

LTAD Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2018 (8:00 am – 11:00 am EST) Westin Hotel, Ottawa ON

Attendees: Anna Mees, James Sneddon, Peter Niedre, Corey Beard, Debra Gassewitz, Carolyn Trono, Richard Way

Online: Vicki Harber, Meredith Gardner, Matt Kennedy

Missing: Aaron Nutting – no longer with FPT/ISPARC

Summary of Discussions

There was a continued discussion on filling the 2 vacant seats, as well as replacing Aaron Nutting as FPT representative. Carolyn will be following up to determine who will be appointed to be present at the next meeting in January 2019. Regarding the 2 vacant positions, initial communication took place with Aboriginal Sport Circle in June 2018. They suggested to have an interim person representing the Indigenous community in place until a person can be nominated. A challenge is the lack of travel budget for this group, as at this point, attending meetings is difficult for individuals who are not present at events the meetings are scheduled around. Ideally an interim person will be present in January 2019.

The group revisited the LTAD Division Page and identified that the “expert assistance to NSOs” section is critical to communication and clarity for the system, and is currently empty. It was also raised that the website still doesn’t clearly identify who to contact for guidance and service. Sport for Life agreed to address these concerns.

Carolyn informed the group that 11 NSOs completed activation plans and with that these NSOs are able to received 3 expert days from LTAD experts (from S4L Core funds) with their investment of 1 day (\$800). To date two sports have moved forward and have an expert assigned to work with them – Water Ski Wakeboard Canada and Bowls Canada. Conversations have taken place with most of the remaining 9 sports.

Carolyn also explained that with the priority of “system alignment”, Own the Podium and Sport for Life are working toward working together on ADM-GMP alignment to ensure that High Performance and Sport Development are working together. The group raised cautions to ensure important LTAD principles are not compromised such as early foundations, holistic approach and avoidance of early specialization. More robust discussions need to take place on processes to improve the sport ecosystem.

Carolyn reported to the group on a recent meeting with Own the Podium and how to work with the Olympic Sports and process of categorization is being undertaken to provide support to various categories of sport. The group cautioned that this may leave non-Olympic sports out

and there could be valuable learnings for the whole system. Once the categorization process is complete, Carolyn will work on a process and initiatives to ensure that all sports are supported and can benefit from ADM/GMP work including potential workshops in next fiscal year.

Carolyn provided an update on the progress tracker and how it is being used in 2018-2019 and the group briefly discussed the system report. A number of comments were made regarding the content and recommendations associated with Athletes with a disability. Comments generally pointed out the importance of working with partners beyond the usual MSOs as the feeder system starts in the community and stronger connections to those experiences need to be factored into work in this area.

Richard Way, CEO of the Sport for Life Society, was in attendance and provided an overview of Sport for Life's business model, budget and operational procedures. The group raised a number of questions around NSO services and support to NSOs in achieving their organizational goals. Additional clarity was requested on how NSOs access services from Sport for Life. Sport for Life will prepare a communiqué on this that will be shared with NSOs and Sport Canada.

Richard also introduced some new concept contained within the new LTAD 3.0 and some issues Sport for Life has been having over the years regarding inclusion with the word "sport" and "athlete", which is the reason for introducing the terminology Quality Sport. He also introduced that for these reasons, the next edition of LTAD will be called Long-Term Development in Sport and Physical Activity. Richard explained that NSOs can continue to use Long-term Athlete Development or Long-term Participant/Player Development based on what best resonates with their stakeholders. He noted there is a wide variety of names for NSOs athlete development framework, this does not need to change. There was also a discussion on revising the title of the LTAD Division and its Director. Further input will be sought on this.

Richard explained that S4L has always posted resources online and everyone in the world had access to the content. As we are about to launch LTD 3.0, he asked if this knowledge should be available to a selected number of leaders through something like a restricted access website with a password protected area. It was raised that the document was only one aspect, the challenges and advantage is if an organization can implement effectively.

Carolyn also provided an overview of the updated format of LTAD Leads Day, and sessions at the Summit that touch on multisport, quality sport, sport selection, high performance strategy, and more, including a panel of NSO and PTSO representatives that will focus on what is working and what needs to be done.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday January 23, 2019.