

## INTRODUCTION

Since the adoption of the *Fitness and Amateur Sport Act* in 1961, the structures of the Canadian sports system have reached a level of sophistication and require some adjustment to the modern environment. In response to demands from the sports community, the federal government has, during the last 30 years, adopted various policies reflecting both the concerns of groups and individuals involved in sport and government priorities. The Task Force Report, published in 1988, and more recently, the Dubin Report indicated that some policy changes will be necessary to increase the efficiency and the efficacy of programs affecting various sports disciplines.

Considering that many people are directly concerned with the formulation of sports policy, the members of the Sub-Committee on Fitness and Amateur Sport concentrated on reactions to the recommendations of the Task Force, and the Dubin Report, and particularly on comments on the present sports system. The Sub-Committee Report reflects the essential contribution of the athletes, NSOs, multi-sport and service agencies, coaches, volunteers and other groups or individuals, concerned about the future of amateur sport. The first section describes the structure of Canada's sports system and focuses on various issues that have an impact on the development and the central role of the athlete in the present system. The second section examines some key components of management and decisions affecting the sports sector. Following comments to the Sub-Committee by organizations and agencies, the third section examines the role of government in sport at the national and international levels, particularly its involvement in public funding, and other strategic areas.

The key responsibilities of the NSOs are: to develop national policies and programs for the province and/or provincial sport bodies; to run national and international sports events; to select, develop and manage the national team (both at an individual and at a team level); to be the single agency representing Canada at the International Federation; and to establish standards or certification criteria for officials.