



# Sport Policy in Manitoba Prior to 2003



**37th Legislature  
1999- 2003**

**New Democratic Party  
(NDP)**

**Gary Doer is Premier**

There were 2 documents relating to sport policy were found during this period.

## Summary:

Manitoba has a unique political relationship with sport. The Province had a dedicated Department of Fitness, Recreation and Sport from 1978 to 1983. Following this, there was a dedicated **Minister for Sport** who acted as the **Sport Directorate**. During this time, legislation titled ***The Fitness and Amateur Sport Act*** was tabled.

## KEY POINTS:

- ***The Fitness and Amateur Sport Act*** stated the government must undertake projects and programs that will promote, encourage, and develop the fitness of, and the engagement in, amateur sport. It sets rules that the government must provide assistance for training or activities that will contribute to fitness or amateur sport.
- In 1996, the Sport Directorate and the Manitoba Sports Federation merged to form a non-profit organization: **Sport Manitoba**. The ***Sport Secretariat*** was created to oversee this new organization and facilitate intergovernmental sporting activities and events.
- Starting in 1999, Sport Manitoba began to develop multi year action plans for sport to ensure a collective vision and common goals for the sport system
- The Sport Secretariat provided funding to Sport Manitoba, facilitated sporting events, and offered administrative support to the Manitoba Boxing Commission.
- In 1999, Manitoba hosted the Pan Am Games, which created several legacy projects around Winnipeg. Other major sporting events hosted in the province during this time were the 2003 Canada Games, 2001 AT&T Canada Seniors Open, and the 2001 Canadian Figure Skating Championships.
- In 2001, the Minister responsible for Sport was also the **Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism**. This was ***Eric Robinson***, who maintained this role until 2012. The sport portfolio followed him in whatever role he held.



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# 2003 - 2007

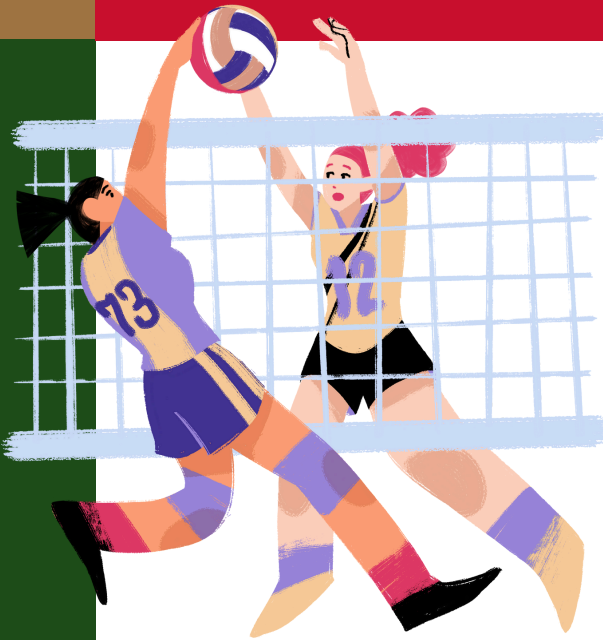


## Summary:

The NDP maintained their dominance in parliament. During this period, fewer sport policy documents were published. Sport Manitoba publications are not publicly available, and the Minister responsible for Sport often focused on other portfolios, leading to a period where the government did not identify sport outcomes in annual reports.

## KEY POINTS:

- Sport was housed in the **Department of Culture, Heritage and Tourism (DCHT)** and Eric Robinson remains responsible for sport.
- From 2004 until 2008, DCHT annual reports do not mention the Sport Secretariat or Sport Manitoba.
- Funding from the Province is provided to Sport Manitoba, who provide resources and funding to support specific sport development initiatives.
- Sport Manitoba initiatives include the ***Canada-Manitoba Bilateral Sport Development Partnership, Manitoba Games, Team Manitoba, KidSport Manitoba, coaches/officials certification, the Best Ever Athlete Development Program, and the Respect in Sport Program.***
- The Sport Secretariat also supported the ***2007 World Women's Hockey Championship*** and the ***2008 Tim Hortons Brier.*** They also administer the ***Sport Grant Assistance Program*** to provide funding to sport organizations and events that fall outside of Sport Manitoba.



**38th Legislature  
2003 - 2007**

**Gary Doer is premier**

There were 3 documents related to sport during this period. The distinct lack of published documents can be attributed due to the sport portfolio tied to an individual minister rather than a specific department.



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# 2007 - 2011



**39th Legislature  
2007- 2011**

**Gary Doer steps down as  
Premier in 2009**

**Greg Selinger becomes  
Premier**

There were 7  
documents  
relating to sport  
policy were found  
during this period.

