

ISR Collective Meeting Agenda & Minutes – 29 March 2021

Meeting Minutes

1. Update from previous meetings
 - a. Brian Torrance (Ever Active Schools): Active Alberta Coalition (AAC) – trying to provide a voice
 - i. Meeting with the Minister – presented on a few different items (economic benefits of sport, physical activity and recreation (SPAR), mental health and wellbeing benefits, social issues that SPAR is able to address, importance of accessibility, COVID specific changes)
 1. Cuts to funding (i.e. be fit for life centres, sport development centres)
 2. Mental health and wellbeing – good conversations about changes with increased isolation
 3. Advocated to federal government for relief and emergency funding – sport participation grant
 4. Public health measures and reopening – importance of bringing back sport and recreation activities in a safe manner
 5. Ongoing communication – minister wants to hear more in the future
 - a. There will be an update for the minister following this meeting – going over what is discussed
 - b. Jen Leo (The Steadward Centre)
 - i. Collective voice for the whole sector through the AAC
 1. Advocating for folks with disabilities
 2. Want more Albertans to be more active – just going about it in different ways
 - c. Johnny Byrne (Special Olympics Alberta)
 - i. There is an opportunity – but trying to be realistic financially for the province
 - ii. Where can advances be made – trying to understand what key messages need to be, where does the focus need to be
2. Summary of Impact of COVID-19 on Alberta Inclusive Sport and Recreation Organizations – based on survey results
 - a. Program delivery
 - i. Majority of respondents offered a combination of both in person programming with restrictions and virtual programming
 - ii. 25% program closures or no programs at all
 - iii. Almost 60% provided services to less people than pre COVID
 - b. Biggest challenge
 - i. Hosting fundraising events and navigating loss of revenue
 - ii. Shifting to online program
 1. Organizational impact (staffing resources to develop material), skills and access to technology for participants
 2. Keeping youth engaged

- iii. Equitable access to outdoor parks and recreation spaces services
 - iv. “not all those with disabilities have the tools and abilities to engage with virtual programming”
 - c. Surprises from the year
 - i. Expanded reach due to nature of virtual programming
 - ii. Frustration with lack of control and support – needing to adhere to certain guidelines
 - iii. Connecting and working together -
 - iv. Making it happen: resiliency and commitment to participate
 - 1. Surprise that participants that were willing to come back to in person programs
 - d. Advocacy minute (minute with the minister)
 - i. Financial support for the sector
 - ii. Significant impact of sport, physical activity, and recreation on mental health and well-being of people with disabilities (all ages)
 - iii. Need to ensure accessibility in return to activity
- 3. Updates from Organizations
 - a. Brad Ellard: Regional Manager for Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities for Alberta and Northwest Territories
 - i. Trying to support as many qualified organizations as possible through funding
 - ii. <https://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca/pages/sport-relief-fund-apply>
 - iii. <https://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca/pages/apply-for-parasport-grants>
 - b. Camille Edwards: Practicum Student with Ultimate Para Sports Association
 - i. Junior adaptive biking program was canceled in the winter – facility was closed
 - ii. Virtual spin program moved to virtual – sticking with that going forward
 - iii. Cross country skiing programming – gone forward in small groups outside
 - iv. Started a meditation program – focus on spiritual, mental, and emotional wellness
 - c. Suzanna Tangen: UPSA (Ultimate Para Sports Association)
 - i. A lot of personal calls and outreach to keep people involved
 - ii. Minute with the minister: Talk about funding, awareness of disability
 - iii. Tried zoom social calls – not overly effective
 - d. Catriona Le May Doan: Sport Calgary
 - i. Connector and promoter to support sport partners
 - ii. All sport event – try it sport discovery events
 - iii. Local sport groups that don’t fall under a PSO – seem to get missed
 - iv. Working with the Adaptive Hub
 - e. Char Lockhart: Team Jigger Foundation - Brand new rehab centre in central Alberta (based in Lacombe)
 - i. Physical, spiritual, emotional supports – strong focus on SCI (but also MS, CP)
 - ii. Recreation branch just started – very new to the recreation aspects
 - iii. Want to make sport and recreation opportunities accessible to all different types of bodies in Central Alberta

