

## **2015 Federal Election Sport Questionnaire Ottawa**

**Candidate:** Nira Dookeran, Green Party of Canada

**Riding:** Ottawa-Vanier

### 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. I would support the immediate funding of sport and recreation facilities to a total of \$500 million per year, with the additional plan of the creation of an Infrastructure Bank in order to leverage the federal government's credit at the lowest possible interest rates on behalf of all Canadian municipalities.

**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. Sport and recreation for the disabled is integral to improving their quality of life along with serving as preventative health care. By incentivizing active lifestyles and investing in community facilities for the disabled so that they may pursue active lifestyles, we could save our system millions of dollars each year in health care costs.

### 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:**

Canada's world-class performances in professional sports continue to be a source of pride for Canadians. With that said, the primary goal should be to encourage Canadians to pursue active lifestyles whether it is for leisure or for the dream of a professional athletic career.

### 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:**

- 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?**

For my riding of Ottawa-Vanier - consisting of a large number of seniors, students, and new Canadians - I would especially request funding for health and fitness promotion, the reduction of youth crime, and helping new Canadians feel like part of the community. Investing in municipal sport, recreation, and cultural facilities generates economic activity and jobs, but more importantly brings a cohesive sense of community to what is a large riding of over 110,000 people.