

1999 or Before

Michael Harris-Conservative Majority

5 documents were collected ranging from sports strategies to policies outlining the landscape of community recreation, which includes community sport participation. This part of the project helped to contextualize what sport and recreation looked like before the 1999 - 2003 term. The Conservatives came in to power under Mike Harris and their party platform, the **Common Sense Revolution (CSR)**, dictated the party's entire agenda, influencing large cutbacks to the public sector, including education.

Key Points

- While in the late '70s the federal government was heavily responsible for funding regional and provincial sports initiatives, the growth and development of the administration of sport at the regional or provincial levels were not well researched or understood.
- Sport and recreation was supported by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Recreation in 1996 and then moved in 1998 to the Ministry of Tourism after the **Mills Report** highlighted benefits of sport for tourism.
- **The Educational Quality Improvement Act 1997** further cut money from education, increased class sizes and teacher workloads. School districts experienced work-to-rule campaigns, particularly with regard to extra-curricular activities such as school sports.
- Curriculum changes emerged that eliminated mandatory Physical Education Class (PE) class for Grades 10-12.
- **1998 Local Services Realignment:** Various programs previously administered by the province have been downloaded to municipalities, including recreation, without the extra funds to support them.
- Municipal Amalgamations – Number of municipalities reduced from 850 to approximately half.
- **Strategy for Amateur Sport 1996** dictated how PSOs were to be eligible for funding. Broadly, these sports had to represent value to the taxpayer.
- The impact of sport on the economy, specifically the tourism industry was emphasized at this time.



1999 - 2003

**Michael Harris-
Conservative Majority**
*Ernie Eves 2002

The **Common Sense Revolution (CSR)** continued, and services were drastically cutback. Notably the financial and structural reforms impacted the service delivery of municipalities, who are the closest levels of government to the delivery of grassroots sport and recreation programs. 5 documents were collected that highlight the changes that took place in provincial-municipal relations in Ontario and how the cuts to education impacted sport participation at school. These documents range from the **Municipal Act 2001** to Advisory Group Reports.

Key Points

- Starting to see the effects of the **Local Services Realignment** and amalgamations. Recreation costs for amalgamated communities such as Haldimand-Norfolk, Essex, and Kawartha Lakes increased significantly from 2000-2012.
- The new **Municipal Act 2001** gave municipalities greater autonomy by providing them with a broader permissive policy framework to a greater sphere of jurisdictions including recreation, culture, parks, and heritage, without the funds to deliver these services.
- Municipal councils are responsible for decisions regarding facility allocation and funding allocation for municipal sport/recreation programs.
- Inter-school sport participation rates dropped significantly, and a large portion of students had no extracurricular activities available to them from 2000-2001 due to work-to-rule action implemented by teachers.



