
May 27, 2024

Dear Member of the Gymnastics Community,

As I have shared with many of you since joining Gymnastics Canada, I am committed to ensuring that the sport of gymnastics lives up to its commitment of providing a positive, safe, and inclusive sport experience for all. To achieve success, I believe it is critical that our work is informed by good practice as well as experts in safeguarding and safe sport both within Canada and internationally. We must provide space for members of the gymnastics community to co-create a plan that can be implemented from the grassroots to national levels. This all of sport approach is essential to address one of the most critical concerns identified in the McLaren Report: that the lack of alignment across the sport system inherently creates an “Achilles heel” for safe sport efforts.

The McLaren Report clearly identified a number of serious deficiencies in the safeguarding and safety practice as well as in the cultural fabric of the sport of gymnastics in Canada that require action. To address the recommendations in a sustainable and effective way, our work will need to be informed by deeper stakeholder engagement, ensuring that the voices of athletes, parents, coaches, club owners, recreational gymnastics administrators, provincial representatives, and other leaders within the sport system are given an opportunity to be involved.

To help guide and inform this critical work, Gymnastics Canada has established a National Safety Steering Committee. We are pleased to share that the Committee has now been recruited and that a project manager with a youth safety background has been hired to lead progress on next steps.

- [Caitlyn Calder](#) is Gymnastics Canada’s newly hired Safe Sport Project Manager; she holds a degree in Child and Youth Care and has extensive experience working with youth in various settings including child protection and not for profits.
- [Mark Mulatz](#) has had a distinguished career spanning over five decades in corporate and commercial law and brings over 40 years of experience providing counsel to sport organizations.
- [Alexandra Castonguay](#) is the Director of Gymnastics Quebec’s communication and operations team; she has extensive knowledge in all facets of gymnastics.
- [Alexandra Orlando](#) is an Olympian in Rhythmic Gymnastics and brings invaluable insight from her elite sports experience.

- [Michelle Pothier](#) has owned and managed gymnastics clubs in multiple provinces; she is deeply committed to fostering safe, inclusive environments.
- [Kyle Shewfelt](#) is a three-time Olympian and the owner of Kyle Shewfelt Gymnastics, a recreational club dedicated to creating a fun and safe environment for all.
- [Judi Fairholm](#) is an expert in safeguarding, blending strategic leadership with extensive operational experience to champion the protection of vulnerable populations worldwide.

Dr. Kacey Neely, Gymnastics Canada's Safe Sport Director, and I will jointly serve as sponsors of this work, providing leadership and support for the development and implementation of the resulting national safety strategy.

The Committee's work will draw on safety and safeguarding best practices and stakeholder feedback to ensure we effectively address the recommendations from both the McLaren Report and the ongoing OSIC Sport Environment Assessment. We anticipate that the first phase of the Committee's work will take approximately 24 months, and we will be sharing regular updates on the Committee's plans and progress via the [National Gymnastics Safety Steering Committee's](#) Trello page.

If you have any questions related to the National Gymnastics Safety Steering Committee or would like to get involved with this important work, please contact Caitlyn Calder, Project Manager, Safety and Safeguarding at ccalder@gymcan.org.

Working together, we will create a safe, inclusive sport environment for all gymnasts and sport participants in Canada.

Sincerely,



Andrew Price
Chief Executive Officer

