

March 7, 2007

Voice of the people
PO Box 610
Halifax, NS
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Re: Chris Cochrane columns "*Blame our system, not our athletes*" (Mar. 6th) & "*How can N.S. get better?*" (Mar. 7th).

Thank you, thank you, thank you Mr. Cochrane for nailing this right on the head! Being the parent of two elite skiing athletes (freestyle & alpine 2007 NS Canada Games Team) and President of the Wentworth Ski Race Club, I can speak first hand to the non-existent provincial sport funding and commitment within our province. In order for my sons to compete on our Country's national stage this year alone, my family has scrapped together the \$25,000 dollars needed for high-performance training, coaching and travel to make this happen.

Having seen my sons compete at the national level for the last 3 years, there is no reason why Nova Scotian athletes should be relegated to last place results instead of 'top ten' performances. The only thing stopping this from happening is the heavy financial burden they are forced to carry and the total absence of any provincial funding at all meaningful levels.

Our athletes have the talent, the drive, the determination and the competitive spirit to be the best. Our athletes are extremely proud to represent Nova Scotia. Shouldn't our province be equally proud of them and provide them with the necessary resources to allow them to compete.

Its time for our politicians, at all levels, 'to wake up and smell the coffee'!

Respectfully submitted,

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