- iv. Looking to partner with Rocky Mountain Adaptive
- f. Pat Cooper: Alberta Federation of Shooting sports
 - i. Here to learn from other organizations
- g. Hilary MacDonald: Program Manager with Alberta Equestrian Federation - PTSO for Horses in Alberta
 - i. Moving some stuff online
 - ii. Community engagement sessions online (1 or 2 a month)
 - iii. Limited competition season for 2020 – looking similar for 2021
 - iv. General exercising for horses (for their own health) – youth programming
 - v. Naturally socially distanced sport
 - vi. Hopefully able to do more programming in late spring
- h. Jef: Events director with ABA (Alberta Basketball Association)
 - i. Lack of facilities, ever shifting guidelines, lack of competition, lack of performance
 - ii. Switch to virtual platform
 - iii. Focus on developing a new 5 year plan – more focus on inclusion, accessibility, and diversity
 - iv. Minute with the minister: funding for organizations for relaunch of services and rebuilding
- i. Jen Sales: Wheelchair Sports Alberta
 - i. Gave out a bunch of grants
 - ii. Bought a bunch of foggers for sanitizing
 - iii. Applying for lots of grants – fairly successful
 - iv. New sledge hockey team started in Peace River
 - v. Relationship with PSA is going well
 - vi. Hopefully getting gym access for clubs soon
- j. Jessica Ferguson: Steadward Centre
 - i. Shift to remote programming, some 1 on 1 programming in person
 - ii. Less numbers in programs than previous years
 - iii. Really proud of being resilient as an organization
 - iv. Minute with the minister: share importance of in person programming (when safe) – good socially for athletes
- k. Jocelyn: Administrative Coordinator with Rocky Mountain Adaptive
 - i. Since July, most in person programs have been able to go ahead
 - ii. Gone to basically all 1 on 1 programming – reduced capacity
 - iii. Fundraising events – cancelled or heavily adapted
- l. Karen Dommatt: Calgary Adapted Hub powered by Jumpstart
 - i. Focus on mass multi organizational inclusion training
 - ii. Working towards transformational change, not transactional
 - iii. Working with partners (Winsport, Repsol, Mount Royal, U of C, etc.)
- m. Katrina Maximchuk: Paralympic Sports Association
 - i. Change of leadership – in August
 - ii. Opened up programming when it could
 - iii. Operational funding is a challenge – difficult to bring in revenue
 - iv. Jumpstart grants have been a huge support
- n. Kim McDonald: SBHANA

- i. Staying aware of what is happening
 - ii. First contact – passing families on to other sport organizations
- o. Leah Paton: Provincial Government sport and physical activity branch
 - i. Listening to collect information from organizations to report back to supervisor
 - ii. Work with the AAC
- p. Paula Mckenzie: Calgary Track and Field Association
 - i. Programs have moved to a virtual platform
 - ii. Para related: grassroots-paralympic athletes
 - iii. Expansion that was planned pre pandemic, has been stopped
 - iv. More time to connect with other groups
 - v. Minute with the minister: more facilities
- q. Sarah Monk: Technical Director for Alberta Bob sleigh association
 - i. Bring athletes to Whistler track to train
 - ii. Abled bodied athletes were able to get to whistler to train in Feb-March
 - iii. Para athletes – competition in Switzerland and France
- r. Shanna Kurylo: Alberta Schools Athletic Association
 - i. Special Olympics Unified Sports program
 - ii. Challenging year for schools
 - iii. Lots of virtual contests
 - iv. Increasing communication to schools
- s. Steve Holly: Adaptable Outdoors
 - i. Fairly new organization out of Pincher Creek
 - ii. Paddling, adaptive fishing, hiking
 - iii. Challenges with receiving funding
 - iv. Strong support from local businesses, local private donors
- t. Tim Tratch: Alberta Amputee Sports and Recreation Association (AASRA)
 - i. Support athletes financially to go out and compete
- u. Brian Torrence: Ever Active Schools
 - i. Sedentary behaviour gap is growing
 - ii. Working with Red Deer looking at a school sport for all model
 - iii. Important to discuss that not all organizations are able to access the same funding opportunities
- v. Tara Chisholm: Medicine Hat Adaptive Sport Recreation
 - i. Going in and out of programming as restrictions change
 - ii. Sport and rec as an important factor in participants and families lives
 - 1. Connection with death by suicide – SPAR as a support for families
 - iii. Serving a lot of adults with disabilities – trying to find funding for these individuals to have social connection through sport
- w. Johnny Byrne: Alberta Special Olympics
 - i. Hopefully some programming back this summer – but more likely not until 2022
 - ii. Creation of an online community only for athletes
 - iii. Offering lots of coach training
 - iv. Going to be launching a new live virtual platform that’s going to allow for more engagement

