

2023 Annual Report



commonwealth
sport
CANADA

OUR VISION

Commonwealth sport inspires and unites Canadians by championing excellence, inclusion and human rights.

SPORT WITH SOCIAL PURPOSE



Our Mission

- Supporting Canada's athletes, and their performance teams, to achieve excellence at Olympic and Paralympic games and world championships,
- Enriching the lives of youth across the Commonwealth, and
- Hosting the Commonwealth Games.

Our Values

- Driven by our **Humanity** we embrace all Commonwealth athletes, citizens, communities and nations,
- Respecting **Equality** we promote fairness, non-discrimination and inclusion in all that we do,
- Inspired by **Destiny** we combine high-performance and social development sport, helping Commonwealth athletes, citizens and communities realize their aspirations and ambitions.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When I took on the role of President last fall, it was already apparent that the Commonwealth Sport Movement, domestically and beyond, was in a time of transition. Within the first months of the calendar year, we were forced to make the difficult decision to move preferred 2030 Commonwealth Games candidate bid city status from the Hamilton region to Alberta. Then, after months of diligent work by the Alberta 2030 team, we learned that the Alberta government withdrew their interest in hosting the Games. In these past months we also learned of Victoria's sudden withdrawal as host of the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

This may seem like a bleak portrait of the current state of the movement, but it's important to note that while these events were taking place, the Commonwealth Sport Movement was thriving domestically in several ways. There was the success of the Sport 4 Newcomers program, which trained 5 youth to lead engaging sport programs that, in total, helped 1,511 new Canadians become more physically active, and integrate into communities across Canada.

Further, Canada's Commonwealth Youth Games team of 57 Athletes and 17 Officials, won 3 medals at the Games in Trinidad and Tobago this summer. Bravo to the athletes, coaches and staff who made all of this happen!



As we head into another year, we must choose to see this collection of serious challenges and recent triumphs as fuel for change. While the Commonwealth Games Federation develops and considers new models for the delivery of the Games, Canada can be at the forefront of the movement – just as we've been for the past 93 years.

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of the Commonwealth Sport movement in Canada over the past year. Your hard work is greatly appreciated.

Let's continue to move forward together.

Claire Carver Dias
President, Commonwealth Sport Canada

MEET THE TEAM

Board of Directors since November 2022. Their depth of experience and passion for the sport community help steer Commonwealth Sport Canada toward excellence.



Claire Carver-Dias
President



Keith Gillam
Treasurer



David Bedford
Director-at-Large



Trevino Betty
Director-at-Large



Karen Hacker
Director-at-Large



Ava Hill
Director-at-Large



Patrick Kenny
Director-at-Large



Greg Maychak
Director-at-Large



Myles Spencer
Director-at-Large



Carlene Variyan
Director-at-Large



Robert Law
Athlete Representative



Richard Powers
Past President

MEET THE TEAM continued

Board of Directors Guest Advisors

Linda Cuthbert
Sport Committee
CGF

Nicole Forrester
Athlete Commission
CGF

Bruce Roberson
Vice President
CGF

Pradeep Sood
President
Commonwealth Games Foundation of Canada

Sixteen **Members-at-Large** who support CSC's mandate and programs.

Holly Abraham
Ontario

Monique Allain
New Brunswick

James Brough
Ontario

Marc Durand
Quebec

Frazer Hadwin
Ontario

Andrew Haley
Ontario

Meaghan Howat
Ontario

Debra Joseph
Ontario

Rene Leblanc
Quebec

David Legg
Alberta

Scott Maffatt
Ontario

Gordon Plottel
British Columbia

Melanie Simard
Quebec

Cameron Smith
Ontario

Thomas Volk
Quebec

Lana Williams
New Brunswick

CSC's small but mighty **staff**

Brian MacPherson
Chief Executive
Officer

Kelly Laframboise
Manager
Programs & Ops

Ryan Pelley
Manager,
SportWORKS

Chris Taylor
Assistant
Programs & Ops

Sally Clare
Finance Officer

Aerin England
Social Media
Coordinator

SUPPORTING SPORT EXCELLENCE

Create an exceptional Team Canada program environment whereby the Commonwealth Games are a critical benchmark in Canada's athlete and coach podium pathway.

Team Canada Program

Canada participated in the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games, held in Trinidad & Tobago, from August 4-11, 2023. Team Canada was represented in Athletics, Beach Volleyball, Fast5 Netball and Rugby Sevens. The team size was 57 Athletes and 17 Officials including a small but experienced Mission Staff of three – Kelly Laframboise, Team Leader, Chris Taylor, Deputy Team Leader, and Erika Persson as Chief Medical Officer (CMO). The Games took place on both Islands (Athletics in Trinidad and the remaining sports in Tobago). The event is “cost neutral” for CSC, with cost matching revenues coming from participating NSOs.



Team Canada came home with two gold medals in beach volleyball, silver in rugby sevens women's and fourth place finish for men's rugby sevens, 6th place finish for fast5 netball and many personal bests in Athletics.

Abuse Free Sport

Abuse-Free Sport is Canada's independent system for preventing and addressing maltreatment in sport. The goal is to work with others throughout the Canadian sport system to ensure that every participant – no matter the sport, the level, or the role -- has a safe, positive and enriching experience. Changing the culture of sport

in Canada is everyone's responsibility. CSC became a required signatory of Abuse Free Sport effective April 1, 2023.

Canadian High Performance Sport System

CSC meets quarterly as part of Major Games Canada to discuss items of common ground, efficiencies, and effectiveness, such as Medical Missions, including GEMS Pro (a Games time medical database). In 2023, CSC assumed the Chair position.



USING SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT

Enhance individual and community social development through sport across the Commonwealth by sharing Canadian sport knowledge, expertise, and resources, and participating in CGF programs and initiatives.

SportWORKS

The 3rd edition of Sport for Newcomers (S4N) expanded to 5 communities (Charlottetown, Hamilton, Calgary, Edmonton, Surrey) in 2022/23. With a shorter than anticipated timeline in place, launching in October 2022, 5 SportWORKS Officers, all from equity-deserving groups, undertook placements at local partner Newcomer Support Service Organizations (NSSOs), exceeding expectations by delivering a total of 82 sport programming sessions involving 1511 newcomers. Participant gender-balance was achieved; 55% of participants identified as boys, while 45% identified as girls. 39 partnerships with local sport organizations were made who, along with the 5 NSSOs, will continue to deliver user-informed, inclusive, safe, quality sport programming. Each NSSO selected a specific newcomer group with added intersecting barriers to sport participation for their project including newcomers from low-income families as well as newcomer women and girls. Consultation sessions with selected newcomer target groups were implemented at the onset of the project in each community.

The sessions provided welcoming opportunities for input while fostering the autonomy and empowerment of newcomer participants and assisted by informing the design of quality sport programming delivery to ensure newcomers were appropriately being served. CSC is grateful for the generous financial support from the Government of Canada / Sport Canada (Community Sport for All Initiative) and the Commonwealth Sport Foundation (Game Changers Grant) for the S4N Initiative.



In partnership with Mount Royal University, 7 Canadian SportWORKS Officers (CSOs)

were deployed internationally to sport development and sport for development projects in Africa (Botswana and Rwanda) and the Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago). CSOs undertook placements at the Trintago 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games Organizing Committee leading up to and during the Games. With less than 12 months to prepare for the Games, CSOs made a difference and played an integral role supporting the success of the Commonwealth Youth Games. CSC is grateful for the generous financial support from the Queen Elizabeth Scholars Program (QES) for the international SportWORKS initiative.

SportWORKS achieved a 9-year high in CSO placements (12) and revenue generation. Due to successful planning and management, the program delivered an expanded impact under budget. Grant proposals for the continued growth of SportWORKS in 2023/24 and beyond have been submitted and are pending approval.

BUILDING A VALUED BRAND

Increase the Canadian public's understanding and relevance of the Commonwealth sport brand by working collaboratively with CSC Members, partners, stakeholders and media.

Public / Media Relations

CSC's communication channels (Website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn) continue to be maintained with news & highlights relevant to the Commonwealth sport movement in Canada and CSC program updates. All these activities were guided by CSC's competent, and expert based Communications Committee.

Commonwealth Games Bidding & Hosting

Under the guidance of CSC's Bid & Hosting Committee CSC worked closely with Hamilton 2030 Commonwealth Games Bid Committee and Partners. In absence of resources (money & staff), CSC led key Bid committee workgroups and the development of several key components of the Bid. With CGF deadlines SET (looming) CSC established specific Bid Requirements for the Ontario Government to ensure a bid from Ontario would meet the key international milestones. With those Requirements not being met CSC no longer recognized Hamilton as its "Preferred Candidate" for the 2030 CWGs.

