



October 14, 2014

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, PC, MP
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Harper,

Re: *Children's Fitness Tax Credit*

The Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada (CDPAC) would like to applaud the Government of Canada on its recently announced plan to double the Children's Fitness Tax Credit and in 2015 make it a refundable credit. These are actions that CDPAC recommended recently in its submission to the Finance Committee. We urge the Government of Canada to also consider the following modifications:

- Change the credit to cover the cost of the program up to a specified limit, as opposed to a percentage, which is currently a maximum of 15 percent. This would cover a larger proportion of the cost of programs - perhaps even the full cost of less expensive programs - and could thereby increase up-take by lower-income families
- Expand the scope of the program to include less structured, less costly, family-oriented activities (for example, the use of public swimming pools and ice rinks)

The greatest gains in the health status of Canadians will be achieved through continued and amplified action to reduce the risk factors and inequities that give rise to chronic diseases. CDPAC believes that continued improvement of the Children's Fitness Tax Credit will help reduce barriers to physical activity and thus contribute significantly to a healthy and productive population.

.../2

.../2

CDPAC (cdpac.ca) is an alliance of twelve national organizations sharing a common vision for an integrated system of research, surveillance, policies and programs for maintaining health and preventing chronic disease in Canada.

We would be pleased to discuss our recommendations with your staff further.

Sincerely,



Hon. Mary Collins, P.C.
Chair



Craig Larsen
Executive Director

cc: Hon. Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health
Hon. Kellie Leitch, Minister of Labour and Minister of Status of Women
Hon. Joe Oliver, Minister of Finance

Members of the Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada:

Active Health Kids Canada
Arthritis Society
Canadian Alliance for Mental Illness and Mental Health
Canadian Cancer Society
Canadian Diabetes Association
Canadian Medical Association
Canadian Mental Health Association
Canadian Nurses Association
Canadian Public Health Association
Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada
The Kidney Foundation of Canada
YMCA Canada