

Garrett Holmes,
Founder,
The Canadian Student-Athlete Association.

October 27, 2020

Ms. Sandra Murray-MacDonell,
Chief Executive Officer,
Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association,
2 St. Lawrence Drive,
Cornwall, Ontario.
K6H 4Z1

Ms. Murray-MacDonell,

RE: October 21, 2020 Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) announcement cancelling winter championships for the 2020/21 season (including badminton, men's and women's basketball, and men's and women's volleyball).

As the COVID-19 crisis continues to have a dramatic impact on the lives of all Canadians, the Canadian Student-Athlete Association would like to commend the CCAA for its continued commitment to providing student-athletes with exceptional experiences to achieve their full academic and athletic potential, and to recognize that in this difficult environment the CCAA has been faced with making difficult decisions.

To that end, the Canadian Student-Athlete Association agrees that student-athlete safety should be the top priority and as such supports the decision by the CCAA to cancel the winter championships for the 2020/21 season.

While the Canadian Student-Athlete Association supports this decision, it notes that the decision was made "upon direction and feedback from member conferences", but does not mention any input or support from student-athletes.

In the "new reality" of sports in a COVID-19 environment we have seen a first wave of decisions made that are dramatically impacting the lives, careers, and futures of student-athletes. Unfortunately, as we have also seen, those decisions have been made with little or no input from student-athletes, as existing models/processes/systems simply do not include any mechanism for student-athlete input.

Whether one agrees with the decisions that have already been made or not, more important decisions are going to be made in the future, and that is why there is a need for the Canadian Student-Athlete Association. Student-Athletes need an independent voice at the table in decisions which impact their lives, careers, and futures. The Canadian Student-Athlete Association is that voice.

The Canadian Student-Athlete Association urges the CCAA, in future decisions, to acknowledge the need for Student-Athletes to have an independent voice at the table, and to engage the Canadian Student-Athlete Association to provide that voice.

The Canadian Student-Athlete Association thanks the CCAA for the opportunity to provide our comments and perspective.

Stay safe.

Regards,

Garrett Holmes,

Founder,

The Canadian Student-Athlete Association.

garrett@canadianstudentathleteassociation.ca

289-981-2829

www.canadianstudentathleteassociation.ca