



October 31, 2007

Mr Robert Benedetti  
Vice-President  
Le Sport Elite a Montreal

I would like to address the commission as High-Performance Director of the Canadian Fencing Federation, since the Canadian Fencing Federation High Performance Program (CFF HPP) has significant links to Montreal. This discussion will address point 3 and 5

*3.- Quelles sont les avenues à prioriser par le conseil d'agglomération de Montréal pour améliorer les services et les programmes des organismes qui forment des athlètes d'élite à Montréal (clubs-équipes sportifs d'élite et CEHP) et des autres partenaires locaux du sport d'élite afin de les rendre plus performants ?*

#### **National Training Centre**

The CFF is already grateful to the city of Montreal, which has provided us (and the FEQ) with a free permanent training venue in the basement of Centre Claude Robillard for our National Training Centre since 2002. Without this centre, it would not have been possible for the CFF to have a base for our national team (the majority of which is already from the Montreal area). The centre has also been used regularly to host training camps, which bring our best athletes from across the country together (an average of 12 each year for all weapon programs) as well as provincial developmental clinics for coaches and athletes.

The CFF is currently re-evaluating its High-Performance delivery system and is moving towards a more centralized model, which should be fully implement and operational after the 2008 Olympics. Montreal is a possible location. The continued support provided by the city of Montreal with regards to the training venue is a essential. This not only supports the National Team athletes but the developing athletes and coaches just behind them, who happen to live in the Montreal area and also have access to the centre.

#### **Recommendations**

- 1) Continue providing support to National Sport Federations in the form of "in kind" subsidies by providing free access to quality permanent training venues to establish National Training Centres in the Montreal area.
- 2) Waive any access fees for all identified National Team athletes to have full access to Centre Claude Robillard.

*5.- À votre avis, comment l'agglomération de Montréal pourrait stimuler la tenue régulière et récurrente d'un plus grand nombre d'événements sportifs et multisportifs majeurs sur son territoire, optimiser les avantages et retombées qu'ils procurent et assurer leur réussite ?*

## **International and National Competitions**

In 2007, the CFF organized the following national or international competitions in the Montreal area.

- 1) a six weapon Junior World Cup on January 20-21 (250 athletes and coaches from 17 countries). This was the third time this event was held at Centre Claude Robillard.;
- 2) a Senior World Cup (with five events that were qualifying events for the 2008 Olympics) from May 31-June 3. This was the 15<sup>th</sup> time this world cup has been held at Centre Claude Robillard, and since the original single event competition (individual Men's Epee) back in 1987 it has expanded to a five event competition (individual and team Men's Epee, individual and team Women's and individual Men's Foil) in 2007. This was the largest single international fencing event ever held in Canada, bringing together over 500 athletes and coaches from 45 countries. It was also the largest competition on the 2007 FIE calendar outside of the World Championships.
- 3) The Pan-Am Championships in August (150 athletes and coaches from 10 countries). This event was originally scheduled for Montreal but was moved to Mt Tremblant when an affordable venue could not be located in Montreal.
- 4) the 2007 Senior National Championships and the Cadet and Junior Canadian Selection Circuit (CSC) #2 will be held in Montreal from November 23-25. This event will bring together over 900 athletes, coaches and officials from across the country. On average the CFF has hosted at least one, occasionally two, national events of this size in Montreal every year since 2001.

Every time the CFF has organized a major competition in Montreal we have been required to pay for the full rental of any facilities (which represents about 20 to 25% of the total cost of hosting these competitions). The rental rates currently increase with the type of event (provincial < national < international) whereas the potential economic impact is greater with national and international events since a larger number of people will need to stay for more days in Montreal than for municipal/provincial events.

## **Recommendation**

- 1) To retain and attract national and international events of this scale to the Montreal area, the city of Montreal should offer special "in kind" subsidies to National Sport Federations (NSF)/organizing committees to reduce the cost of renting city facilities to host major national and international events. These type of subsidies would have a direct impact on the CFF HPP by significantly reducing the cost of running them and allowing the CFF to redirect these savings into our programs by improving our facilities and being able to hire and retain top level coaches to work with our athletes at the training center.
- 2) The city of Montreal needs to have an organizational body in place to assist all NSFs (and organizers) of major international events to approach and receive cooperation and support from the city when bidding for Major International events (World Cups and World Championships).

Sincerely,



Danek Nowosielski  
HP Director