

*Thursday, May 4, 2017*

## **Closing the Loop: A Proposal for a Sport Ombuds in Canada**

Montréal (Québec) - The Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) announces the publication of the report of its ad hoc Committee recommending the creation of an ombuds program for sport in Canada. The conclusions and recommendations formulated by the Committee are informed by a year-long sport community consultation which included a nationwide online survey, focus groups and several targeted discussions with key stakeholders.

Reflecting extensive feedback received during the consultation process, the report recommends the creation of an ombuds office housed within the SDRCC though reporting to an independent advisory committee. The office would offer traditional ombuds services to the national sport community (investigations, whistleblower complaints, etc.) while also providing a form of advice and referral service to the broader sport community. The SDRCC Board of Directors will now work with interested collaborators and potential funding partners to implement the recommendations.

“I am very excited by the calibre and scope of the report and its recommendations”, declared David de Vlieger, Chair of the Board of Directors of the SDRCC. “The Centre owes a debt of gratitude to the committee members. The Board will be reviewing the report this weekend and planning the next steps which we hope will lead to the launch of a Canadian sport ombuds office.”

The full report is available in both official languages on the home page of the SDRCC website at [www.crdsc-sdrcc.ca](http://www.crdsc-sdrcc.ca).

### **About the SDRCC**

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

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