Subsequently CSC recognized Alberta as Canada's "Preferred Candidate" for the 2030 CWGs. With financial contributions from municipal and provincial governments for the exploration of a Bid, CSC worked closely with the local Bid Committee and Partners submitting the Expression of Interest and Feasibility File to CGF and developing the Candidature File. After a provincial election, the new Alberta Government discontinued the exploration citing 3 reasons; CGF's Bidding Timeline being too short, the draft Games Budget being too high and Victoria's withdrawal from hosting the 2026 CWGs.

Alumni Program

To date 507 alumni have joined CSC's Alumni Program. Program newsletters continue to be distributed on a quarterly basis. The focus this year has been on populating the Alumni Committee, with little success. If you are interested in contributing to the Alumni Committee, please contact andrew_haley@hotmail.com. We continue to offer a 20% discount at the



Running Room to all Program Members. Next is to convert Birmingham2022 and Trinbago2023 participants to registered program members.

Marketing

CSC continues to support activations by its valued Partners – Poole Construction, Kukri, Gowlings Canada and the Government of Canada. Support primarily involves arranging athlete appearances and CSC brand approvals for employee, client and customer focused activations. CSC thanks all its valued Partners, without their support it would be not possible for CSC to deliver its unique and worthy programs & services.

CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITIES

Enhance CSC's leadership role and reputation with Canadian sport, governments, the Commonwealth and demonstrate effective, best in class, governance, and management practices.

National & International Relations

CSC continues to “be seen and be heard” within the sport community at several Canadian sport community meetings & conferences (in-person and virtually), as well as several CGF events, committees, and workgroups. CSC participated in the development of the Government of Canada's Canadian Sport Policy 2023-33 and CGF's Commonwealth Sport Declaration on Reconciliation and Partnerships with the Indigenous Peoples. CSC nominated Richard Powers for 1 of 3 Vice-President positions in upcoming CGF Executive Board elections.

Governance & Administration

All background checks, SafeSport Training and Abuse Free Sport Consent were conducted and now on file for all members, including newly elected members.

Committees have been re-populated with new Chairs and Members. New Member Orientation was slightly revised and conducted early in the New Year. Several Committees have reviewed and updated their Terms of Reference, the Risk Registry and action plans for the year(s) ahead. Governance & Operational policies were reviewed and revised in order for CSC to ensure compliance with Abuse Free Sport. Various finance related processes are performed regularly and satisfactorily, including the 2022-23 audit. A 2023-24 Workplan and Budget was developed and approved. Employee performance reviews for 2022-23 have been delayed post Commonwealth Youth Games and summer vacations.



Commonwealth Games Foundation of Canada (CGFC)

CGFC has put all other activities “on hold” until the outcome of the CSC's current CWGs bid process is known.

LOOKING FORWARD IN 2023/24.....

- Expand SportWORKS program initiatives in Canada and abroad,



- Continue supporting local Commonwealth Games Bids with the goal of securing a Commonwealth Games for Canada as soon as possible,
- Execute several recruitment tactics to increase Alumni Program membership to 600,
- Select recipient of the Canadian Commonwealth Sport Award winners in the Volunteer Excellence (Award of Merit) and SportWORKS category for 2023/24,

- Maintain CSC's digital communication platforms,
- Continue "being seen & heard" with key Canadian sport system stakeholders, including staging the 2024 CSC AGM and attending key meetings; CSTA, COC, CAC, etc. and identifying opportunities where CSC can make a difference,
- Populate the Nominations & Elections Committee in preparation for the 2024 elections.
- Participate in CGF Americas Region Meetings and the 2023 and 24 CGF General Assemblies, with the strategy of getting Canadians elected/appointed into key CGF positions and promoting Canada's CWGs hosting aspirations. Also, participate in the finalization and endorsement of the Commonwealth Sport Declaration on Truth, Reconciliation and Partnerships with Indigenous Peoples,
- Via the "MSO Caucus", collaborate with Sport Canada on a new MSO Funding Model,
- Develop CSC's Business Case for Sport Canada's reworked Sport Funding and Accountability (SFAF),

- Continue effective and efficient governance, financial, HR and administration functions,
- Continue regular policy development, review and updates as required, and
- Develop CSC's 2023/26 Strategic Plan.



OUR PARTNERS

CSC thanks its valued Partners, without their support many of CSC's worthy and unique programs & services would not be possible.

Canada



CONSTRUCTION

