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## **Evaluating the State of Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Sports Bodies in Answering the Truth & Reconciliation Commissions Call to Action #88**

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## INTRODUCTION

- The 2015 *Truth & Reconciliation Commission: Calls to Action* report features actions specifically regarding sport and reconciliation.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, Call #88 states, “We call upon all levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and continued support for the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG), including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel.”<sup>9</sup>
- The Aboriginal Sports Circle (ASC), funded by the federal government, leads and directs the provincial/territorial aboriginal sport bodies (P/TASBs) in delivering the North American Indigenous Games. Moreover, *Sport Canada’s Policy on Aboriginal Peoples participation in Sport* highlighted these developments as Indigenous sport participation enhancers.<sup>2</sup>
- Supporting Indigenous youth sport participation can serve as a remediating factor against poor health outcomes.<sup>1,6</sup> However, current web information standards vary, and it is unknown whether, and how, this variance in informational support has impacted Indigenous youth along the Indigenous long-term participation pathway.

## OBJECTIVES

- To evaluate the current state of Indigenous sports bodies in Canada in answering the TRC’s Call to Action 88 by answering,
  - How are Indigenous youth in Canada involved in navigating the long-term sports participant pathway laid out by the ASC & Sport for Life?<sup>8</sup>
  - What is the current standard of information made available to Indigenous youth by the P/TASBs?

## METHODS

- An environmental scan was conducted on 13 P/TASBs websites, which in some cases, included delegate representative team pages that existed separate from their sport body, and their respective social media pages.

## CASE EXAMPLES

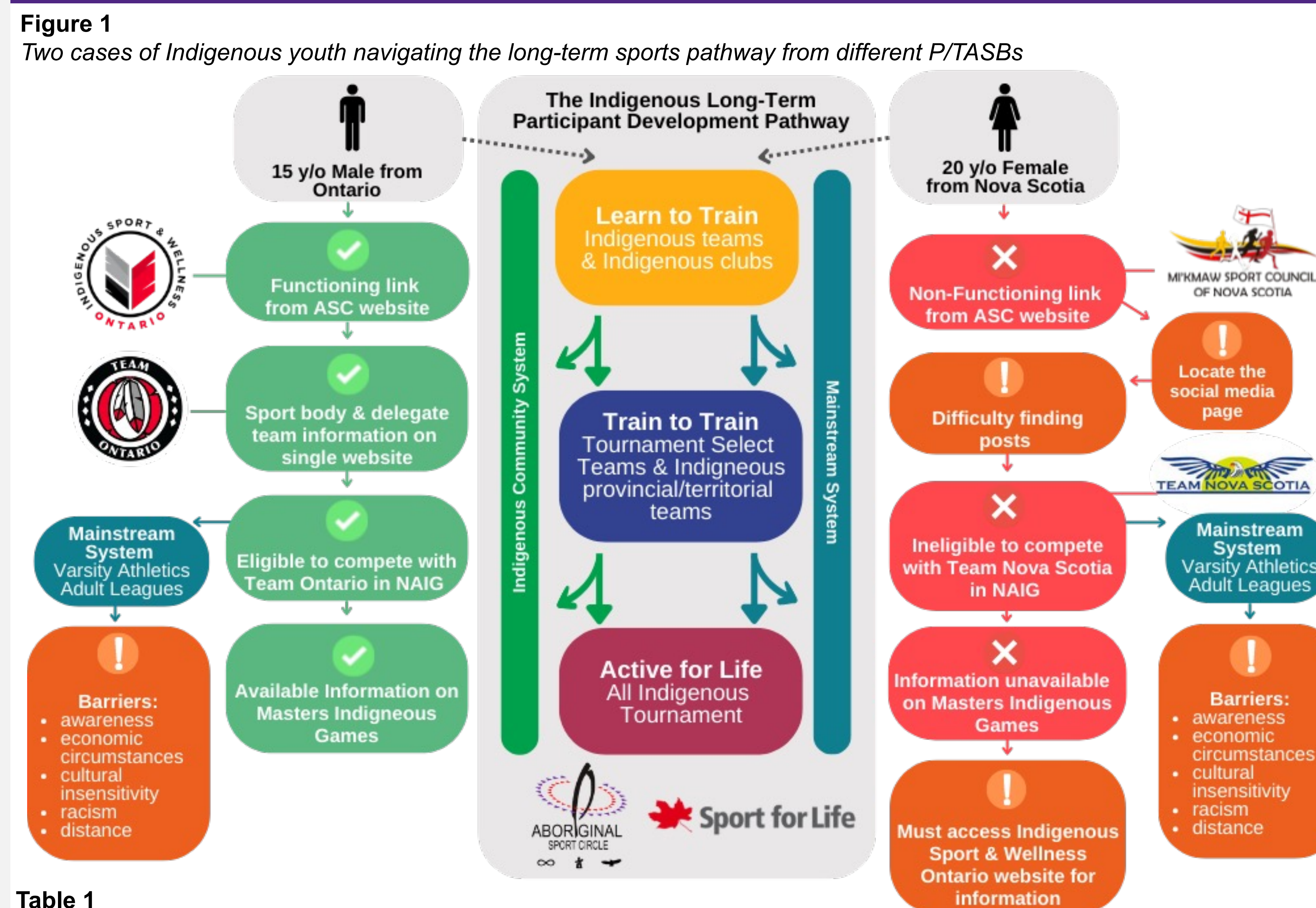


Table 1  
Current Standard of Information Made Available to Indigenous Youth by P/TASBs

Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Sport Bodies (P/TASBs)	Criteria of Sport Body & Delegate Team Information					
	Working Link from ASC	Accessible on Single Webpage	Accessible on Separate Web Pages	Updated P/TASBs Web Page	Updated Delegate Team Web Page	Information on Social Media
Yukon Aboriginal Sport Circle *	✓	□	✓	✓	✓	✓
Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓
Sport and Recreation Nunavut Government *	✓	□	✓	□	□	✓
Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council (BC)	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓
Indigenous Sport Council of Alberta	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓
Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations	✓	□	✓	□	✓	✓
Manitoba Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Council Inc	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓
Indigenous Sport & Wellness Ontario	✓	✓	□	✓	✓	✓
First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission	✓	□	✓	✓	✓	✓
Aboriginal Sport and Recreation New Brunswick	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓
Mi’Kmaq Sport Council of Nova Scotia *	□	□	□	□	□	✓
PEI Aboriginal Sport Circle*	✓	□	□	□	□	✓
Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Circle of Newfoundland and Labrador *	✓	□	✓	□	□	✓

\*P/TASB predominantly disseminates information on the social media platform Facebook

## KEY FINDINGS

- Participant drop-off following the ‘Train to Train’ stage in the Indigenous long-term sport participant pathway, conflicts with Call to Action #88 & #90 regarding Indigenous pathways for elite athlete development.
- Few P/TASBs webpages feature all inclusive information, but all utilize social media.

## DISCUSSION

- P/TASBs face limitations in answering Call #88 and Call #90 given the variance between sport participation. Although British Columbia youth can access one all-inclusive webpage for information, Quebec youth must access two different webpages under different names, while Nova Scotia youth rely solely on social media.
- Despite Indigenous youth conceptualized as 15 to 24 years of age<sup>1</sup>, the Indigenous pathway notably convergences to mainstream after NAIG, contrasting the assurance of long-term aboriginal athlete development and growth.
- Reliance on word-of-mouth information sharing to attract participants<sup>7</sup> can exclude those without proper social connections, leading to unawareness, and early departure from the Indigenous sport pathway from underdeveloped P/TASBs web information resources.
- Few P/TASBs offer sport participation information for the Masters Indigenous Games (MIG) in Ontario for youth older than 19. A notable participant drop-off occurs, demonstrated by the 3,647 participants in NAIG 2017<sup>4</sup> compared to 600 participants in the MIG 2018<sup>5</sup>.
- Improving eHealth standards, involving the use of information and communication technologies for health,<sup>10</sup> for P/TASBs can aid in supporting general to elite athlete development and growth, whilst incorporating Indigenous holistic concepts of sport<sup>3</sup>.

## CONCLUSION

Information made available on P/TASBs webpages are inconsistent across Canada, creating a lack of information accessibility for Indigenous youth residing in certain provinces/territories

## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup>Anderson, T. (2021). *Portrait of youth in Canada: Data report — Chapter 4: Indigenous Youth in Canada*. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/42-28-0001/422800012021001-eng.htm>  
<sup>2</sup>Canadian Heritage. (2005). *Sport Canada’s Policy on Aboriginal Peoples’ Participation in Sport*.  
<sup>3</sup>Cragg, S. (2019). *Policy and program considerations for increasing sport participation among members of underrepresented groups in Canada*.  
<sup>4</sup>Critkovic, M. (2017). *North American Indigenous Games 2017 Presentation*.  
<sup>5</sup>Indigenous Sport & Wellness Ontario. (n.d.). *Quick Facts about the Masters Indigenous Games 2018 (MIG2018)*. Retrieved August 4, 2022, from <https://iswo.ca/masters-indigenous-games/>  
<sup>6</sup>Paraschak, V., & Thompson, K. (2014). Finding strength(s): insights on Aboriginal physical cultural practices in Canada. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17430437.2013.838353>  
<sup>7</sup>Praxis Consulting. (2014). *2014 North American Indigenous Games Evaluation Report 2014 NAIG Evaluation Highlights North American Indigenous Games 2014 Games Evaluation Final Report Executive Summary*.  
<sup>8</sup>Sport for Life Society. (2019). *Indigenous Long-Term Participant Development Pathway*.  
<sup>9</sup>Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. (2015). *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action*.  
<sup>10</sup>World Health Organization. (n.d.). *Global Observatory for eHealth*. Retrieved July 20, 2022, from <https://www.who.int/observatories/global-observatory-for-ehealth>