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THE NATIONAL FITNESS PROGRAMME

The following is a partial text of the speech by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. J. Waldo Monteith, to the National Advisory Council on Fitness and Amateur Sport in Ottawa on April 16:

"...As you are probably aware, we in the Department have been extremely busy with the new Fitness and Amateur Sport Programme since you last convened. I want to tell you of some of these activities but first I would like to thank the Council for its co-operation in connection with consideration of the additional grants to national organizations which I announced a week ago today...."

"Here, I would mention particularly the work of the Committee appointed to study the various urgent requests which we felt had to be dealt with prior to your second meeting. Its members... did an outstanding job in developing recommendations which I am happy to say were approved by the majority of the Council in a mail vote. It is perhaps unfortunate that this particular procedure was necessary but I can assure you we very much appreciated your co-operation in making it feasible and effective."

GRANTS TO PROVINCES

"I will have more to say about grants to national organizations in a moment, but I want to mention now what has undoubtedly been the most important development at the federal level since you last met. This is the announcement of federal grants to the provinces, which in 1962-63 will amount to one-half of the Fitness and Amateur Sport Fund or \$2,500,000. As I indicated in Parliament last Monday, this division of the fund is in line with Section 5 of the federal Act and indicates the important role which the Dominion Government feels the provinces can play in this

undertaking. I believe it is also the only real way to achieve the objective many members of the Council supported so strongly in your initial discussions — namely, that the main emphasis of the Programme should be at the community level. At the moment, of course, this division of the fund is still at the proposal stage, but, from the impressions we received at our meeting with provincial ministers, I am optimistic that it will be generally acceptable to the provinces.

"I might point out that this amount is being provided to assist provincial programmes designed to encourage, promote, and develop fitness and amateur sport pending the negotiation of agreements as called for under the federal Act. ... We propose to allocate it on the basis of a flat rate of \$50,000 a province, with the balance of the \$2,500,000 provincial share being provided on a *per capita* basis. I shall not take time to indicate how this formula would effect each province individually, since you have the list before you. I might say, however, that I believe it does represent a fair method of distribution, having in mind the variation in conditions from province to province.

"Quite apart from the \$2,500,000 provision for 1962-63, the Government has also offered the provinces \$250,000 in grants for planning and organization. This is to come out of the Programme's allocation for 1961-62 and will be distributed on the basis of a flat rate of \$15,000 a province, with the remainder being provided on a *per capita* basis. The need for such immediate assistance was clearly evident in our discussions with provincial ministers, and we hope that all the provinces will go along with this additional offer so that no time will be lost in developing their part of a comprehensive, nationwide effort.

(Over)