

December 9, 2020
Rowing BC



Topics

1. Role of viaSport
2. Definition of Terms
3. Why Inclusion Matters
3. Promising Practices

viaSport

British Columbia's
agency for amateur
sport

Our Role

- B.C sport sector leadership in awareness, education, policy and governance
- Stewardship of provincial government investment in sport

viaSport BC Priorities

- Strengthening resiliency
- Advancing education, best practices and new approaches
- Expanding reach and awareness

Key Terms

- Diversity
 - Representation across diverse identities & perspectives (including race, ethnicity, religious beliefs, disability, sex/gender, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status etc.).
- Inclusion
 - Active, intentional, and continuous process to foster sense of belonging, address inequities in power and privilege, and build a respectful and diverse community that ensures welcoming spaces and opportunities for all.

Diversity in Canadian Sport

- **Female Representation**
 - 39% board members; 28% board directors; 42% CEOs, yet 1/5 organizations had 0 women in senior staff positions
 - Only 2% of girls get the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity per day
- **BIPOC Representation**
 - 1/4 of Canadian's identify as BIPOC
 - Only 10% University sport leaders, 1/56 athletic director's
 - COC & NSO's - only 7% board members
- **Representation of Persons with Disabilities**
 - 1/5 Canadian's identify as having a disability
 - Estimate - 1% participate in sport; 90% girls and women with disabilities are not active in sport or physical activity
- **LGBTQI2S**
 - 1/2 as likely as straight peers to participate in sport

Inclusion in Canadian Sport

- **Homophobia**
 - 81% sport participants witnessed homophobia in sport
 - 57% gay men and 45% of gay women reported being direct target of homophobia
- **Racism**
 - “For me sport and racism go hand and hand. I don’t know what it is about sport . . . maybe just the competition and those attitudes . . . but it can bring out the worst in some people”
- **Para-athlete experiences**
 - 25% reported experiencing psychological harm
 - 29% reported facing discrimination due to disability

Why Focusing on Inclusion Matters

- It's the right thing to do!
- Expanding reach and participation
- COVID-19 has had disproportionate impact
- Increased demand for socially conscious, anti-racist organizations
- Athletes demanding action, raising awareness

Promising Practices

- Infuse inclusion across organization
- Rely on experts, partners and those with lived experiences
- Focus on inclusion, not 'participation'
- Recognize intersectionality & avoid assumption
- Data and evaluation

Opportunities to engage with viaSport

- Multi-sport coach training
- Learning Centre
- Grant opportunities

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