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April 14, 2026

The Honourable Currie Dixon
Premier

The Honourable Cory Bellmore
Minister of Community Services

The Honourable Jen Gehmair
Minister of Tourism & Culture

Dear Premier and Ministers,

Sport Yukon is extremely concerned about the major cuts to Sport and Recreation funding from Lotteries Yukon.

Lotteries Yukon is a primary source of funding of sport and recreation in the territory, contributing to major core funding programs like the Sport Foundations and Podium Pathway grants under the Yukon Recreation Advisory Committee, the High Performance Athlete Assistance Fund, the Travel Assistance Program (TAP), as well as the Projects Fund, to which numerous sport and recreation organizations apply each year for equipment, program and event support, and other initiatives.

Major cuts to grants funded in whole or in part by Lotteries Yukon will cause significant harm to Yukon sport organizations who depend on this core operational funding, and Sport Yukon considers it to be both unjust and not acceptable that sport and recreation organizations should be asked to shoulder the burden of Lotteries Yukon's financial troubles.

Sport Yukon is therefore requesting that the Government of Yukon step in to cover any budget shortfall in the short-term to protect critical community organizations from bearing the brunt of the cuts, which will directly impact sport programming and participation.

The Government of Yukon has often cited the importance of sport and recreation to our community, pledging to expand and improve sport infrastructure in the Yukon Party's election platform, highlighting the health, wellness and social benefits of sport as well as the economic value of sport tourism events such as the Arctic Winter Games and other major competitions.

Core funding is infrastructure, and to leave not-for-profit sport organizations holding the bag for the financial woes of Lotteries Yukon is imprudent and will cause tremendous damage to an already



fragile ecosystem that cannot bear this decrease in funding in any sense, let alone after the start of their fiscal year and mid-application cycle for core funding.

We thank you in advance for your consideration and look forward to working with you to ensure the security and stability of sport and recreation in the territory.

Sincerely,

Stacy Lewis
President, Sport Yukon

Tracey Bilsky
Executive Director, Sport Yukon

Cc: Marie Cairns – Director, Sport & Recreation Branch of the Government of Yukon
Damien Burns – Deputy Minister, Community Services
Kelli Taylor – Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Development

Kate White – Leader of the Official Opposition
Debra-Leigh Reti – Leader of the Third Party