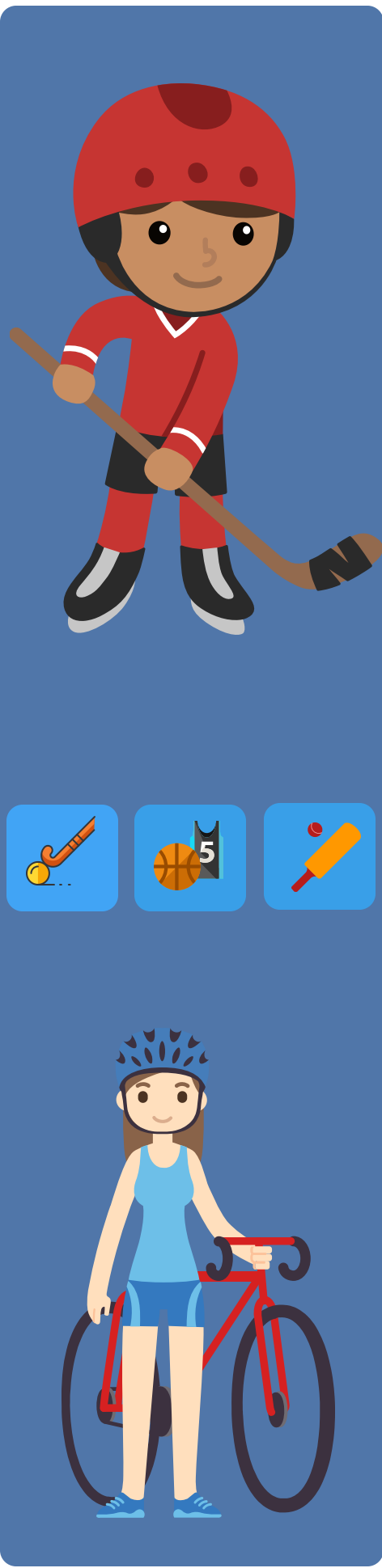
2003-2007

Dalton McGuinty- Liberal Majority

16 documents were collected outlining the changes and transitions with McGuinty as the newly elected Premier in 2003. The budget focused on health care, infused money into hospitals and included improvements to education. The McGuinty government emphasized the link between sport and health. The documents collected range from the **Ontario Sport Action Plan** and the **Active2010** strategy to documents highlighting various initiatives for physical activity promotion.

Key Points

- The direction of sport was transferred to the newly created Ministry of Health Promotion, acknowledging the linkage between sport participation and health.
- **Ontario Sports Action Plan** and the **Active2010** Strategy guided much of the decision making, sports strategies, and funding. Aimed to achieve enhanced participation, excellence, capacity, and interaction, aligning with the **Canadian Sport Policy (CSP)**. Steering committee led by Ministry of Health Promotion (MHP) to lead the implementation.
- **Active2010** primarily aimed to enhance physical activity within community sports and recreational programs. This was achieved through measures such as providing funding for community access to schools and launching public awareness campaigns in the media. However, these initiatives were not widely publicized as being part of **Active2010**.
- Provincial and Federal Governments entered into a bilateral agreement to increase sports participation and to support high performance sport.
- Goals are set to influence a policy development framework in Ontario to increase access to recreation for low-income Ontarians.
- Documents emerging to help organizations plan for sport tourism, such as the **Sport Tourism Planning Template 2004** produced in partnership with the Province and the Canadian Sport Tourism Alliance.



2007-2011

Dalton McGuinty-
Liberal Majority

12 documents were collected. These range from strategic plans, official provincial press releases, research reports, and policy frameworks. During this administration, there was promised action on health care, education, and the environment in Ontario, and a continued focus on physical inactivity.

Key Points

- Increased funding for sport and recreation programs - **Communities In Action Fund, RInc Program, Ontario REC.**
- Frameworks emerging to enhance opportunities for physical activity and community sport and recreation for Ontarians – **Affordable Access to Recreation for Ontarians Policy Framework: Everyone Plays (PRO).**
- Agreements continued between the Federal and Provincial Governments to enhance participation in sport emphasizing opportunities for young people, Indigenous peoples and people at risk.; **Bridging the Gap Through School Sport, Track and Field Fitness Project, Sports Camps for Kids Initiative.**
- Evidence indicated that Ontarians understood and appreciated the many benefits of local parks and recreation, and sport activities. Organizations acknowledged the link between sport and the mandate of the Ministry of Health Promotion.
- **Sport** was added to the title of the Ministry of Health Promotion: **Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport.**



2011-2014

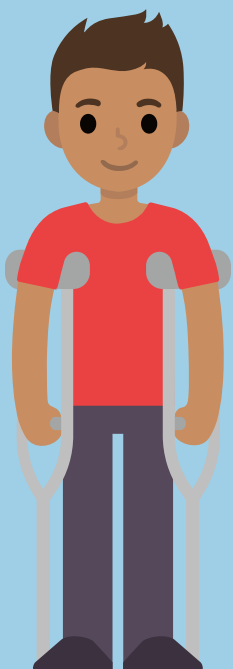
Dalton McGuinty-
Liberal Minority

*Kathleen Wynne 2013

17 documents were collected. These range from official provincial mandate letters, provincial strategic plans, official provincial press releases, provincial policy statements, and official provincial reports. In 2011, Sport was moved to the Ministry of Tourism and Culture viewing the role of sport as to help strengthen the economy. Kathleen Wynne became the province's first woman premier in 2013. Wynne's focus as premier was oriented around health care systems, community wellness, and active/healthy lifestyles for Ontarians.

