

November 1, 2007

## **Making Connections and Broadening Horizons The Contribution of Sport and Physical Activity in Canada**

*October 23rd senior policy leaders' meeting (follow-up to September 7<sup>th</sup> roundtable, June 22<sup>nd</sup> roundtable and May 23<sup>rd</sup> Sport and Physical Activity Interchange)*

**Next meeting: November 20th 2-4 pm @ PPF**

### **Outcomes in Brief:**

- Committed to learn from the innovative process involved in bringing sector leaders and government officials together to work towards common policy goals
- Agreed the group would move forward on identifying and filling knowledge gaps related to how sport and physical activity can meet policy objectives and committed to move forward on a project that aims to study the gaps
- Plan to meet in smaller working groups prior to the next meeting to develop concrete ideas for projects and identify criteria for choosing potential initiatives

### **Working together and moving forward...Next steps:**

- Before the next meeting, some volunteers in small groups will:
  - a) frame a learning/knowledge gap project and develop concrete ideas about how to proceed;
  - b) frame 3 to 5 ideas for concrete potential initiatives and sites; and
  - c) develop criteria for choosing pilot initiatives.
- Reconvene on November 20th 2-4 pm to consider the results of above and make decisions on concrete project to pursue.

### **Background/Purpose of meeting**

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Public Policy Forum (PPF) hosted a roundtable lunch with a group of senior policy leaders from across the sport and physical activity sectors and from government departments. Prior to this meeting, participants had submitted to the PPF details on a number of existing initiatives that could meet policy objectives for the target populations selected at the September 7<sup>th</sup> roundtable lunch (urban aboriginals, rural aboriginals, immigrants). Participants identified policy objectives and short term outcomes they'd like to see projects addressing (see attached document that summarizes these). The goal was to get a sense of what types of projects participants are currently engaged in and whether any of these would be of interest to others as potential pilot projects.

The discussion built upon the outcomes of the previous roundtable, where three target populations – urban aboriginal, rural aboriginal youth were identified and potential policy objectives described. The PPF continues to act as a neutral convener and steward that will guide the process over the next period.

## **Outcomes**

### **Three overall objectives were reiterated:**

- Learn how sector leaders and government departments can work more effectively together towards common policy goals
- Develop a small number of focused pilot projects aimed at meeting policy goals
- Identify and fill knowledge gaps related to leveraging sport and physical activity to meet policy objectives

### **Participants described a number of existing initiatives: (see attached)**

- Some initiatives already involve sport and physical activity as a means to achieve policy objectives.
- Other initiatives do not currently involve sport and physical activity, but could be useful settings to test contribution of sport and physical activity to meeting policy objectives.

### **Learning/Knowledge gaps Project: Other Considerations**

Agreed the group would move forward on identifying and filling knowledge gaps related to how sport and physical activity can meet policy objectives and committed to move forward on a project that aims to study the gaps. Some considerations raised:

- Policy Research Initiative (as part of their Youth project) is interested in understanding the relationship between sport and physical activity to things like sense of belonging and values, and practical application of an integrated approach to youth.
- It is important to identify the knowledge gaps. What questions are we trying to answer with these initiatives?
- The project should work on a knowledge framework and test ideas as the projects proceed. Some will be most interested in knowledge and research and others in testing and working on initiatives.

### **Learning Opportunities and reflections: What do we need to pay attention to**

As part of our learning how to work together, a few things were noted during the meeting:

- Creating a sense of “shared ownership” (that is, of the process and of the pilot initiatives) presents challenges, as well as opportunities. Part of the learning process will involve learning how to address these challenges and take advantages of opportunities.
- How to move this forward between larger group meetings which takes time to create a sense of “shared ownership” and shared leadership
- People at the table are used to different ways of working and as a group we need to pay attention to creating a different way of working together so that all can contribute.

- Newcomers to group – how to maintain continuity and momentum, make progress and also welcome newcomers to the group. What is our commitment to this initiative and how do we manifest this commitment?
- We are learning how to work together through some small concrete projects that will add to our knowledge. The key is to stay focused on testing ideas through a few pilots and learning from these.
- The idea of “contribution” was suggested as a way of thinking about what we can each bring to the table and initiative. For example, the potential contribution of NGOs includes: bringing new ideas, providing leadership, addressing some knowledge or expertise gaps, providing research capacity, and delivering programs.

### **For action prior to November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting**

1. Smaller working groups will convene to develop concrete ideas on three to five possible projects and potential sites. These ideas will be sent to participants prior to the next meeting.
2. Identify criteria for choosing pilots and send to participants prior to the next meeting.

Possible criteria for selecting appropriate pilot initiatives:

- Several departments interested and committed in addition to PHAC and Sport Canada, CIC, and sport and physical activity leaders
  - Projects have potential to test contribution to several policy objectives (e.g. obesity, self esteem, youth leadership, social integration of new comers, mental health promotion etc.)
  - Availability of resources. and potential for alignment with existing projects and resources
3. Develop a timeline based on participants’ expectations and hopes. PPF will follow up to clarify the expectations of committed participants.
  4. Reconvene on November 20<sup>th</sup> to consider the following agenda:
    - Decide on projects and potential settings/sites (e.g. Vancouver east side, Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health Vanier).
    - Identify who else needs to be a part of these.
    - Decide how to move forward and work together on these (e.g. 3 - 4 working groups; shared leadership, proposed work and timelines).
    - Other TBD

For more information, please contact:

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**Regrets:**  
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