

2015 Federal Election Sport Questionnaire Ottawa

Candidate: Catherine McKenna, Liberal Party of Canada

Riding: Ottawa Centre

Infrastructure and Facilities

Question 1: There is an estimated \$17 billion dollar deficit in sport and recreation facilities. Are you willing to support a dedicated infrastructure fund for sports and recreation facilities at the community level? If so, what level of funding are you willing to dedicate?

Yes. The Liberal Party of Canada has made the largest, long term infrastructure commitment in Canadian history, \$125 billion over 10 years, nearly double the existing program of the Harper government. One major component of that will be social infrastructure, which will include cultural and recreational facilities. This component will include a new investment of nearly \$6 billion over the next four years, and almost \$20 billion over 20 years.

Question 2: There is also across the country a critical problem with lack of access to sport and recreation facilities for those with a disability. Are you willing to include support in the infrastructure fund for accessibility initiatives?

Yes. Inclusiveness is a central principle for maximizing the social and economic impact of infrastructure investments, and one Liberals strongly support.

Amateur/high performance sport

Question 3: High performance sport brings international attention to Canada and helps develop national identity and pride. Potential high performance athletes are identified and initially developed through a system of community sport organizations. As the progression to high performance athlete occurs, funding requirements increase. Federal government financial support has focused primarily on high-performance programs and not provided financial support at the community level. On a scale of 1-5, (where 5 is very important and 1 is not important at all?), how important do you believe it is to provide additional financial support for high performance development to community sporting organizations?

1 2 3 **4** 5

Comments:

A Liberal government's infrastructure program will greatly improve the level of collaboration with provinces, territories and municipalities, and the responsiveness to their priorities. So, the precise nature of projects that receive funding will depend considerably on local and provincial priorities.

Sport for Development

Question 4: Participation in sport can offer many benefits to communities. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is maximum benefit and 1 is minimum benefit, please indicate how you rate the benefits provided by sport in each of these areas:

(Respond "5" for all)

- Promoting health and fitness – 1 2 3 4 **5**
- Reducing youth crime – 1 2 3 4 **5**
- helping new Canadians feel part of the community – 1 2 3 4 **5**
- supporting the growth and development of First Nations communities through greater access to sport-based educational and social programs – 1 2 3 4 **5**
- Building character and relationships – 1 2 3 4 **5**
- Building community pride – 1 2 3 4 **5**

In which of the above area(s) would you request funding for your community? Why?

There is plenty of evidence to justify public investment on all of these grounds. The new infrastructure program of a Liberal government will be highly responsive to the needs of communities, provinces and territories. Therefore, the nature and mix of projects which receive federal funding will depend on local priorities.