

be an opportunity for provincial/territorial governments and provincial/territorial sports organizations to have more input into the development of future strategies in the field of sport.⁽²⁵⁾

The Sub-Committee fully endorses this view. As well, the Sub-Committee believes that, despite the variety of interests involved, the federal and provincial governments should extend their dialogue to allow for enhanced sport integration and coordination at the national and provincial levels.

Therefore, the Sub-Committee recommends:

- 38. The continuation of a concerted effort by the federal government to act as a coordinator of policy and initiatives promoting dialogue between NSOs, provincial governments, PSOs and municipal and regional organizations in the development of sport in Canada.**

G. Standing Committee

Recent government interventions in sport, together with the human and financial resources involved in major sports events, illustrate that an increased number of sectors are concerned with public sport policy. Athletes, NSOs, multi-sport and service organizations are all trying to influence government policy and to influence decisions related to sports programs. Such involvement requires the development of various channels of communication between the government and the representatives of the sports community. The complexity of issues also requires the establishment of structures that will facilitate exchanges of information between partners in the sports decision-making process. Some witnesses indicated to the Sub-Committee that sport, as a social and cultural phenomenon, requires some institutionalization in the national public interest. The growth of federal intervention in that sector and the need for accountability call for careful scrutiny at the executive and legislative levels.

The Sub-Committee agrees with that argument and therefore recommends:

- 39. That a Standing Committee on Fitness and Amateur Sport be created.**

The Committee should act as a political forum and be part of the "linkage-leadership" process so often referred to as a positive step in the further development of the amateur sport system in Canada. Its contribution should provide assistance in resolving differences between the various organizations and interest-oriented agencies that give leadership to the millions of Canadians involved, both directly and indirectly, in amateur sport.