



Bowls Canada Boulingrin Update – May 7, 2020

As week 8 of physical distancing wraps up, it seemed like an opportune time to provide an update to our Bowls Canada community. It certainly has been a challenge adapting to our new reality and I want to highlight first and foremost, how resilient our Canadian bowls family has been and how proud I am to be a part of this community.

Bowls Canada is committed to ensuring we are all in a position to get back out on the greens once physical distancing restrictions begin to relax. We have been hard at work on many different projects to achieve this goal.

One of the initiatives that we have implemented was the submission of an impact statement to the Government of Canada. Thanks to all of the clubs across the country who participated in our survey at the beginning of April, we were able to paint a clear, concise and accurate picture of the potential impact that COVID-19 could have on the sport of lawn bowls at the community, provincial and national level. It was important to ensure that our interests were represented to the Federal Government and we were thrilled with the announcement of \$500 million on April 17, 2020 to support the sectors of culture, arts and sport.

Last week I was able to speak personally with Mr. Adam van Koeverden, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Heritage (Sport), and share with him directly the impact that this pandemic is having on our local associations. I was also able to share what an important place Canadian lawn bowling clubs have in their communities and the critical role that lawn bowling plays in the healthy aging of Canada's citizens from coast to coast to coast.

In addition to lobbying efforts, we have also been engaging with our stakeholders across the country to keep you informed and up to date.

I hope that you have all been enjoying some of the social media content that we have been posting over the last few weeks. If there are specific topics or tools that you would like to see developed, please let us know at office@bowlscanada.com.

We recently released a [Greens Resource Kit](#) on our website. The intent of this kit is to provide clubs across Canada with the tools needed to convince key decision makers in their community to allow access to their greens. The national guidelines also serve to provide a standard for minimum maintenance greens care and safety precautions.



If you haven't had a chance yet, please check our [Biased Bowls](#) blog. We have been posting regularly on topics that you, our membership, have told us you want to learn more about. You can also stay up to date with new announcements and information through our e-newsletter *This Week in Bowls*. You can subscribe to our newsletter [here](#).

We know there's a light at the end of the tunnel and a few of Canada's provinces and territories have already started releasing plans for relaxing their COVID-19 restrictions. Bowls Canada has also been monitoring other bowls nations decisions regarding return to play activity as their restrictions are relaxed. Our Development Committee is currently working on a set of national guidelines for Canada to help every provincial association and local club as they prepare to return to the greens. We know that the rules will be strict during this transition period and we will work to ensure that these guidelines are concise and clear to aid in your consultations with your local health authorities.

The Bowls Canada Board continues to hold regular meetings and has empowered a COVID-19 Response Team so that the organization can act as quickly as possible during these times of constant change. I want to assure you that regardless of relaxation of restrictions in certain provinces, we will be continuously assessing the situation and supporting clubs and provinces as we navigate this pandemic.

Before I conclude, I want to acknowledge the events of the last two weeks. While in the eye of the COVID-19 storm, our fellow Canadians in Nova Scotia have endured further tragedy. As a nation we mourn together the loss of the 22 Canadians in the events of April 18 and 19 and more recently those impacted by the crash of the CH-148 Cyclone helicopter. Our thoughts and prayers remain with those affected by these events and we hope that they will continue to have strength and remain resilient in these difficult times.

Thank you to all of you who are working together to help flatten the curve. I know that together we'll get through the rest of this pandemic and I look forward to the day we can all safely meet again on the bowling greens of Canada.

Until then, stay safe, stay healthy and stay home.

Anna Mees
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