

A Proposed Federal Programme

The legislation will be the first major recognition of the importance of sports and athletics in the national life of the nation. It will provide the groundwork for a "people's programme", for its detailed operation will require the benefit of the views and useful planning of those who have studied and understand the problem. It will have as its purpose the encouragement of amateur athletics and to that end by a system of awards for the development of physical efficiency will in the course of years contribute to raising standards of health among Canada's younger generation.

The first step will be the establishment of a national sports council to be known as the National Advisory Council of Fitness, Recreation and Amateur Sport, of some 20 or 25 members representing agencies connected with these fields, and the provinces.

The Council will provide a forum at the national level for advising the Federal Government on sports matters.

The programme will, if Parliament agrees, be implemented through federal grants and federal assistance in personnel and coach training, research, information, leadership training and coaching courses, assistance for participation in national sport and in international competition, and in other ways. For this purpose a federal contribution of \$5 million annually will be provided initially.

Wide Co-operation Sought

I ask the co-operation of sports organizations and the Canadian Advisory Sports Council, and all interested persons, to join in the task of advising the National Council as to the most effective means whereby questions such as provision of coaches and assistance to amateur groups can be determined in the light of need and experience.

I am especially interested in securing the views of the sports writers everywhere across Canada as they have intensive knowledge of all aspects of this national programme. I hope that they will write to the Minister of National Health and Welfare or me expressing their views.

In the few minutes at my disposal I have been able to do no more than outline the plan in a general way but I have said enough, I hope, to indicate the nature of the programme to be launched.