- v. Needing to be adaptable in working online and in person
- vi. Vaccine education – making sure that people are informed about vaccines
- x. Jen Leo: Steadward Centre
 - i. So important to stay focused on participants
 - ii. We are all tired with the different work that is being done – additional connections, etc.
 - iii. Online youth leader certificate – being piloted
- y. David Legg: Calgary Adapted Health and Mount Royal
 - i. Lots of programs shut down
 - ii. Partnered with a broadcasting program at Mount Royal
- z. Linda Robinson:
 - i. Participates in wheelchair curling – this past year, no way of being active
 - ii. Physical and mental affect on health without sport
- 4. Follow up with the Minister – with thoughts from this meeting
- 5. Where do we want this to go?
 - a. Connecting every couple months
- 6. Dr. Steadward – Summarize and Reinforce important topics
 - a. Past year has been difficult for all of us
 - b. Beginning to see some light at the end of the tunnel – are we ready for post pandemic life
 - i. Will we do some things differently? Online connections have been really effective, do they keep going
 - c. So many similar challenges that we are facing

Live Transcript Link: https://otter.ai/u/PKiAZMg_2qHD1aasH7vFMd9YiW0

Chat from the meeting:

Jen Leo to Everyone (11:17 AM)

<https://forms.gle/CpKgWHqFyeACg8Ux5>

Ever Active Schools (Brian Torrance) to Everyone (11:24 AM)

A report that came out this morning from jumpstart on the “state of sport”

https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0122/8124/9892/files/Jumpstart_State_of_Sport_Report_March_2021.pdf?v=1616793836

Tara Chisholm (she/her) - MHASR to Everyone (11:26 AM)

Name/Organization/Current Realities your organization is facing/Challenges/Surprises/What you would do if you had the minute to speak with the minister

Ever Active Schools to Everyone (11:29 AM)

Sport for Relief Fund. <https://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca/pages/sport-relief-fund-apply>

Para sport fund. <https://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca/pages/apply-for-parasport-grants>

Brad Ellard to Everyone (11:30 AM)

Feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions on Jumpstart Funding -

Brad.Ellard@cantire.com

Ever Active Schools to Everyone (11:32 AM)

Makadiff has a “Restart” Funding Program. <http://www.makadiffsports.org/>

Alberta Blue Cross a grant program focused on healthy communities.

<https://ab.bluecross.ca/aboutus/community-roots.php>

Ever Active Schools to Everyone (11:36 AM)

Amazing resource from Sport Calgary on funding and awards.

<https://www.sportcalgary.ca/funding-grants-awards>

Katie Mahon (she/her) to Everyone (11:40 AM)

Feel free to pop your update in the chat, Fay - if your mic isn't working.

Pat Cooper to Everyone (11:45 AM)

good morning all I am Pat Cooper from the Alberta Federation of Shooting sports using a borrowed lap top (Fay) as mine is currently of line

Tara Chisholm (she/her) - MHASR to Everyone (11:46 AM)

Good morning, Pat! Thank you for coming on today. If you'd like to type in your update you can. Or if you'd like to try the microphone again just let us know. :)

Pat Cooper to Everyone (11:47 AM)

here to listen and learn from you all

Tara Chisholm (she/her) - MHASR to Everyone (11:47 AM)

Wonderful, thanks Pat!

Pat Cooper to Everyone (11:51 AM)

thank you for inviting us

Jen Sales - Wheelchair Sports Alberta to Everyone (12:03 PM)

whoop whoop

Karen Dommett (Calgary Adapted Hub) to Everyone (12:09 PM)

<https://engage.calgary.ca/foothills-mcmahon>

Jef - ABA to Everyone (12:09 PM)

Unfortunately I have to jump off this call for another appointment; we look forward to staying connected to the conversation and steps forward. Thank you for the opportunity to attend.

Tara Chisholm (she/her) - MHASR to Everyone (12:10 PM)

Thank you for coming, Jef

Tara Chisholm (she/her) - MHASR to Everyone (12:11 PM)

Sarah is amazing for anyone who does not know her! She is a huge reason for parabobsleigh going as far as it has gone internationally! Sorry just have to give a shoutout for all those that don't know her.

Ever Active Schools to Everyone (12:29 PM)

Thanks for sharing Tara!

Suzanna Tangen - UPSA to Everyone (12:31 PM)

Thanks for sharing Tara... That is really the meat of what we're experiencing as well.

Depression and loss among members to an extent I did not expect. Thanks for putting it into words.

Steve Holly to Everyone (12:34 PM)

Thanks for sharing with the group Tara, unfortunately we have also seen our clients experiencing greater mental health difficulties. One thing we are looking into is arranging some training in Trauma Informed Care for our volunteers and staff, as we felt unprepared to deal with some of the issues faced.

Karen Dommett (Calgary Adapted Hub) to Everyone (12:39 PM)

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/ActiveLiving/registration/Program/2315>

Tara Chisholm (she/her) - MHASR to Everyone (12:41 PM)

Thank you so much for sharing your perspective, Linda. That's so important to share.

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Tara Chisholm (she/her) - MHASR to Everyone (12:51 PM)

There is no membership fee. Don't worry everyone.