



doc
CA1
EA9
R120
ENG
1973
November

Reference Papers

Dept. of External Affairs
Min. des Affaires extérieures
SEP 2 1998
RETURN TO DEPARTMENTAL LIBRARY
RETOURNER A LA BIBLIOTHEQUE DU MINISTERE

No. 120
(Revised November 1973)

FITNESS AND AMATEUR SPORT IN CANADA

(Prepared in the Fitness and Amateur Sport Branch, Health and Welfare Canada, Ottawa.)

As its title implies, Canada's Fitness and Amateur Sport Program is concerned with the whole range of human physical activity and seeks to give encouragement to the "jogger" as well as the *élite* athlete. Its aim is both to increase the number of participants at all levels of competitive and non-competitive activity and to improve their skills.

The Program began in December 1961 with the proclamation of the federal Fitness and Amateur Sport Act. Under this Act, which is administered by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, up to \$5 million is provided by the Federal Government to encourage, promote and develop fitness and amateur sport. Recently, however, there have been a number of significant changes.

Since 1969 a process of review has been under way. The result has been an increased commitment by the Canadian Government to fitness and amateur sport. In January 1973, the Speech from the Throne announced that the funds available for the Program would be gradually increased over the next three years, to \$20 million by 1975-76. To enable the Program to cover the total population more effectively, the Fitness and Amateur Sport Directorate has been divided into two divisions: Sport Canada, which is to concentrate on the competitive aspects of sport at the national and international level, and Recreation Canada, which will be concerned with the development of mass participation in physical activity.

There have been changes in the style of the Program as well. An attempt is being made to make it more "people-oriented". The distribution of grants to national associations and other program-operating agencies is now complemented by an effort to reach the Canadian people directly. A number of "spin-off" organizations have been established to handle well-defined problems. Sport-demonstration tours have crisscrossed the country. Aid is available for athletes with proved ability.

The objectives of the national Fitness and Amateur Sport Program are listed in Section 3 of the Fitness and Amateur Sport Act

53970887