

Kieron Testart
MLA – Kam Lake
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Re: Bill 1 Western Canadian Lottery Act

Dear Mr. Testart

I am writing with regards to the importance of sport, recreation and physical activity funding in the Northwest Territories and the importance of protecting lottery dollars to be distributed for this purpose.

It is my understanding that on February 7th, 2018 The Standing Committee on Government Operations will review *Bill 1 Western Canadian Lottery Act*. The purpose of this bill is to establish the NWT Lottery Commission and the Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation fund, which is a special purpose fund that receives proceeds from the operation of the NWT Lottery Commission and the Western Canada Lottery Corporation. It is imperative when this Act is read and finalized that funding for sport, recreation and physical activity organizations is clearly protected.

Sport, recreation and physical activity have enormous benefits on the physical and mental health of NWT residents. Unfortunately, not all residents have access to facilities and programs that support their right to be active. Some communities are without walking trails, gymnasiums, and ice rinks, and some lack the professionals, physical education teachers, and recreation coordinators to help and motivate good fitness in an organized and effective way. A lack of resources is in part the cause of issues such as diabetes, obesity, depression, drug and alcohol abuse, and even suicide.

There are Sport and Recreation Partners and Territorial Sports Organizations currently funded by lottery dollars doing amazing work to develop athletes, coaches, volunteers and build capacity amongst NWT residents to educate and train them on bettering the health and well-being of their communities. For some partners and organization, the *Western Canadian Lottery Act* provides the only funding they have access to.

Therefore, adequate funding for sport, recreation, and physical activities should be a priority when *Bill 1 Western Canadian Lottery Act* is read and finalized. It should be protected and regulated so physical activity initiatives can continue to be promoted and developed in the NWT. The protection of these funds will also help reduce government costs in the future as we move towards improving the health of NWT residents. If funding is distributed elsewhere the quality of life of residents will surely suffer.

Thank you for your consideration,



Jordan Reid