

**Ministry of Tourism,
Culture and Sport**

Minister

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**Ministère du Tourisme,
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Ministre

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July 26, 2017

Dear PSO/MSO,

In November 2015, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport released [Game ON – The Ontario Government's Sport Plan](#), an athlete-centred plan which acts as our blueprint to strengthen the amateur sport system in the province.

As a priority in year one, the Ministry has been focused on improving opportunities for all women and girls to be able to better participate, develop and excel in sport and recreation. On March 8, 2017, International Women's Day, the Premier announced that a provincial Action Plan for Equal Opportunity in Sport would be developed based on the expertise of the Minister's Advisory Panel on Sport.

This action plan has been developed with our Advisory Panel on Sport with input across the sport sector and the Ontario government. *Advancing Opportunities for Women and Girls in Sport, Ontario's Action Plan* sets out a comprehensive series of recommendations that are intended to provide you and other sport partners with the tools needed to engage women and girls in lifelong physical activity and competitive sport.

The action plan focuses on the following areas:

- Removing barriers so that women and girls can participate in sport and physical activity, including increasing access to programs for Indigenous women and girls living in rural and northern communities;
- Providing equitable access in sport and recreation programming, training, coaching, and administration by working with you to recruit, develop and retain a gender balance of athletes, coaches and officials; and
- Promoting a welcoming environment so all women and girls feel respected and safe by offering physical activity programming that is reflective of the needs of women and girls.

I encourage you to read the action plan to learn more about these and other actions we are taking to advance gender parity in sport. As we develop the implementation plan, I am relying on your continued engagement, support and feedback.

I can't wait to see all we can accomplish as we move forward.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eleanor McMahon'.

Eleanor McMahon
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport