



**Julie Green – Yellowknife Centre**

**Q) All Canadian provinces and territories have agreed to increase participation in sport by 10% by 2020. What is the most effective way for this territory to make that happen?**

If I understand correctly, in each region of the NWT, a Regional Recreation Coordinator is employed to deliver programs at the regional level. Each community also receives funding to hire a local recreation coordinator. The local recreation coordinators must partner with the schools to maximize the participation of youth, and then must reach out to citizens of all age groups in the community to offer regular programming responding to the needs and wishes of each community. For one local employee and one regional employee, this is a huge undertaking. I appreciate the work they are doing in the regions. In my opinion, it won't be possible to increase participation in sport by 10% by next year unless additional staff are hired and working in the regions.

**Q) Access, affordability and availability of sport and recreation programs and facilities are vital to our communities. Where does the improvement of this fit into your priorities for the next 4 years?**

Presently, \$5 million dollars annually goes towards sport in the NWT. Where sport and recreation programs are concerned, there is a need to examine the structure of sport bodies. Each of Sport North, the Aboriginal Sport Circle and Recreation and Parks receives \$800,000 in core funding from the GNWT via the lotteries. They can also tap into other sources of funding either by way of registrations, federal funding, sponsorships and partnering with other government departments. Territorial Sport Organizations (TSO) are funded as well, some more than others. I suggest that it may be time to re-examine the structure of the three territorial bodies and perhaps reallocate staff so that funds are funneled more directly to the TSOs and regions and communities of the NWT rather than at head office. The TSOs, with the Regional Recreation Coordinators, create sport activity in the regions and communities. This answer relates to your first question as well. Where affordability and infrastructure are concerned, I commit to support improving infrastructure in communities where schools and communities do not have the necessary infrastructure for physical activity.

**Q) Will you work with your fellow members of the Legislative Assembly to create awareness of the issues facing sport in the NWT and address the needs of our organizations? A lot is expected of sport without it ever being a priority issue for the Territorial government. How do you propose to change this?**

If elected, I will work with my fellow members of the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly to become more aware of these issues. I understand that presently the department of Municipal and Community Affairs allocates funding to communities for infrastructure and sports programs. There are many competing priorities in each community, and these competing priorities may force communities to put funding towards other priorities than sport and infrastructure. I suggest that discussions take place at the community level where this is a concern. The 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly will have to manage many competing priorities, sport being one of them.



**Q) Research has shown that the rates of obesity and illness, particularly in children, continue to rise at alarming rates. The cost of delivering healthcare in this Territory has become almost all consuming to the Territorial budget. How would you incorporate sport and physical activity into a preventative approach and policy on wellness?**

Often, the bodies working to provide physical and health services work in silos. I suggest that these entities examine the possibility of providing integrated services in response to multiple needs. A framework should be developed to include Sport North, MACA, the Antipoverty Strategy, and health initiatives such as the Diabetes strategy, anti-smoking and vaping initiative, youth leadership, etc. to develop a common strategic plan, an action plan that includes strategies to counter the effects of obesity and illness, especially in children. A common framework and strategic plan would result in better access and more targeted program delivery and services.

**Q) While our Sport Volunteers are the pillar of all sport matters in the NWT; their efforts go unappreciated and undervalued. Do you have any plans to change the way that volunteers are overlooked in their roles and in what ways do you plan to recognize them if elected?**

The GNWT has many initiatives in place to thank volunteers and the exemplary contributions of many. Each sport body also recognizes their volunteers. Many clubs and teams have also developed ways to recognize their volunteers. If elected, I'd like to hear any suggestions on how Sport North would like to see the GNWT recognize sport volunteers. Please share your ideas with me.