

POST ROUNDTABLE COMMENTS

Provincial involvement

Canada's ability to deliver the kind of high performance system that is being discussed will require the buy-in of the provinces, to align their programs, to fund different aspects of the system, and to advocate for high performance sport within their jurisdictions.

The panel is scheduling a separate meeting with business leaders to gain their perspective. It also needs to meet with provincial governments to build the bridge for their full participation in the high performance system. In our round table, it was mentioned that the provinces have stepped in to fund Own The Podium. That is very significant, and tells us the reality that we need to plan for.

The panel needs to set the stage for a system and structure that will cross the federal-provincial divide (a possible model may be the Canadian Revenue Agency), and this requires provincial input during this phase of the panel's work.

Direct athlete funding

I would like to add a story to the points that were brought up at my roundtable. **In the sport of weightlifting, we had five people at the Olympic Games in Beijing. We have no paid staff and our budget was what we received from Sport Canada in the amount of 70k. How did we qualify five athletes for the Beijing Games when in the past three Olympics we had a total of only two? Direct athlete funding, that's how.** The athletes are extremely talented of course, and all are carded. Three athletes come from Quebec with its great provincial direct funding (cash and services) and one from Yukon with matching cash as in Quebec, some free services as well Road to Excellence (OTP) funding. The BC athlete also benefited from coming from an Indo Canadian community where he was given lots of support. The RTE also paid for a coach for two of the athletes (shared) and funding from the province of Quebec ensured the other Olympic coach received a stipend.

So, like I said, the weightlifting athletes' success came from direct funding, Our sport is all run by volunteers, and there was no extra fluff, no overhead, however we do piggybacking within our own sports resources. When you can put **direct support for athletes and coaches and services together, it works.**

Canadian Sport Institutes

As a follow-up to our discussion, I would like to reiterate the importance of the need to evolve the identified four Canadian Sport Centres into bona fide Canadian Sport Institutes (CSI). We heard from athletes who reinforced how critical it is to have this type of training environment of excellence in Canada. There have been numerous papers and articles written on the rationale for Canadian Sport Institutes. I encourage the panel to review the latest resource information on CSI's:

- CSI Report to the National Coordinating Committee, By Robert Bettauer, September 2008
- Summary of Canadian Sport Reviews & Canadian Sport Institute Discussions,

Report Prepared By Ken Bagnell, Alex Baumann & Roger Jackson, March 2009

- The Evolution to Canadian Sport Institute, article by Ken Bagnell & Jon Kolb, Coaches Plan, Volume 16, No.2, page 43-47

In my opinion, the most critical aspect of a CSI is the synergy and magic that is created by having the winning combination of high performance “people, programs and places (facilities)” working together in an integrated environment day in day out to give Canadian athletes every advantage to compete on the world stage. For Canada to rightfully take our place as a world leading sporting nation in both summer and winter sport, we owe it to our athletes, coaches, scientists and administrators to create a world class training environment that only a Canadian Sport Institute can provide.

Defining HP sport

The definition needs to ensure a sustainable model for the future. By defining HP sport we will have a better understanding of which organizations are impacted, what we need to do/create/combine at each level of the LTAD, and therefore the discussions that the Minister will need to initiate in the future

The definition should ensure sustainability into the future and therefore that will ensure the Provincial/Territorial lens will be an important element for the Minister to engage/address

Agency

- a. Clearly we need this and it needs to have control over the whole HP system that is eventually defined
- b. My assumption all along was that we would never get the Minister to approve an agency that was TOTALLY independent of government
- c. We need to phase it in with what we can control and in the way we can control it (things mandated nationally – eg. OTP, Excellence division of Sport Canada, CSC, CAC, Canada Games Council, etc... and it may mean different things for each organization (eg. agreements versus full disbanding of an organization, etc..). Start with OTP, some CSC responsibilities, Sport Canada and then move to the PT lens in second phase.
- d. Once we have this – and decide what we are targeting for Canada, the Games groups (eg. COC, Commonwealth, Canada Games, Pan Ams, FISU, CIS, CCAA, etc) need to align
- e. I guess another way of saying this is that the agency should be run by those with NATIONAL MANDATES (we need to decide what is good for Canada first) and then those with INTERNATIONAL MANDATES will hopefully fall in line; there is obviously a link, but INTERNATIONAL MANDATES should not really drive what is right NATIONALLY ; (this is ultimately what we have been doing, and it has created the situation we are in where the Olympic program/results drive what we fund, yet some of what is on the Olympic program does not matter in Canada) – (I say all this figuring that 80% of whatever we fund would remain the same)
- f. No matter what we decide, COC will need some special attention given their role in sport– so it is important for the Panel to recognize this; If in the end COC agreed to the principle that NATIONAL OBJECTIVES are first (this may exclude some Olympic sports that we do not care about), and that the right governance structure could be put in place to support this – then they maybe could to it??

Targeting and performance

In the context of increasing the VALUE that all Canadians place on sport in Canada and the impact of the results and performances:

- I agree that we need to target in Canada and the current system is perhaps the only objective way to do this FOR THE MOMENT
- If we continue down this road, however, we will *never* in my view be able to get more Canadians valuing sport the way we want – which in turn will impact the resources available to our sports system
- So, if we want a stronger sports system where more Canadians value sport (and therefore more kids are participating and more money is available for the system) we need to eventually have a system whereby those sports we value are those sports that are being funded which are those sports that are producing results (Increasing value that Canadians place on sport in Canada = funding and supporting those sports we value (this has much greater impact)
- We are not necessarily far off on all this – but it will take a process whereby we can say – these are the sports Canadians value and therefore are the ones we need to provide additional support to so they can meeting the required funding and performance objectives that have been determined for Canada.

Financing sport

Corporate Group needs to be created to look at what a new Agency might mean and how we can lever each others properties to increase financial support to sport from the corporate sector. By the agency helping to align sport better, the reach and impact is greater which is what corporations will want to see – reach and impact must be high. Also part of this group's work could be to look at how we communicate the creation of the HP agency – how it impacts Canadians. Many may question why are we spending the resources for so few – we need to demonstrate how the HP agency is good for Canadians.

Profile of amateur sport

If we want more Canadians to value sport we need to see, hear and read about it more often. I think we need to pull together all the forms of media and once and for all find a way to make this happen. It is directly linked to finding new financial resources for sport from the corporate sector.