

Brief submitted to the Standing Committee on the Status of Women (FEWO): Women and Girls in Sport

The CAC respectfully recognizes the relationship that the First Nation, Inuit, and Métis peoples throughout Canada have with the land upon which Canadians live and enjoy.

We honour the bravery of the victims who have come forward and remain committed to contributing to building safer quality sport and recreation throughout the country in partnership with the provinces and territories along with our sport partners.

We are grateful for the support of the Government of Canada and we remain committed to improving quality safe sport in Canada.

The Coaching Association of Canada (CAC) plays an important role in the national, provincial-territorial sport system in the protection of women and girls in sport, ethics and safety. The CAC is a Federally/Provincially-Territorially mandated organization charged with delivering quality coaching education and training at all levels of sport in Canada.

Our reach expands across the country and globally. **The Coaching Association of Canada (CAC) unites 66 national sport organizations along with all provinces and territories to deliver the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) to more than 50,000 coaches and sport leaders from community/grass roots to high performance each year.** NCCP Coach Certification requires [mandatory Making Ethical Decisions](#) Training.

We respectfully provide the following additional information to highlight our commitment to build quality safe sport throughout the country:

In 2015 the CAC launched the [Responsible Coaching Movement](#) to address the prevention of abuse in sport from community to high performance. Since its inception, CAC has worked with sport partners to adopt leading practices. As of 2022, Fifty-eight national sport organizations and over 1,000 community/provincial and multi-sport organizations have signed the pledge to improve safety through proper screening, rule of two (adults present) and training requirements.

In 2019, the then Minister Duncan tasked CAC to host pan Canadian safe sport summits and to develop and [deliver Mandated Safe Sport Training](#) for all participants at the national level to develop an understanding of the Universal Code of Conduct for the Prevention of Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS). More than 50,000 individuals (coaches, officials, athletes, volunteers) have taken this training throughout the country.

- The pan Canadian safe sport summits culminated in a national summit whereby the seven [following consensus statements](#) were endorsed :
- **Federal / Provincial / Jurisdiction:** To collaborate with Federal, Provincial, and Territorial governments to create a harmonized approach to a universal Code of Conduct.
- **Education and Awareness:** To build on and develop robust, approved education and training programs to be deployed at all levels and roles in sport. And to develop awareness among Canadians that change is happening.
- **Financial Resources:** For new funding to be identified and dedicated to the implementation of safe sport initiatives in all jurisdictions.
- **Harmonized Code:** To develop a single, harmonized code governing safe sport in Canada, to include updated definitions of all forms of maltreatment.
- **Independent Body:** To identify an independent body with responsibility for implementing the harmonized and universal code.
- **Prohibited Conduct:** To prohibit sexual relations between National Team coaches and National Team athletes, with the ability to expand the scope to positions of authority. The immediate intent is to protect athletes now.
- **Implementation Plan:** To conduct an audit of the existing sport landscape and stakeholders; to establish a critical path; and to initiate a process to educate the sport community.

While there has been progress within these consensus statements there is much work to be done. We acknowledge the work of our Federal-Provincial/Territorial partners, along with the Red Deer Declaration, as well as the progress of National Sport Organizations.

In the last three years we have worked with leading researchers to develop training in [Teen Dating and Gender-Based Violence](#); [Bystander empowerment](#); [Modelling Healthy Relationships and Gender-Based Violence in Sport](#); [Creating A Positive Sport Environment](#); [Anti-Racism in Coaching](#). This work is supported by Sport Canada, Status of Women Canada, and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

We provide a coaching license and screening. We host safe sport workshops to assist coaches and leaders to understand and improve their safe sport practices.

In 2022, The Public Health Agency of Canada announced 2.8 Million in financial support for the The National Mental Health and Sport project which will be launching in February 2023. The project has three key objectives. The first objective is to update some existing training modules to expand on the content provided on mental health in sport and to improve accessibility of these modules, both by increasing delivery to remote areas and by adapting them into seven additional languages: Arabic, Punjabi, Chinese, Tagalog, Cree, Inuktitut and Dene. The second objective is to create an online accessible national resource hub, which will offer a compilation of training modules, videos, information, and resources provided by organizations with expertise in mental health literacy and education. Lastly, the third objective is to strategically promote the educational content and national resource hub to new and diverse audiences across Canada. With this 360-degree project, the CAC aims to increase mental health literacy amongst coaches at all levels of sport and in all provinces and territories. While this will benefit all coaches who participate, this project lays special emphasis on supporting coaches and community sport leaders in the communities identified as the most impacted by the pandemic.

We remain committed and understand that much more needs to be done. We are ready. Safe sport is our priority.

We acknowledge that a significant effort by all partners, including CAC, to advance safe sport in a collaborative and coordinated fashion is required.

We recognize the jurisdiction of the provinces and territories in safe sport and understand the complex interplay between each and the national sport system. It is our belief that a national registry or coordinated set of registries is the approach to identify offenders and prevent future abuse.

We believe that a National Judicial Inquiry will be transformative for Canada.

Respectfully submitted

Lorraine Lafrenière
Chief Executive Officer