

Summary of the Grouped Evaluation of Sport Canada Programs (2015-16 to 2019-20)

OVERVIEW

The Sport Canada (SC) Programs within the Department of Canadian Heritage (PCH) focus on participation and excelling in sport by providing **financial support to sport organizations, athletes and coaches** through:

Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) for high-performance athletes

Hosting Program (HP) for hosting the Canada Games and International Single Sport Events (ISSEs) in Canada

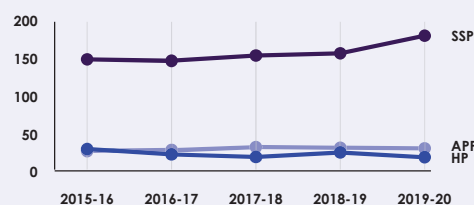
Sport Support Program (SSP) for sport organizations that directly impact athlete development or that provide children and youth with their first experience in sport

Grants and Contributions

The 3 programs provided **\$1.06 billion in funding** over 5 years (an average of \$220.7 million per year)

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Total
AAP	27.7	28.0	33.0	32.1	31.4	152.2
HP	30.5	23.2	19.8	25.7	19.6	118.8
SSP	148.9	146.9	154.0	156.9	180.0	786.7
Total	207.1	198.1	206.8	214.7	231.0	1,057.7

Sport Canada Grants and Contributions (\$ millions)



FINDINGS

Relevance

- While SC's programming supports the **achievement of the high-performance objective** of the *Physical Activity and Sport Act*, there are gaps in how it supports sport participation.
- SC funding is **important for the existence and survival of the sport organizations**, particularly the smaller organizations. However, these organizations are facing new and increased demands, including those related to emerging priorities and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- SC programming has made **some progress in addressing such government priorities** as gender equity, official languages, diversity and inclusion, reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, and accessibility.



Effectiveness

Overall, **SC programming is achieving or contributing to most of its expected results**. However, there are gaps in programming performance measurement that may impact the availability of clear data and reporting on all expected results.

Supporting Sport

Through funding and other activities, the **SSP contributes to providing Canadians with access to quality sport programming and services**. SC devotes relatively little funding to promoting sport participation at the grassroots level.

Percentage of National Sport Organizations (NSOs) that said SPP funding was very important for:

92% high-performance programs/national team

90% overall programming and services budget

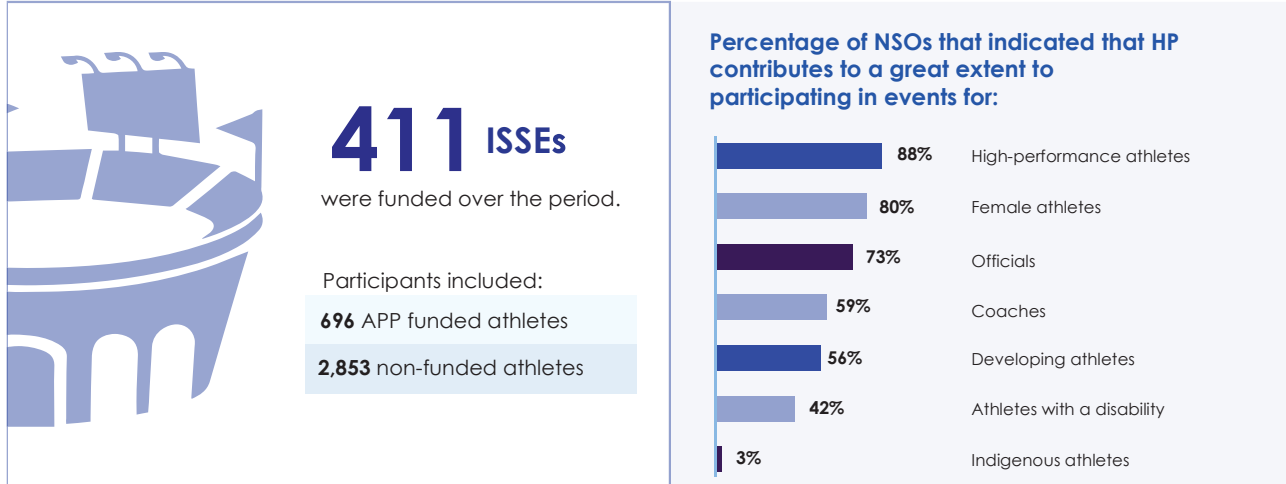
85% providing their athletes with competitive opportunities

82% providing their coaches with training and development opportunities

Effectiveness

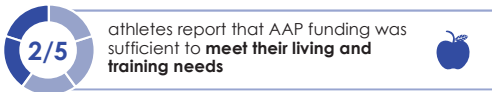
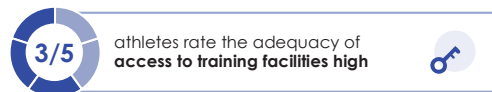
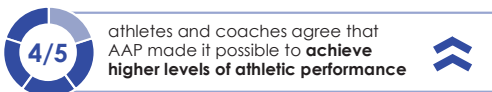
Hosting sporting events in Canada

Through HP, high-performance **athletes have increased opportunities to compete** in sport events in Canada, whereas under-represented groups, including Indigenous athletes, could benefit from an increase.



Supporting high-performance athletes

Through targeted funding supports, **AAP helps Canadian athletes achieve higher levels of performance**. New funding over the evaluation period has helped to alleviate the financial pressures. However, athletes continue to face financial pressures that could affect their ability to compete.



Efficiency

- ◆ Administrative **cost ratio** for the 3 programs was **2.8%**
- ◆ Overall, **good compliance** with PCH service standards
- ◆ **High satisfaction** reported by NSOs

- ◆ Funding decisions are **not always timely**
- ◆ **Application and reporting** processes can be **burdensome**
- ◆ **Logic model and performance measurement framework** require updating

RECOMMENDATIONS

The evaluation recommends that the Assistant Deputy Minister, Sport, Major Events and Commemorations:

- 1 Build upon the findings of this evaluation to develop an overall vision and clear roles and priorities, with particular attention on sport participation and social development objectives.
- 2 Build upon the findings of this evaluation to assess the effectiveness of the Next Generation initiative.
- 3 Update the Sport Canada logic model and performance measurement framework, and develop a methodology for gathering and reporting program results annually.