

The Sub-Committee believes that over the years the sports organizations have developed the capability to show more leadership on their own, separate from government. The members of the Sub-Committee also think that, if the sports organizations have to take a leading role and become the primary agents, less dependent on government, then we have to give them the autonomy to do so. In fact, the sports community has matured to a significant degree and we must adopt a more encouraging approach to its development.

Therefore, the Sub-Committee recommends:

- 25. That the federal government take a less active role in daily sports operations and that NSOs be given the autonomy to manage the public resources allocated to them.**

The Dubin Report discusses the possibility of establishing an independent body charged with the responsibility of administering government funding and supervising the development of sport in Canada. Justice Dubin refers to the British Sports Council, which represents an attractive concept mainly because it operates independently from the government. The British Sports Council⁽²⁰⁾ receives grant from the central government and raises money from non-governmental sources. It seeks to obtain sponsorship to support its programs, undertakes commercial activities such as publishing and generates income by running its own national centres. It offers support to sport-governing bodies in order to enable them to develop excellence programs, improve the standards and scope of coaching, compete internationally and provide facilities and equipment. The Dubin Report does not include any recommendation based on this, but it might be worthwhile though to look at the structure and role of this granting council.

The Sub-Committee believes that public funding should be different from its present form. There should be a council or body that decides on the allocation of federal funds according to broad criteria, such as: participation, performance need, administrative abilities, public perception and, as suggested in the Dubin Report, accessibility of programs to the broader community, anti-doping policies, and the organization's record in encouraging participation by women, minorities, disabled and the disadvantaged.

The Sub-Committee wants to insist that any new structure such as a "Canadian Sports Council" must not become another layer of bureaucracy. It suggests that the Canadian Sports Council be both a consultative and granting body. It further believes that

⁽²⁰⁾ British Sports Council, *Fact Sheet: What is the Sports Council?*