

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

The SDRCC Welcomes Federal Investment to Help Shape the Future of Sport Dispute Resolution and Prevention in Canada

Brossard (Quebec) - The Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) welcomes the Government of Canada's announcement of additional funding to support a series of initiatives aimed at strengthening and modernizing access to sport dispute resolution and prevention in Canada.

Since its creation in 2003, the SDRCC has provided the Canadian sport community with dispute resolution services designed to be fair, cost-effective, independent, and timely. Over the past two decades, however, the Canadian sport system has evolved significantly. Sport organizations now face increasing expectations related to governance, accountability, complaint management, procedural fairness, and access to independent review mechanisms.

This investment will support a series of initiatives that will help the SDRCC examine how its services can continue to evolve while remaining grounded in the principles that have guided its work from the beginning. Central to this effort will be the creation of a working group that will bring together expertise from within and outside the Canadian sport system to lead a process of consultation, research and analysis focused on the future of sport dispute resolution and prevention in Canada. The working group will help examine how the SDRCC can continue to fulfill its mission in a sport environment that has evolved significantly since the organization's creation. Through engagement with athletes, sport organizations, dispute resolution professionals and other stakeholders, the working group will help identify opportunities to make services more accessible, predictable, efficient and responsive to the needs of the Canadian sport community.

"This investment will strengthen the SDRCC's ability to build for the future and enhance the services we provide to the Canadian sport community," said Francis Ménard, Chief Executive Officer of the SDRCC. "Through consultation and collaboration with stakeholders across the sport system, we will have an opportunity to examine how access to sport dispute resolution can continue to evolve while remaining grounded in the principles of independence, cost-effectiveness and timeliness that define our mission."

In addition to supporting the working group and broader modernization process, the funding will support initiatives designed to improve access to sport dispute resolution and prevention services and strengthen organizational capacity across the sport system. These include an assessment of internal appeal mechanisms within Canadian sport organizations, the expansion of the SDRCC's legal aid program, enhanced capacity within the Resource Centre, increased access to educational and dispute prevention resources, and the modernization of the Canadian Sport Dispute Resolution Code to address emerging needs and best practices.

Together, these initiatives will help strengthen confidence in sport dispute resolution processes, improve access to specialized services and support a more coherent, accessible and sustainable sport system.

The SDRCC looks forward to sharing additional information about these initiatives in the coming months, including opportunities for members of the Canadian sport community to participate in consultations and help shape the future of sport dispute resolution and prevention in Canada.



Details regarding the federal investment are available in the [Government of Canada's announcement](#).

Quick Facts

- During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the SDRCC opened 77 new cases involving 35 sports. The SDRCC is expected to surpass this case volume during the 2026-2027 fiscal year.
- The SDRCC will receive a total of \$1.94 million in federal funding in the 2026-2027 fiscal year, including \$440,000 in additional funding to modernize operations, strengthen organizational capacity and expand its legal aid program.
- Funding will support a working group and consultation process focused on the future of sport dispute resolution and prevention in Canada, including the assessment of internal appeal mechanisms and the modernization of the SDRCC's service delivery model.
- The SDRCC's legal aid program and Resource Centre will be expanded, increasing access to educational resources, training opportunities and dispute prevention tools for the Canadian sport community.

About the SDRCC

The SDRCC is a not-for-profit corporation created by federal legislation and funded by Sport Canada. Its mission is to provide the sport community with a national alternative dispute resolution service and to strengthen the culture of fairness in Canadian sport by resolving disputes quickly and efficiently, and by providing expertise and assistance in this area.

For more information, please contact:

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