



MEMORANDUM

Ref: 166948

Date: April 15, 2016
Re: Western Canada Summer Games
To: Provincial and Multi-sport Organizations

In recent years, the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development (MCSCD) has been managing fiscal pressures related to the Physical Fitness and Amateur Sport Fund. During strong economic times, this fund earns significant investment returns. Since the global economic crisis, investment returns have declined and have impacted the Ministry's budget. To date, we have mitigated the impact through efficiencies, savings and sector realignment which allowed us to participate in the 2015 Western Canada Summer Games.

Balancing the budget is government's top priority and we forecast that the Ministry will continue to face a challenging fiscal environment in the coming years. To manage in this fiscal environment, the Ministry has set guiding principles of preserving community-based programming and funding that goes directly to Provincial and Disability Sport Organizations as among the top priorities.

The Ministry was required to review its investment in areas considered to be less of a priority for the provincial sport system as a whole. Team BC participation in multi-year games requires significant investment. Over the past number of games, questions have been raised regarding the current relevance of the Western Canada Summer Games as they relate to the long term athlete development model. When first created, the games filled a critical gap in athlete development. However, since that time, there has been significant evolution in other programs and services that lessen the return on BC's investment in these Games.

The Ministry recently communicated its decision to withdraw Team BC from the Western Canada Summer Games, including the 2019 Games in Swift Current, Saskatchewan. This will result in the BC Games Society seeing a reduction in its annual budget to reflect operational savings (e.g. mission staff, protocol expenses). Team development funding will be rolled back into the overall funding envelope supporting provincial and disability sport organizations.

This decision does not impact the BC Winter and BC Summer Games or Team BC's participation in Canada Summer and Winter Games. These multi-sport program opportunities continue to be important for the development of our athletes, coaches and officials.

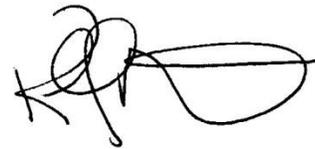
We commend your organization and alumni on Team BC's first place finish in eleven consecutive Western Canada Summer Games. That is a fantastic accomplishment and you have made us all very proud. If you have questions related to Western Canada Summer Games funding, please contact Margo Ross at Margo.Ross@gov.bc.ca and for questions about the Team BC program, please contact Kelly Mann at kellym@bcgames.org.

Thank you for your commitment to sport.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. Ross'.

Margo Ross
Executive Director, Sport Branch

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kelly Mann'.

Kelly Mann
President and CEO, BC Games Society