



Commonwealth Games News

As we all know, Netball Canada's best chance of participating in the Commonwealth Games would be as the host country.

Until recently, our hopes for this happening were very high, but were dashed with the unexpected and uncharacteristic withdrawal from the bid process by the City of Halifax.

The McMahon report on Canada's bid for the 2014 Commonwealth Games was used in the decision to abandon the bid. The following letter identifies some of the issues and shows just how we were shafted by Sports Canada.

There has been much speculation since the withdrawal of Canada's bid for the 2014 Commonwealth Games in early March.

News reports are filled with various theories about "what went wrong." Various documents are quoted, spokespeople are interviewed, and rumours are reported. To the outside observer, it must seem quite confusing.

Quite deliberately, the Commonwealth Games Association of Canada (CGC) has tried to stay out of the blame game, choosing instead to focus on the facts.

You will have received a message from us recently that laid out our overall position on the demise of the Halifax Bid.

Today, we thought it might be helpful to offer a few general comments on one of

documents that was cited in the decision by the Province

and the City to withdraw the 2014 Bid. Unfortunately, the document is a hastily-drafted and inaccurate assessment that casts a negative light on CGC and the 2014 Bid Society.

As part of the analysis of its funding commitment, Sport Canada hired a consultant to evaluate the 2014 Business Plan and budgets. The so-called "McMahon Report" was delivered in draft form to the Province and City, without the benefit of a review and response by the Bid Society, CGC or the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).

Overall, it presented an inaccurate and imprecise picture, with many of the conclusions based on unreliable assumptions, incomplete information, factual errors, and personal opinion. CGC and the Bid Society were provided with a draft copy on the day before the Province and City decided to withdraw their support.

It is unfortunate, to put it mildly, that such an incomplete analysis – *in draft form* – was cited by the provincial and city governments as one of the key documents on which they based their decision.

The consultant had very little time to review materials and conduct on site interviews with subject matter experts at the Bid Society. The Halifax 2014 Business Plan took a team of experts well over six months to conceive, construct and validate. It is simply unreasonable to expect a thorough and credible analysis in just two days.

Furthermore, several key topics were never even raised during those meetings. If they had, Bid Society and CGC officials would have been able to provide the full rationale and relevant background detail. In addition, certain appendices to the report were not shared with the Bid Society but were included in the final report.

Some of the key conclusions in the draft report – which provincial and municipal officials consulted before deciding to pull out of the bid – are based on flawed analysis and incorrect assumptions.

For example, the report's assertion that the Bid Society undertook an unreasonable and ill-advised approach to the budget is incorrect. The Bid Society undertook exactly what its Board of Directors asked – that is, to build the budget based on what it would take to win, while ensuring the best possible legacies for the local and national sport communities.

Eventually, the proposed budget was to be modified after partner funding commitments had been made clear. Unfortunately, the City and Province refused to ever make their specific funding commitments known, so the Bid Society never had the opportunity to complete the budgeting process.

The consultant never contacted the CFG to confirm any of his statements. This, in our view, was a major shortcoming.

CGF standards for the 2014 bidding process were clarified in November 2005 after Halifax had presented its bid book for the domestic competition, but prior to the start of the international phase. The standards had been factored into business planning and budgeting ever since Halifax was selected as Canada's bid city.

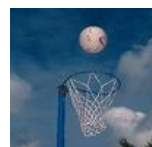
Subsequent to the decision made by the City and Province on March 8 to withdraw the Halifax 2014 bid, both the Halifax 2014 Bid Society and Commonwealth Games Canada were provided the opportunity to respond to the draft McMahon Report. Both organizations did so, and some of this

information has been incorporated in to the final report. It is important to note that the City and Province's rationale for withdrawal was based on the incomplete and draft McMahon Report, and all clarifications of fact and inaccuracies were made by CGC and Halifax 2014 were only considered after the fact and not part of the decision-making process.

Over the coming days and months, the speculation is likely to continue, particularly since the matter is now before the Province's Public Accounts Committee. Hopefully, this note has helped to add some clarity for you.

National Open Team News

The Canadian Amateur Netball



Association (CANA) has once again accepted an invitation to participate in a six (6) Nations Cup Championship in Singapore. This, the third series of its kind, follows a Tri-series, which coincided with last year's National Championships in Vancouver, between Singapore and Canada from which Canada emerged victorious. In December 2006, Canada engaged in a second series, a four (4) Nations Cup in Singapore. The third series will again be held in Singapore from September 1 – 10, 2007. This year, there will be an added bonus of a training camp in Australia from August 24 – 30th.

At a Selection camp held in Vancouver the following players were chosen to represent Canada: Sasha-Lee Allen, Carolyn Churchland, Shannette Cockburn, Melissa Crowe, Rebekah Eatmon, Christy Hagen, Maralyn Hope, Brianne Johnstone, Sonja Salbuviik, Sheryl Thorpe, Sabrina Versteeg and Brittany Waters.

The team officials are Ann Willcocks, Head Coach and Mary Webb, Team Manager.

National Under 21 Team News

This year the first Identification Camps were held in several provinces. One criterion was that players would have to be Under 21 as of January 1st, 2009.

The camps were very successful and are the first step in early talent identification.

The Head Coach is Sharon Butler.



Next to hosting the CANA Netball Championships, hosting the Coupe du Quebec is a huge undertaking but nevertheless an enjoyable one.

The Coupe du Quebec is an "A" tournament which gives players an opportunity to engage in a high calibre competition. This tournament is two-tiered in which a trophy is awarded to the over-all winner and the Coupe du Quebec trophy is awarded to the highest ranking Quebec Team. The overall winner was the Veejays Netball Club, and Antilles Netball Club won the Coupe du Quebec Trophy.

This year's event was held on the week-end of Mar. 3 - 4, 2007 and twelve teams from Canada and the United States participated. The event lived up to its' reputation as these

teams battled to show-case their excellent skills and treated spectators to at times spectacular Netball. Feed-back received supported this claim, especially with the addition of exhibition games played by the Men's Netball team.

As Q.A.N.F. prepares for each new season specific goals are set out and members were able to reach some of these goals. The event was used as a forum to train score/time-keepers and also continue to improve the quality of umpiring in the province. Under the watchful eye of the CANA Technical Director, Michael English, umpires demonstrated their skill. In the year when Quebec is hosting the CANA National Netball Championships, this experience is especially important to enhance the quality of umpiring and improve the other components that can make this event a successful one.

From all reports received the tournament was a huge success and QANF is committed to creating an atmosphere where other teams can play inspired netball within the framework of good sportsmanship.

Respectfully submitted,

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The Canadian National Championships will be hosted by QANF from May 18 - 20, 2007 in Montreal, Quebec