

## **Sport, Not a Priority for Alberta Government**

*Athletes in Alberta look to re-locate to BC*

While the Federal Government renewed and increased funding for the development of sport in Canada in its 2010-11 budget, and the provincial government in British Columbia also announced \$30 million in additional sport funding in its recent budget announcement, the Government of Alberta communicated yesterday, March 8, to presidents of the provincial sport organizations in Alberta that funding to the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks & Wildlife Association Foundation (ASRPWF) will be reduced by \$1.841 million for the 2010-11 fiscal year. This amounts to a 6.3 % decrease in funding from the 2009-10 fiscal year.

According to sources within the ASRPWF Sport Development Section, an across the board base level funding cut of 18.5% was applied to many, if not all, provincial sport organizations Association Development Program grants. Provincial sport organizations (PSOs) have taken the brunt of the funding cuts while the ASRPWF maintained the funding for many of its internal grant programs. The budget cuts are on the backs of the volunteer driven provincial sport organizations. The reduction in base funding (Association Development Program Grants) will lead to reduced opportunities for Albertan's to participate in sport. It will put more pressure on the volunteers to lead and be more involved in an already underfunded provincial sport delivery system.

Based on an across the board cut of 18.5 % to the Association Development Program grant, a program that provides base funding support to 103 PSOs, the provincial sport organizations will assume \$1.581 million, or 86% of the \$1.841 million funding cut.

Background on the ASRPWF

### **The Foundation Act**

The mission of the ASRPWF is to facilitate and enhance activities, lifestyles, and legacies through the development of active partnerships in sport, recreation, parks, and wildlife programs.

The ASRPWF is supported by Alberta Lotteries, and reports to the Minister of Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation. The Volunteer Board of Directors is responsible for assisting provincial and community volunteer organizations, supporting multi-sport games, promoting active living, and enhancing park and wildlife ventures. The Sport and Recreation Branch of Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation provides consultative, administrative and technical support on behalf of the ASRPWF.

**The objectives of the ASRPWF, as outlined in the Alberta, Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation Act, are:**

- to develop and maintain sport programs, facilities, and services;
- to develop and maintain recreation programs, facilities, and services;
- to develop and maintain parks programs, facilities, and services;
- to develop and maintain fish and wildlife programs, facilities, and services;
- to raise funds to be used in assisting the ASRPWF in carrying out its objectives.