

Inclusive Sport and Recreation

Community Meeting notes

May 2nd 2019

May 2nd began with a recap of the February meeting in Red Deer and a presentation by Dr. Steve Norris – President of the Alberta Sport Connection. Dr. Norris's presentation focused on the Alberta Sport Plan, the change in government, their focus on supporting the adapted sport, active recreation and physical activity sector in Alberta, and the need for all of us to work together, and with government to improve opportunities for those who benefit from our services. After his presentation, the attendees broke into smaller groups to discuss relevant sector concerns, and brought the information back to the larger group. Detailed below is a summary of what came out of the smaller groups.

Common Language & Agenda:

- Dissemination of the information from these meetings to those not in attendance (staff, volunteers, board members, etc.).
 - Infrastructure to keep organizations connected
 - Balance infrastructure with personal connection- in person is important
- In person meetings
 - Some do not have funding to attend or do not find it necessary
 - We do not view each other as one large group, feel/are disconnected
- Need to have similar vision, movement, beliefs
 - Start with common language used between organizations
 - Need use the same words in the same way, ensure inclusive sport terms to be safe and welcoming of all
 - Everyone needs to recognize terminology
 - What impact do we want to have?
- Align with larger organizations across Canada
- Make sure community has sound understanding of the goals, and the why

Segregated vs. Integrated activities:

- Include all generations (not just children and youth)
- Finding outlets to connect and resources for all different communities
 - Smaller communities
 - Aboriginal groups
- Have movement between each sport (basketball to sledge, to tennis, to rugby) to become more inclusive
- Having conversations about the gap between segregated and inclusive sport
 - Across all aspects of sport, recreation, and physical activity
- Discover the disconnect around how far behind disabled sport is vs. able bodied sport
- Realizing recruitment is a big challenge
 - This will lead to being short on people in the community
 - May need to incentivize disabled sport
 - Worried about safe, inclusive sport
- Balance of expertise from able-bodied organizations (PSO's) and disability organizations knowledge and needs

Spreading awareness & accessibility:

- Conversations with partners, facilities, etc. to show why changes are important and valuable to everyone
 - Mentorship
- Start showing financial benefit of making adaptations and changes to programs- government responds to efficient use of funds
- Finding larger organizations (like ASC) to send information to a wider audience

- Finding advocates to continually work to voice shortcomings
 - Means more coming from community and participants as opposed to organizations
- Keeping freedom to govern your own organization as opposed to sticking to policies from an umbrella organization
- Target school systems
 - Ex. PE teachers and PD days
- Help community become more accessible by coaching
- Finding champions and recognize who is actually sitting at the table
 - Parents, folks experiencing disability
- Where are we advertising – need to be a welcoming environment like we say we are
 - What does that really mean? How are we inclusive?
 - Does the community really understand?
- More dialogue needs to happen
- Align with organizations like CPC and other across Canada

Government:

- Understand all levels of government and basic understanding of disability
- What does a new government mean for funding
 - Also if a GBA analysis may be needed or is necessary
- Figure out specific dates – budget