

## Questionnaire Response: Sport4Ontario

### 1. How would your party propose to enhance financial support for grassroots sport opportunities for all Ontarians?

In March 2013, Ontario Liberals were happy to receive the report of the Health Kids Panel, *No Time to Wait: The Healthy Kids Strategy*. Health and wellness, especially for our children, has and always will be a priority for Ontario Liberals. We have already taken action to implement recommendations from the Health Kids Panel, including:

- Introducing the *Making Healthier Choices Act* to make it easier for families to make informed decisions about the food they eat, including becoming the first province to require restaurant chains to post calories on menus. This important piece of legislation died when the NDP teamed with the PCs to bring down the legislature;
- A \$2.5 million investment to enhance breastfeeding supports and to ensure that every woman who wants breastfeeding support can get it;
- Consultations with parents, health and industry stakeholders on restricting the marketing of unhealthy food and beverages to children; and
- Launch of the Healthy Kids Community Challenge, a program that will provide up to 30 communities with funding, training, advice, social marketing tools and other resources over four years to develop and implement community-based programs and activities that promote healthy habits.

In addition, the Ontario Liberal 2014 Budget, which was rejected by the opposition PCs and NDP, made further commitments to important programs like our Student Nutrition Program. In fact, the Wynne budget would have committed a total of \$32 million, by 2016-17, to fund 340 new breakfast programs for an additional 56,000 children in higher needs elementary and secondary schools, including in on-reserve First Nation schools.

The Ontario Liberal Plan has also committed to 60 minutes of physical activity for kids, connected to their school day.

The Ontario Liberal Party clearly recognizes that participating in sport and recreation is vital to the health and well-being of Ontarians. We understand that investing in sport, recreation, and physical activity contributes to positive economic and social outcomes, such as reduced health care costs, improved student achievement, and a better quality of life for all. That is why we are committed to continuing and strengthening our support for community sports and recreation programs that encourage grassroots sports opportunities for all Ontarians. These investments include:

- \$ 7.7 million annually base funding for recognized Provincial Sport and Multi Sport Organizations (PSOs/MSOs), which train athletes, coaches and officials, and host provincial competitions;
- \$13 million annually the recreation-focused After-School Program which provides access to sports, recreation and nutrition programming to more than 21,000 children and youth in more than 400 priority neighbourhoods;
- More than \$7 million annually in the Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund to support local, regional and provincial organizations offer quality programs and services to keep Ontarians active in sport, recreation and physical activity; and
- \$2 million towards the Pan/Parapan American Games Kids program. The goal of this activity-based program is to introduce every child/youth across the province to Pan Am/Parapan American Games and related sports. This will include all students in schools and children/youth attending targeted recreational programs during the after school and summer camp time period for 2014-15 and 2015-16.

Additionally, the Wynne government is committed to sustaining current funding to the Ontario Trillium Foundation. This Foundation plays an important role in the sports and recreation sectors. Last year alone, the Ontario Trillium Foundation approved 279 grants in the sports and recreation sector for a total of \$21.4 million.

## **2. Will your party commit to developing a new Ontario sport strategy in collaboration with the provincial and community sport sector?**

The vision of the Canada Sport Policy 2012 – building a dynamic and innovative culture that promotes and celebrates participation and excellence in sport – is something that Ontario Liberals take seriously and are committed to continuing to act on. In addition to the sport and recreation programs referred to above that reflect the vision of the Canada Sport Policy, Ontario Liberals also invested \$14.5 million annually in high performance sport initiatives such as our Quest for Gold program, the Canadian Sport Institute of Ontario, and sport hosting investments.

The Wynne government is committed not only to continuing these very important sports investments, but also to continuing to work closely with all of our sports stakeholders as we strive to make Ontario the best jurisdiction to become an athlete, coach, official or sport volunteer. It is only by working collaboratively with our communities and everyone involved in the sports sector that we will continue to make progress.

## **3. How will your party support enhancing the leadership skills and competencies of paid staff and volunteers in sport organizations to support a robust and innovative sector and quality community programming?**

By continuing our investments in the Sport Priority Funding Program, the Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund, and the Ontario Trillium Foundation as referred to above, Ontario Liberals are committed to building better capacity, effective governance, and strong leadership skills throughout the sports sector.

## **4. How does your party intend to support the hosting of additional international , national provincial sports events leading up to and following the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games?**

Ontario Liberals are committed to continuing our support of the Ontario Games through our existing funding. In addition, we have committed to investing an additional \$2 million annually to support international amateur sports events through our Celebrate Ontario program.



We believe that building Ontario's capacity to host major international competitions will also increase opportunities for our athletes to compete at home, celebrate athletic performances, encourage the creation of lasting partnerships, and help develop sport at the community level.

**Ontario Liberal Party**

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