

SUMMARY REPORT

Canadian Sport Policy Renewal

Consultation with official-language minority communities

Sport Canada

In cooperation with:

Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada

Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française

Fédération des aînés et des aînées francophones du Canada

Quebec Community Groups Network

Gatineau, Quebec

August 3, 2011

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The views expressed herein are those raised by the participants at the meeting and do not necessarily reflect those of Sport Canada or the Government of Canada.

General information

Background

Federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for sport have agreed to give their public officials responsibility for developing a new Canadian Sport Policy, which will be submitted for review and approval at their next conference to be held in April 2012. They have agreed that consultations led by the different levels of government will lay the groundwork for the policy that will replace the Canadian Sport Policy. Each level of government is responsible for holding in-depth consultations with its stakeholders and communities to provide the knowledge needed to design to further the vision and goals for sport into the foreseeable future.

Introduction

As part of this Canadian Sport Policy Renewal, Sport Canada has held consultations to seek the contribution of a wide range of individuals and groups from across the country (Canadians, sport communities, target population groups, etc.) to identify their specific views.

Sport Canada has held roundtable discussions with specific target population groups, namely women and girls, persons with disabilities, Aboriginal people, ethnocultural communities and official-language minority communities (OLMCs). These targeted consultations were held to hear the views of these groups and identify their specific needs and issues in relation to the policy.

For the consultation with OLMCs, Sport Canada worked with national organizations representing these communities and which have a stake in sport, including the Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada (FCFA), Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française (FJCF), Fédération des aînés et des aînées francophones du Canada (FAAFC) and Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN).

The round table discussion with the official-language minority communities was held on August 3, 2011, in Gatineau. This document is a summary of the topics that were discussed at the meeting. The opinions below were expressed by the participants.

The list of participants is included in Appendix A and the meeting agenda in Appendix B.

Context

The meeting began with a presentation of the Canadian Sport Policy, the renewal process and the objectives of the consultation.

General comments

Throughout the discussions, we noted differences between the needs, issues, barriers and experiences of the Anglophone and Francophone minority communities.

Anglophone minority community

- The Anglophone community in Quebec, from the Outaouais, to Montreal, to the North Shore and Gaspé, has a wide range of different issues. In the English-speaking communities throughout the province, Anglophones strive to become bilingual, obtain access to services in English, strengthen their ties to their community, become a part of Quebec society and define their own identity.
- The English-speaking minority community is looking for more opportunities to forge stronger ties with the French-speaking majority community in order to foster cohesion.

Francophone minority community

- The Francophone minority community throughout the country are looking to make a difference in terms of the ability of its members to live and grow in French.
- The French-speaking minority community would rather promote opportunities involving the identification and bringing together Francophones.

Both communities agree that sport brings Canadian society together.

Main topics addressed

In the first part of the meeting, the discussion started by identifying the reasons why OLMCs are interested in promoting participation in sport, the main challenges and barriers and strategies to overcome them, and the main reasons for participating in sport. The following observations and suggestions were made:

Promoting participation in sport

- The participants recognized that there are many positive results that stem from efforts to promote participation in sport:

- Better health
 - Better quality of life
 - Development of physical abilities
 - Development of leadership skills in young people
 - Education
 - Economic development
 - Social integration and retention
- The costs associated with participating in sport often represent a major challenge for the OLMCs.

Community reinforcement

- Sport provides key opportunities to bring communities together and promote a sense of belonging.
- This policy clearly expresses the importance of identity, the sense of belonging in the community and the impact that sport has on economic development and prosperity.
- Hosting sport events in Canada promotes the development of OLMCs (eg, Canada Games, 2010 Vancouver Games). However, the communities make contributions on a volunteer basis, and financial resources specifically dedicated to these events would strengthen the ability of communities to support organizing committees.
- Common or complementary strategies should be formulated among the primary stakeholders to maximize resources.

Integration

- For the Anglophone minority community, sport is also considered as a mean to interact with the French-speaking community.
- Sport and physical activities are means for raising awareness and integrating newcomers, both young people and their parents.

Access to sport in the official language of their choice (minority)

- Resources are needed to enable Canadians to practice sport in the official language of their choice.
- The Francophone minority community is seeking opportunities for sport activities in French.
- The Francophone minority community as a whole does not want to limit itself to having access to bilingual sport events and activities; rather, it prefers to promote events with members of its own linguistic community.
- The capacity of the sport system needs to be increased to meet the needs of both OLMCs.
- The current sport system does not give young athletes an opportunity to achieve a higher level in their communities.

Bilingualism of coaches and referees

- The pool of certified coaches who can coach athletes and teams in the official language of their choice is very limited and is unable to meet the needs of OLMCs.
- Training in French for coaches and referees is also very limited.
- There is a growing need to train coaches so that they are able to coach in the official language of choice of both OLMCs.

Access to sport facilities

- Most of the sport facilities in schools for OLMCs are inadequate or too rudimentary. They are not comparable with those in schools in the majority community.
- There is a large concentration of sport facilities in cities. Sport needs to be decentralized.
- Promote access to sport facilities in schools, such as through partnerships between managers of the facilities and the private and public sectors.
- Promote access to sport facilities financed by public funds (i.e. facilities built or renovated when sport events are held).
- Reduce barriers related to accessibility of transportation. This is a challenge for rural communities.
- Sports that do not require very sophisticated facilities and equipment should be promoted.

Existing networks

- Focus more on existing networks of OLMCs to promote sport and participation among their members.

Improvement of the Canadian Sport Policy

During the second part of the meeting, participants were asked to tell us what the new Canadian Sport Policy should include to increase participation in sport in OLMCs. The following suggestions were made:

The participants stressed the need to respond to the needs of OLMCs and remove the barriers they face.

- Ensure the policy is clear, concise, relevant and interesting for all Canadians.
- Change the perception that high-performance sport is more important than physical activity.
- Better define and communicate the roles and responsibilities of the various parties involved in the Canadian sport system, including the federal, provincial and territorial governments.
- Cooperate with non-sport organizations that already provide services to OLMCs.
- Include OLMCs as a target group in the new Canadian Sport Policy. Recognition in the policy would provide:

- An opportunity to emphasize the importance of recognizing the needs and challenges of the communities, so as to plan, organize and develop sport activities and programs that are more in keeping with the communities' objectives and environment.
- A lever that promotes the commitment of all levels of government (such as at the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie).

Closing remarks

Dan Smith, Director of Policy and Planning at Sport Canada, provided closing remarks and an overview of the next steps. He expressed his recognition for the participants' commitment and thanked them for their valuable contribution to the Canadian Sport Policy renewal process. He emphasized that it will be important to develop a common vision and goals for the Canadian sport system while taking into account the differences between the regions of the country. He also said that the report from this consultation will be published on the policy renewal's Web site. (<http://www.sirc.ca/>).

The participants said they were grateful for the opportunity to discuss the major issues facing the Canadian sport system. Both OLMCs felt it was a positive exercise, giving them a chance to meet and share their knowledge and experiences.

Conclusion

Sport Canada has made a commitment to share the press release when the new policy is published. The representatives of OLMCs have made a commitment to promote the new policy in their networks.

Participants

Consultation chair

- Dan Smith, Director, Policy and Planning, Sport Canada

Facilitators

- David McCrindle, Manager, Policy and Research, Sport Canada
- Lucie Lépine, Manager, Official Languages, Sport Canada

Official Languages Unit – Sport Canada

- Katerine Larouche, Policy Officer
- Francine Ouimet, Senior Policy Officer

Canadian Heritage – Official Languages Support Programs

- Ghita-Marie Melody, Senior Analyst

Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada (FCFA)

- Suzanne Bossé, Director General

Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française (FJCF)

- Philippe de Montigny, Vice-President

Fédération des aînés et aînées francophones du Canada (FAAFC)

- Jean-Luc Racine, Director General

Quebec Community Groups Network (QGCN)

- Heather Stronach, Executive Director, Regional Association of West Quebecers
- Cathy Brown, Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA)
- Heather McRae, Project Coordinator, Voice of English-speaking Québec (VEQ)
- Rachel Hunting, Townshippers' Association

**RENEWAL OF THE CANADIAN SPORT POLICY
ROUNDTABLE
OFFICIAL-LANGUAGE MINORITY COMMUNITIES (OLMCs)**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2011 – 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

**Sport Canada
15 Eddy Street, 16th Floor, Room 1
Gatineau, Quebec**

9:45 a.m.	Arrival
10 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Welcome and Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction of participants• Overview of the agenda and purpose of session
10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Overview of the Canadian Sport Policy and renewal process
10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Input of the OLMC to the Canadian Sport Policy 2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions – Part I
11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Break
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Input of the OLMC to the Canadian Sport Policy 2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions – Part I (continued)
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Input of the OLMC to the Canadian Sport Policy 2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions – Part II
2:45 p.m. – 3 p.m.	Break
3 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Wrap-up and next steps
