the province, and works with municipalities to make their communities increasingly bicycle-friendly.



We would also like to welcome Maureen Adamson who was appointed Deputy Minister of Tourism Culture and Sport in April of 2016. Prior to taking on the post of Deputy Minister, Maureen served as President and CEO for the Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences, and before that as the President and CEO for Cystic Fibrosis Canada.

Office Location

Same address, now the 18th floor!

Ministry Staff

Going: William Snowball, Acting Manager of the Policy Unit,

Coming: Currently, Ray Dempster is the Acting Manager of the Policy Unit.

Sport Hosting

The application deadline was July 11th and the service guarantee will result in all applicants being notified by mid-October .

For more details on our sport hosting program please visit [Grants Ontario](#).

If you have views on how we can make continuous improvements to the program, please contact the Manager responsible for the Program, Russell Zavitz, A/Manager, Games Unit, (416) 314-7682.

Premier Kathleen Wynne and Minister of Children and Youth Services, Tracy MacCharles at the construction site for MLSE LaunchPad in Moss Park in downtown Toronto. Ontario is investing \$1.6M in this centre that will combine sport, education and research to help at-risk youth build a brighter future