



The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Sport and Science  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Duncan,

As athletes within the Canadian sport system, we feel compelled to write directly to you to voice our concerns regarding the future of safe sport in Canada. We find it concerning that National Sporting Organizations (NSOs) are left to self-regulate complaints pertaining to safety, harassment and abuse. Regardless of the intentions of the NSO, the current system of NSO led investigations contain conflicts of interest that either directly bias the process or create the perception of bias. This has contributed to a strong sense of mistrust from athletes and a fear of reprisal that prevents adequate disclosure and reporting.

As athletes, we believe that an independent body is needed to review these complaints. This body must be external to the NSO and is fundamental to the implementation of many of the recommendations outlined in the *Report Concerning Independent Review of Coaching Culture for Wrestling Canada Lutte*, prepared by David Bennett. Further to this, an independent body would demonstrate the federal government's support of Safe Sport and would begin the process of restoring athletes' trust in their governing bodies. As athletes, we believe NSOs should be focusing their resources on managing and administering high-performance sport programs within Canada and should not self-regulate these important safety issues.

The need for an independent third party to review complaints of this nature extends beyond Wrestling Canada Lutte. Issues of safety are prevalent in all sports. Adequate disclosure of safety concerns is a systemic problem that requires a systemic solution. A central, independent body could be utilized by all Canadian NSOs, which could result in cost savings and consistency in how safety issues are addressed. This request is in the best interest of Canadian athletes and NSOs.

We implore the federal government to be a leader in safe sport by providing the structure and resources necessary to rebuild trust in our system.

Yours in Sport,

Athletes of Wrestling Canada Lutte





**The following athletes have consented to have their name included with this letter:**

Jasmine Mian	2016 Olympian
Michelle Fazzari	2016 Olympian
Korey Jarvis	2016 Olympian
Jessie MacDonald	3x Senior World Medalist
Steven Takahashi	2018 Commonwealth Games Silver Medalist
Erica Wiebe	2016 Olympic Champion
Kristina McLaren	2018 U23 World Team Member
Emily Schaefer	2018 Commonwealth Games Bronze Medalist
Justina Di Stasio	2018 Senior World Champion
Joshua Bodnarchuk	2018 Senior World teammember
Gracelynn Doogan	2017 U23 Worlds Silver Medalist
Olivia Di Bacco	2018 Senior World Team Member
Diana Weicker	2018 Senior World Bronze Medalist
Danielle Lappage	2018 Senior World Championship Silver Medalist
Braxton Stone-Papadopoulos	2015 Pan Am Games Champion
Leah Ferguson	2012 Olympian
Amar Dhesi	National team Athlete
Darthe Capellan	National team athlete
Jordan Steen	National Team Member
Erica Wiebe	Olympic Champion 2016
Hannah Taylor	2018 Junior World Team Member
Wendy Liu	National Team Member
Alexandria Town	2018 U23 World Champion & Senior World Team member
Nishan Randhawa	National Team Athlete





Jade Parsons	2018 Senior World Team Member
Hailey Heffel	2018 National Team Member
Erik Joy	2017 Senior National Championships participant
Dejah Slater	2018 National Team member
Ahmed Shamiya	2018 National Team Member
James Mancini	2010 World Team Member
Nicole Depa	2017 Junior World Team Member
Caleb Rutner	2017 Senior National runner up
Alex Moher	2018 World Team Member

