



MACKENZIE
RECREATION
ASSOCIATION

February 6, 2018

Standing Committee on Government Operations
c/o Mr. Kieron Testart - Chairperson

RE: BILL 1: WESTERN CANADA LOTTERY ACT

Dear Honourable Mr. Testart,

As a non-profit recreation organization representing 20 of the 33 communities in NWT and 1 of the 4 major recreation and sport partners in NWT, the Mackenzie Recreation Association (MRA) would like to emphasize the significance of the lottery funding has for communities in the NWT who represent roughly 52% of the population. MRA's mission is to enhance the quality of life of the Mackenzie residents by embracing the principles of Canadian Sport for Life* while fostering and supporting development of recreation, volunteers, and leadership. One of the MRA goals is to build capacity and leadership and is reflected in the high percentage of participation from the smaller Aboriginal communities that we have in our programs and services.

Over 63% of the NWT population is overweight and obese which is decreasing our life expectancy by 5 years and puts us 10% higher than the national average (51%). In addition to the physical burden, physical inactivity also has an economic burden. The national economic burden of physical inactivity is represented in two types of costs: direct costs at \$2.1 billion and indirect costs at \$4.3 billion **annually**. Research has proven how physical activity, including sport and recreation, is a key element to reducing this burden and helping communities to become healthy both physically AND mentally.

The majority of communities across the NWT are dealing with various physical and mental health issues and specifically include recreation, sports, and physical activity as priorities within their community wellness plans as they recognize its importance and rippling benefits. Furthermore, improving community health and reducing youth crime is a key component to the 94 calls to action in the Truth and Reconciliation Report. As Aboriginals represent 72% of the MRA community population, it is critical that we continue to promote healthy, active lifestyle in our region and even more importantly in the small isolated communities.

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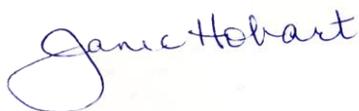
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The MRA executive board and the executive director have reviewed the bill and would like to bring forward some questions and concerns:

1. Section 1. (1): What is the definition of recreation according to the bill?
2. Section 5. (3) & Section 6. (1) (e): Currently GNWT:MACA contributes to the multi-sport games budget. Will the Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation fund only receive proceeds from the Western Canadian Lottery Corporation or will the fund receive other proceeds from the GNWT: MACA budget?
3. Section 6. (1) How will the minister determine who is allowed access to this funding?
4. Section 6. (1) (a): Capacity building and physical literacy are specific terms referenced and supported within the Canadian Sport Policy and the A Framework for Recreation Canada. How are these terms represented in the disbursement guidelines?

Thank you for allowing us to submit feedback regarding the bill. MRA hopes that these concerns will be addressed in the writing of **Bill 1 Western Canada Lottery Act** and that the Standing Committee can provide answers to our questions.

Regards,



Janie Hobart
MRA | President



Nathan McPherson
MRA | Vice-President



Jessica VanOverbeek
MRA | Executive Director