

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

January 3, 2022

The Hon. Lisa MacLeod,
Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries,
6th Floor, 438 University Avenue,
Toronto, Ontario.
M7A 1N3

Minister MacLeod,

My name is Garrett Holmes. I am the Founder of the Canadian Student-Athlete Association.

I read today's announcement regarding Ontario temporarily moving to modified step 2 of the Roadmap to Reopen. I was disappointed to read that measures outlined include:

- Closing indoor sport and recreational fitness facilities including gyms, except for athletes training for the Olympics and Paralympics and select professional and elite amateur sport leagues.

Once again, as it did last June in its release of a framework for select Ontario professional and elite-amateur sports leagues to return-to-play, the Ontario government does not include OUA (Ontario University Athletics) on its list of elite amateur sport organizations.

This was wrong last June, and it is wrong today.

The OUA develops elite student-athletes across 23 sports to a degree unmatched by any other organization in this country (other than the broader USports community itself).

Did you know for example, that in the 2021 CFL draft, 57% of all draft picks were from USports, and that 13% came from the OUA? Compare those numbers to any amateur organization on your list and you will see there is no question the OUA produces elite athletes on a scale that clearly merits it being included. I use football as but one example. The same case can be built for any of the 23 sports the OUA participates in.

There is a simple way for the Ontario government to rectify this, given today's announcement was in regards to what is being called a "modified" version of Step 2 of the Roadmap to Reopen. Modify your stance on the OUA.

I am formally asking you to immediately add the OUA to the list of elite amateur sport organizations in the Ontario Governments return-to-play format, so that university and college student-athletes across all sports may continue to develop their elite skills and not put their winter/spring athletics at risk.

Regards,

Garrett Holmes.