



# SPORT DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTRE OF CANADA OVERVIEW OF THE REPORT ON OPERATIONS FOR 2016-2017

The Centre's operations were conducted under four main pillars in 2016-2017. This outlines how they were achieved.

## PILLAR 1

PROVIDING SPORT DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES TO THE CANADIAN SPORT COMMUNITY

- A total of 49 cases were filed with the tribunal, including 19 asserted doping violations, six (6) carding appeals and 17 disputes relating to team selection, quota or eligibility. Ten (10) cases were related to the selection of Canadian athletes for the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Eleven (11) cases were urgent and were resolved in five (5) days or less.
- Partial statistics showed that legal representatives on the Centre's *pro bono* list assisted in at least 20 cases and saved parties at least \$140,000 in legal fees.
- The annotated version of the Canadian Sport Dispute Resolution Code was updated with new annotations arising from the Centre's recent jurisprudence.
- Due to roster attrition, the Board of Directors initiated an early roster renewal process and 19 new mediators and arbitrators were added to the Centre's roster in 2017. All of them attended an orientation session held in conjunction with the Centre's 2017 Mediator and Arbitrator Conference.
- The Centre is actively engaged in negotiations of a first licensing agreement for the use of its Case Management Portal (CMP), and also in discussion with two (2) national sport organizations for the provision of fee-for-service case management and use of the CMP for their internal appeals.

## PILLAR 2

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF THE CANADIAN SPORT COMMUNITY TO PREVENT AND RESOLVE DISPUTES

- The Centre attended 23 partner events/conferences and facilitated 26 workshops, covering seven (7) provinces and one (1) territory from Yukon to Nova Scotia. The existing workshop series is gradually being converted into a format that enables delivery by way of webinars to increase the reach of its message in a cost-effective manner. Four (4) webinars were conducted during the period.
- The Centre has conceptualized the new "Sport Law Connect" program which seeks to create a mutually beneficial relationship between university students in law or ADR and the provincial and local sport community.
- Model governance policies on matters such as discipline, harassment and conflicts of interest have been developed as reference tools for sport organizations of all levels and sizes to download and adapt to their own needs.
- A new online publication was introduced to guide parties in the preparation of documents to file before the tribunal in an arbitration proceeding.
- The Centre's jurisprudence is now on the "Société québécoise d'information juridique" (SOQUIJ) database, and indexed on Canadian Legal Information Institute (CanLII) and LexisNexis.

## PILLAR 3

ESTABLISHING AN OMBUDSPERSON SERVICE FOR THE CANADIAN SPORT COMMUNITY

- Following the feedback generated through an environmental scan, it was concluded that the sport community strongly supports the establishment of a sport ombuds program in Canada.
- An ad hoc committee was mandated by the Centre's Board of Directors to drive the pan-Canadian consultation process, and to formulate recommendations on the scope of services and the resources required to establish such program.
- Recommendations were presented in a final report entitled "Closing the Loop: Proposal for a Sport Ombuds in Canada", which was submitted to the Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities and is available on the Centre's website at [www.sdrcc.ca](http://www.sdrcc.ca).

## PILLAR 4

PURSUING ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

- The mandates of five (5) of the Centre's directors, including the Chairman, were renewed by the Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities. A new director was named in 2017 to fill a vacancy due to a resignation, resulting in an equitable gender balance on the Board. The Board committee structure was reorganized to align with strategic priorities and improve operational effectiveness.
- A new Protection of Privacy Policy was adopted to formally communicate how the Centre collects, uses, and discloses personal information during the course of its operations.
- A new full-time permanent staff position was created to focus on expanding outreach activities, building relationships and establishing strategic partnerships.
- The Centre complied with all of its legislative and contractual obligations.

