

Future of Sport in Canada: BC Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What role did viaSport play in the Future of Sport in Canada Commission?

A: viaSport contributed to the process alongside athletes, coaches, and other sport organizations from across BC and Canada.

Q: The Final Report calls for the creation of a centralized entity for sport at the national level. How does this entity compare to viaSport BC?

A: The Future of Sport in Canada Commission recommended a national centralized entity with the following functions: strategic direction and leadership for sport and physical activity; funding for sport and physical activity; policy for sport and physical activity; custodian of the Canadian Sport Governance Code and the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in sport; education and training; compliance and oversight, and; sport and physical activity research and knowledge..

viaSport's core functions include strategic direction and leadership for amateur sport; funding for amateur sport; policy and standards for sport; education and training, and; compliance and oversight. viaSport works directly with [Designated Sport Organizations](#) (Provincial/Territorial Sport Organizations) to create a more effective sport system.

Q: Will viaSport support the amalgamation of sport entities?

A: viaSport will support organizations that are considering amalgamation as a means to ensure long-term stability, increase efficiency, and improve program delivery. viaSport will remove barriers that are in its control to assist organizations seeking amalgamation.

What is the difference between viaSport BC and Sport BC?

A: While both organizations are independent non-profit organizations that operate at the provincial level in BC and in the same ecosystem, they serve distinct roles and have different mandates.

[viaSport](#) is an independent not-for-profit organization operating as the provincial government's lead agency responsible for promoting and developing amateur sport in British Columbia.

[Sport BC](#) is a member-based organization that advocates and provides services to those member sport organizations that choose to access Sport BC's services on a fee-for-service basis.

Q: What is viaSport doing to improve the safety of sport participants in BC?

A: viaSport is currently taking intentional steps to improve safety in sport, including supporting sector and public education through [PlaySafeBC](#), strengthening governance standards for Provincial Sport Organizations and implementing minimum recruitment standards. Safer recruitment requires more than background checks. It involves sport organizations deliberately considering their risk, trust, and responsibility as they recruit and select coaches, volunteers, staff, contractors, and others who work directly with participants.

Q: Is Sport Safeguarding BC aligned with the Future of Sport Commission Final Report?

A: Yes. The centralized model being developed in BC, [Sport Safeguarding BC](#), is similar to what the Commission is recommending as a best practice.

[Sport Safeguarding BC](#) was established as an independent body to provide accountability and transparency in the handling of maltreatment concerns within the sport sector in BC.

Q: How will viaSport integrate the Canadian Sport Governance Code into BC amateur sport system?

A: Some elements of the Canadian Sport Governance Code are already reflected in the [viaSport Designation Program Policy](#), which provincial sport organizations must adhere to. Additionally, the Governance Code was used as an input for viaSport's ongoing sector-wide Operations Enhancement Initiative. Going forward, viaSport will take the appropriate steps to formally adopt the Sport Governance Code as a requirement of the [viaSport Designation Program Policy](#).

Q: Is viaSport specifically mentioned in the final report?

A: The report mentions viaSport several times, citing:

- viaSport's [inclusion resources](#) for coaches
- viaSport's safety initiatives, including supporting the creation of [Sport Safeguarding BC](#), Lighthouse Project, [Bystander training](#), [British Columbia Universal Code of Conduct](#)
- Governance – [viaSport Designation Program](#)