

November 4, 2016

Policy Support and Subvention Section,
Recreation and Sport Division (1),
Home Affairs Bureau,
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Dear Sirs or Mesdames,

The Sustainable Development Committee (SDC) of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (CCCHK) has provided leadership in advocating the business case for sustainability in Hong Kong for close to two decades. Our members are committed to actively promoting a sustainable future for Hong Kong – this includes taking care of our environment and our people, and managing our day-to-day business sustainably. CCCHK considers sport for people with disabilities in Hong Kong to be a significant issue of concern with respect to Hong Kong as a place of sustainable living and its long-term future as a world-class, international centre of business that is able to attract and retain its talents .

The consultancy report on Sport for People with Disabilities is a well-researched, well-written and comprehensive report. It concludes that the *“first and paramount policy objectives of sports development for PWDs in the coming 10 to 20 years should be to:*

- *provide more and better barrier-free sports facilities,*
- *organise more international sports activities for PWDs,*
- *provide more attractive and affordable sports programmes,*
- *recruit more excellent coaches for PWDs, and,*
- *provide better support to reserve disabled athletes.”*

The CCCHK supports these initiatives and in addition makes the following comments:

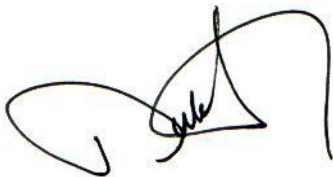
1. The list of sports covered in the Report (see Tables 2.1 and 2.2) may not be sufficiently inclusive. As an example Sailability, which was included in the list of participants (see Appendix II), sends its disabled sailors to compete successfully in international events. It has provided facilities, coaches and training to around 1,000 people with disabilities yet sailing is not included in the list of sports.
2. The number of people holding disability registration cards is 78,000 but the total number of disabled people is estimated to be nearly 600,000. This indicates a gap and there is room to

encourage more registration, as well as adjust future programmes and financial support to take into consideration this unregistered segment of approximate 500,000 people with disabilities.

3. There are no statistics on the number of existing disabled sports persons benefitting from the current programmes. This may be difficult to assess but nevertheless it can lead to observation about the effectiveness of existing programmes and the opportunities for future improvement.
4. The statistics quoted by the consultant were obtained from voluntary participants but, given the magnitude of the problem (*viz. "the total number of disabled people is estimated to be nearly 600,000"*), the sample size is quite small and, therefore, may not be representative.
5. Hong Kong Government should explore benchmarking with other advanced economies (e.g. Canada, Europe, UK, USA, etc.) as to the Government spending per PWD to support their participation in competitive sports to see whether Hong Kong is above or below the average.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak with you directly on these issues and invite you to meet with CCCHK leaders and members of its SDC at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Derrick Lee

President, Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

cc:

Mr. Lawrence NUTTING, Chairman, Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

Mr. Joseph LAW, Chairman, Sustainable Development Committee, Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong