



Wednesday, September 23, 2026

SDRCC Highlights Year of Transition, Continued Demand for Dispute Resolution Services

Brossard (Quebec) - On Monday, September 21, 2026, the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) held its Annual Public Meeting, providing an overview of the organization's 2025-2026 results, current activities, and priorities for the year ahead. The SDRCC would like to thank the Honourable Adam van Koeverden, Secretary of State (Sport), and members of the Canadian sport community who attended the meeting.

The meeting highlighted a year of significant transition, continued demand for independent dispute resolution services, and ongoing efforts to improve access to justice and dispute prevention within the Canadian sport system.

Demand for SDRCC services remained strong during the 2025-2026 fiscal year, with 77 new cases across 35 sports. Selection disputes and maltreatment matters accounted for the majority of cases, underscoring the continued importance of accessible, independent and fair dispute resolution services for the Canadian sport community.

The SDRCC continued to strengthen access to justice through the renewal of its roster of arbitrators and mediators. With near gender parity across its roster, the SDRCC now has 74 arbitrators and mediators, including 27 newly appointed professionals. The SDRCC also implemented a revised Canadian Sport Dispute Resolution Code and began making public decisions more accessible through CanLII.

The 2025-2026 year marked an important period of transition for the SDRCC, including the appointment of Francis Ménard as Chief Executive Officer and the completion of activities related to the transition of the Abuse-Free Sport Program to Sport Integrity Canada. Throughout these changes, the SDRCC continued to deliver dispute resolution and education and prevention services to the sport community. In particular, the SDRCC Resource Centre delivered 32 workshops and presentations during the year and developed new educational resources to help athletes better understand dispute prevention, dispute resolution processes and team selection criteria.

Looking ahead, the SDRCC will continue to focus on improving access to its services and legal resources, enhancing prevention initiatives, strengthening specialization among roster members, and assessing emerging needs within the Canadian sport system. Work is also underway on a renewed website and Resource Centre strategy designed to improve access to information and support for participants across the sport community.

"While 2025-2026 was a year of important transition, the SDRCC remained focused on its mission of helping the sport community prevent disputes and providing independent, accessible and fair services to resolve them," said Alice Strachan, Chair of the Board of Directors. "As we look ahead, we remain committed to strengthening access, service quality and prevention to better meet the evolving needs of the Canadian sport system."



"The past year required the SDRCC to navigate significant change while continuing to deliver high-quality services to the Canadian sport community. As we move forward, we are focused on improving access to justice in sport, strengthening dispute prevention initiatives, and ensuring our services continue to evolve to meet the needs of athletes, sport organizations and other participants across the sport system," said Francis Ménard, Chief Executive Officer of the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada.

For additional information on the SDRCC's operations, the 2025-2026 Annual Report, 2026-2027 Corporate Plan and 2024-2028 Strategic Plan are available on the SDRCC website [here](#).

Quick Facts

- 77 new cases were opened in 2025-2026 across 35 sports.
- The SDRCC roster now includes 74 arbitrators and mediators, including 27 new appointments.
- 32 presentations and workshops were delivered by the Resource Centre during the fiscal year.
- Historical public SDRCC decisions from 2023 to 2025 are now made available through CanLII.
- Fifty new cases have already been opened during the first months of the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

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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