

**Canadian Sport Policy Renewal
Consultations 2011
Background paper on High Performance Delivery System
Key Program and Service Areas**

Following is a list of program and service areas that have been identified as important components of Canada's high performance delivery system. For each area, some context and policy directions are provided.

1. Coaches and technical leadership

In order to achieve significant and consistent international results, there is an ongoing need to increase the number of full-time coaches working in high performance sport and improve their working conditions, including professional development for high performance coaches, as well as high performance directors and other technical staff.

2. Training and competition

Athletes and coaches need to train in world leading daily training environments and have access to optimal competitive opportunities in order to deliver on short and long term performance goals.

3. Sport science, sport medicine and technology

In order to compete with the best in the world, athletes need to be supported by leading edge, multi-disciplinary and integrated support teams who work in coordination with the coach to provide:

- a holistic approach to performance enhancement, health and well-being, injury prevention and applied sport research and innovation
- leading edge practices and research in sport sciences, sports medicine, and performance technology

4. Athlete talent identification, recruitment and development

According to the road to excellence business plan, there are three critical requirements for a robust talent identification plan:

- extensive knowledge of sport-specific requirements for international success
- accurate assessment and monitoring of athlete capabilities in relation to these demands
- the ability to predict future performance levels based on athlete characteristics.

5. Integrated athlete development pathways

The vision for CS4L and LTAD is that all Canadians have the necessary competencies to experience a positive life-long sport experience and excel in sport in an integrated and sustainable sport system. For high performance sport this vision can be translated to mean:

- More – athletes at the highest levels of international competition;
- Better – quality programs, development of talent, use of resources, and systematic development and retention of athletes leading to international success;
- Strategic – use of resources and collaboration between sport and other sectors; and
- Sustainable – sport-specific athlete pathways and integrated sport development leading to consistent and repetitive performances.

6. Organizational capacity and sustainability

Sport governing bodies at all levels need to have the leadership, resources, governance, programs, policies and management practices to be successful.

7. Direct athlete support and incentives

In order to meet increasing living and training costs, athletes need financial support to allow them to train and compete full-time. Sport Canada and a number of P/T governments operate programs that provide direct support to high performance athletes. These and other programs provide monthly tax free living and training allowances, and supplemental support for tuition and special needs support.

8. Research and innovation

Continue to lead the world in leading edge research in areas such as friction, materials, equipment, supplements and training techniques.

9. Facilities and equipment

World-class athletes need priority access to excellent training and competition venues with on-site sport science and sport medicine facilities. They need to train with state of the art equipment as well.

10. Hosting of international events in Canada

Hosting events in Canada via a planned and coordinated approach can lead the realization of direct and significant benefits in the areas of sport development, economic, social, cultural, and community impacts. They can also be strategic in preparation and/or qualification for Olympic and Paralympic Games and World Championships.