## Summary:

In 2009, Eric Robinson became the Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs. He took the sport secretariat portfolio with him. There is no government reporting on the secretariat until 2010, when they started publishing their own reports. In 2013, a major reshuffling in parliament led to Eric Robinson relinquishing the Sport Secretariat and it being shifted once again to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Heritage, Sport and Consumer Protection (DTCHSCP).

## KEY POINTS:

- **The Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs** did not address the Sport Secretariat in any of their annual reports.
- 2011 marks an important year as **Sport Manitoba's Sport for Life Centre (S4LC) moved into phase II**. The province committed \$6 million in funding, along with matching contributions from the federal government and private donors.
- **In 2012**, Winnipeg was selected as a host city for the **2015 FIFA Women's World Cup**.
- Also in 2012, the Province and federal government signed a new three-year **Bilateral Sports Agreement**, infusing over \$2 million into sport programs to increase accessibility of sport for children throughout Manitoba.
- In 2013, the **DTCHSCP was formed**. Ron Lemieux is the minister, and takes over as the sport secretariat.
- There was also the first mention of Sport Manitoba being mandated through **five-year renewable agreements to implement sport policy directives of the Province**.

# 2011 - 2016



## Summary:

Manitoba declared 2015 as the Year of Sport across the province, in preparation for hosting several upcoming major sport events. Sport Manitoba published the Manitoba Action Plan for Sport (MAPS) in 2016.

## KEY POINTS:

- In the 2014 the government announced that 2015 as the Year of Sport in Manitoba due to **several marquee sporting events** being hosted including the *Grey Cup*, *FIFA Women's World Cup*, and the *Telus Cup* regional qualifiers.
- The DTCHSCP named Mike Benson as the new Sport Secretariat, marking a change that the Minister is no longer the Sport Secretariat by default. The 2015 annual report has significant discussion around the upcoming 2017 Canada Games.
- In 2016, the DTCHSCP report mentioned a ***Respect in Sport Program*** required by all Manitoba coaches, highlighting an entry into safe sport policy.
- In 2016, Sport Manitoba published *Manitoba Action Plan for Sport 2016 - 2020* (MAPS), which addressed sport's needs and challenges and provided direction for the board. MAPS takes the role as the unofficial sport policy for the Province.
- The ***Integrated Funding Framework (IFF)*** is used by Sport Manitoba to assist PSOs in determining priorities and evaluating their ability to activate and implement goals.
- MAPS also highlighted \$4.5 million in direct funding and \$1.5 million in bingo revenue allocated to PSOs. There is also \$1 million in program assistance provided through grants.



**40th Legislature  
2011 - 2016**

**NDP majority**

**Greg Selinger is  
Premier**

There were 7 documents relating to sport policy were found during this period.



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# 2016 - 2023



## Summary:

The Progressive Conservatives form a majority government, marking the end of 17 years of NDP government. The S4LC was completed and opened following the 2017 Canada Summer Games.

## KEY POINTS:

- Following 2016, Sport Manitoba publishes yearly Business Plans, highlighted targets and objectives, and Annual Reports measuring success. This was to ensure Sport Manitoba could measure and evaluate initiatives tied to MAPS.
- In 2017, the **S4LC was completed** and officially opened. It is the capital legacy project of the 2017 Canada Games.
- In 2017, the **Sport Secretariat is moved to the Department of Sport, Culture and Heritage (DSCH)**.
- The IFF remains tied to policy, mandating specific organizational policies from PSOs to receive funding.
- Sport Manitoba develops a new MAPS for 2020 - 2025.
- The new MAPS also mandates PSOs establishes **concussion protocols**, and that all coaches are required to take the **mandatory Respect in Sport Certification course**. Sport Manitoba also mandates the **Responsible Coaching Movement**.
- In 2020, the **Sport Secretariat was renamed as the Culture and Sport Program**. It remains under the DSCH.
- MAPS 2020 - 2025 focuses on athlete development, sport culture, and the value of sport.
- *Pathway to Safer Sport* is launched by Sport Manitoba in 2022, including the creation of a safe sport hotline, new governance policies, and a partnership with the Sport Law Group.

41st & 42nd Legislature  
2016 - 2023

*Progressive Conservative  
majority*

*Brian Pallister is Premier  
until 2021*

*Heather Stefanson is  
named leader and  
becomes Premier*

There were 17  
documents  
relating to sport  
policy were found  
during this period.

# 2023 to Present



## Summary:

NDP win a majority government. Manitoba becomes the first province to pass provincial legislation mandating safe sport into the provincial sport system.

## KEY POINTS:

- Bill 21, ***THE PROTECTING YOUTH IN SPORTS ACT***, is passed in 2025. This statute mandates safe sport policies for Sport Manitoba and all PSOs, including creating a complaint process and informing organizations of those found guilty of maltreatment.



**43rd Legislature  
2023 to Present**

**NDP majority**

**Wab Kinew is Premier**

There were 2 documents relating to sport policy were found during this period.



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