Key Points

- Focus on funding and hosting the 2015 PanAm Games.
- Investing in amateur and youth sport participation became a large priority - **Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund, Sport Priority Funding, Jumpstart Foundation.**
- Increased focus on sports participation and recognition of First Nations communities and Aboriginal youth - **PLAY Program.**
- The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care became very involved in reducing childhood obesity rates with the Ontario Government and Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport through promoting active and healthy lifestyles in Ontario (Healthy Kids Panel; The Healthy Kids Strategy).
- The sport portfolio was moved to the **Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.**



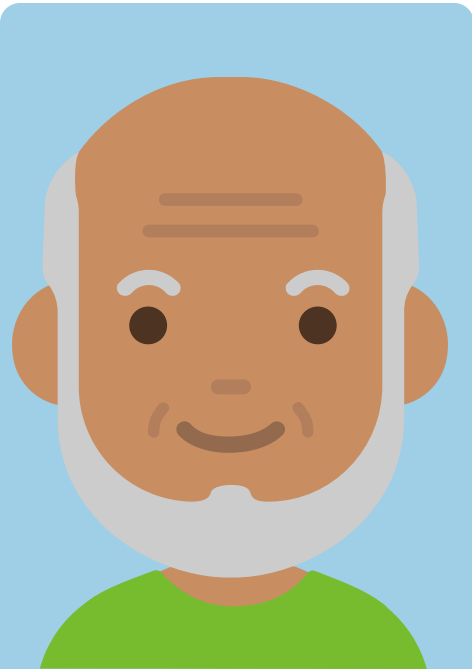
2014-2018

Kathleen Wynne-
Liberal Majority

19 documents ranging from official provincial policies and research reports to municipal strategies relating to sport and recreation, were produced by a range of stakeholders. In 2015, Ontario hosted the XVII Pan American / Para Pan American Games. As a part of the post-Games legacy, the then Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport produced a plan for the development on sport in Ontario titled Game ON.

Key Points

- Sport Alliance of Ontario loses funding in 2015 and declares insolvency in 2016. Later iterations emerged in the following years as the Provincial Sport Organization Council (PSO Council), Sport for Ontario (Sport4Ontario), and then Ontario Sport Network to address the gap left behind. Unlike SAO, these versions did not receive core funding from the province.
- Various funding announcements for the Pan Am Games.
- Creation of the **Sport Recognition Policy in 2016**.
- Beginning of the development of **Rowan's Law**.
- Minister's Advisory Panel established to guide the implementation of Game ON.
- Great emphasis on promoting equal and fair opportunities for women and girls in Sport; Commissioning of **Women and Girls' Participation, Development and Excellence in Sport Report** by the University of Toronto ; Development of **Action Plan for Women and Girls in Sport**.
- Only two-sport strategies were identified for municipalities; Ottawa and Toronto; suggesting that only large centers had the capacity to develop and implement strategies specifically related to sport.



2018-2024

Doug Ford- Conservative Majority

25 documents were collected with the majority heavily discussing **COVID-19** impacts and steps for short-term recovery for businesses and organizations. Policy objectives regarding sport have focused on improving governance and accountability within sports organizations, enhancing accessibility and inclusivity, and improving safe sport. Hosting sport events was also identified as a catalyst to enhance the economy. These include documents such as sports action plans, legislation, funding announcements, progress reports, and annual reports.

Key Points

- There is no active plan for sport or vision statement. PSOs and CSOs are operating in siloes. Within the ministry, the province is not divided into regions. There is a provincial lens to policy development. There is no oversight body for sport in Ontario. Ontario is the only province in Canada without a funded agency for sport.
- Although safe sport was discussed frequently, there is no action plan for **Safe Sport/Maltreatment in Sport**. There is no alignment between quality coaching/certification and **Safe Sport**.
- Since 2018 there have been five different ministers responsible for sport. The ministry was renamed The **Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries** in 2019 and then again in 2022 to the **Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport**. In 2024 a new **Ministry of Sport** was announced.
- Budget prior to COVID put a person-first perspective on policies/programs/services, highlighting the economic opportunity. Priority was on growing the economy.
- Action Plan for COVID recovery and other programs includes recovery funding and grant opportunities for the sector; Infrastructure, Return to Sport for all areas of sport including high performance.
- **The Sport Recognition Policy** in Ontario saw a continuation of the policy adjustments aimed at improving governance and accountability within sports organizations. This shift aims to align sport organizations with the standards set in the **Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act 2010**, that came into effect in 2021 and compliance is required by October, 2024.
- Majority of community recreation services which include sport participation opportunities, are paid for by municipal revenues. Municipalities are struggling post COVID with the delivery of these services, and emerging provincial policies addressing the housing crisis may negatively impact municipalities abilities to deliver these services- **More Home Built Faster Act Bill23; More Homes More Choice Act – Bill 108**. Responsibility of developers to create healthy, active spaces is not clear.

