

or recreation. These ministries provide funds and support to the sports system within the particular province or territory. There is liaison between the federal and provincial or territorial governments at the ministerial level.

For each National Sport Organization, there is an International Sport Federation responsible for conducting world championships, both awarding the bids and being responsible for technical procedures. For each single sport family there is, at the international level, a regional sport federation. In order to attend national championships or to compete in an international meet, an individual or a team must be a member of an NSO.

The relationship between the sports organizations and the government is primarily financial. Sport Canada is the primary government agency for the sports system. Fitness Canada provides some support services to the sports system but in a relatively minor way. In recent years, Sport Canada has provided administrative and technical leadership to NSOs. It is also involved in the coordination, the promotion and the development of domestic sport and high performance programs. In addition, the government agency supports research, special studies, evaluations and the development of a database. Major initiatives funded by Sport Canada include: subsidies to NSOs, assistance for high performance athletes, support to the Best Ever program, which facilitates high performance sport in Olympic winter and summer sports, technical assistance for high performance training centres, sport science and medicine and applied sport research.

When an athlete becomes member of a FSO, he or she also becomes a member of the respective national sport body. The athlete is thus eligible to participate in national championships and may be selected to go to the Canada Games as a representative of the province, as a member of the provincial team. Having made the national championships, the athlete may go on to compete at the international level.

The athletes are the *visu beneficiaries* of the sports associations' network and Sport Canada's program. Accordingly, the Task Force Report suggests that national goals for sport must be developed at all levels -- local, provincial, national -- and be based on the athlete and the athlete's needs. The majority of witnesses endorsed this recommendation. As stated by the Canadian Air Association, "... perhaps the most important point in the [Task Force] Report is the explicit recognition that the sports system should be based around the athlete and what is required to develop his or her full potential. This may be seem obvious and simplistic, but it needs to be remembered when the current collection of sports organizations is considered." ¹⁹ The Coaching Association of Canada also argued in favour of an athlete-centred system. Its brief suggested that it is important "... to

¹⁹ Canadian Air Association, *ibid.*, p. 2.