



Climbing Escalade Canada
National Pandemic-Response Task Force
May 1st, 2020, 2-4pm eastern
MEETING MINUTES

1. Introduction & Roll Call

Christine (CM) introduced the meeting and thanked the participants for joining the call.

In attendance:

Andrew Coffey – The Hive – Vancouver, BC
Alexandra Wojcicki – CWA Representative – USA
Christiane Marceau – CEC lead – Ottawa, ON
Davis Barton – OCF Representative – Kingston, ON
Jean-François M. Carrier – Le Crux – Boisbriand, QC
Jon Heshka – Thompson Rivers University – Vancouver, BC
Jordan Mackay – Regina Climbing Centre – Regina, SK
Kenneth Cronin – Crag X – Victoria, BC
Kori Cuthbert – The Hive – Winnipeg, MB
Lauren Watson – Ground Up Climbing – Squamish, BC
Mathieu DesRochers – FQME Representative – Montreal, QC
Matthew Languay – Basecamp Climbing – Toronto, ON
Michelle Ang – Subject matter expert – Toronto, ON
Olivier Birot – Subject matter expert – Toronto, ON
Regan Kennedy – ACA Representative – Calgary, AB
Silvia McBurney – BOULDERZ Climbing Centre – Toronto, ON
Stephen Cheung – Subject matter expert – Toronto, ON
Terry Spurrell – SCBC representative – Vancouver, BC

Guests:

John Haigh – ACA – Calgary, AB
Thomas Lauer – SCBC – Vancouver, BC
Eric Furlotte – Cliffhanger – Vancouver, BC

Sends their regrets:

Adam Morgan – Fredericton Bouldering Co-op – Fredericton, NB
Philip Ainslie – Subject matter expert – Vancouver, BC
Gabriel D'amour – DÉLIRE – Beauport, QC
Jean-Marc De La Plante – Allez up – Montréal, QC

2. Introduction

A new member joins the Task Force: Jon Heshka, from Thompson Rivers University in BC. Law and risk management expert, previously a guide and worked for Petzl and will provide input from a risk management perspective.

3. Task Force Announcement & Meeting Minutes

Task Force was announced on the CEC website. Meeting minutes are also posted on the CEC website.

<http://climbingcanada.ca/en/2020/04/21/national-pandemic-response-task-force/>

4. CEC Update

CM gave insights into the activities that have been happening behind the scenes over the last two weeks:

- Sports Canada call last week - message is to turn this into an opportunity to join forces with other sports and find a path forward
- National Climbing Facility Survey: 60 gyms have responded with contact information for a comprehensive mailing list to allow for communications
- CWA meeting: Speaking with Garnet and Alexandra at the CWA to discuss overlapping efforts to streamline the efforts. The CWA is interested in bringing together multiple countries to discuss these issues. CM attended an international call (UK, Germany, US, Italy, Netherlands, the IFSC, etc) where they have decided to share resources and network together. International recommendations are likely not appropriate as different requirements (municipal/provincial) will be more important and international recommendations are likely less helpful
 - This meeting will occur weekly. CM to update the COVID task force with this information
- IFSC has also announced a task force - they will be a network and a platform to support the national federation. The page has summarized resources. Their focus will be on Athletes' health and wellbeing, Climbing competitions, Climbing gyms, and Selected medical resources on COVID-19.
- Canadian Olympic committee - similar issues with all sport training facilities. As a sport industry they want to be partners in relaunching the economy
 - Importance of sport impact on well-being, mental health was emphasized. National Sport Organizations want to be partner in supporting the ministry of Canadian Heritage.
 - Minister of Canadian Heritage was present in this discussion who agreed that sport was important in the economy relaunch. Guidelines will be provincially based and a meeting to discuss the next steps will occur
 - 500M support fund for heritage, cultural and sports industry will be developed (sport represents estimated 15% of heritage industry)
 - No further details were discussed on how the funding will be distributed
- SCBC task force meeting - provincial task force meeting for BC was held
 - Discussion for gym owners, staff, climbers

Question: has there been more discussion on the role of CEC, the PSO, and the gyms in respect to the role of this task force?

- CM will make a proposal today about the mandate for this task force to clarify outcomes, the role of the PSO vs task force, etc
- CEC strategic plan will be relaunched in the near future. These answers will be developed.

5. Task Force Mandate

CM introduced a proposal for the Task Force to focus on two mandates:

- lobbying and education effort - this would take the form of national-based messaging to:
 - Governments through MPs, MPPs, local organizations
 - Sports institutions such as Sport Canada and Ministry of Canadian Heritage
 - Business organizations such as chamber of commerce
 - Community (tools for community communications - ensure safety)

- Recommendations: digest and summarize the resources available
 - Make the available resources accessible
 - Develop a report that summarizes the recommendations - allow for stages of recommendations – minimum recommendations, then develop the “extra” recommendations
 - Clarification: these are not Standards or Requirements - this will be recommendation on safe practices and it will be up to each gym to make this work (Task Force recognize need to develop appropriate vocabulary)

6. Discussion on the above proposal

JFC - regarding lobbying - most important part is to ensure that the government is aware of climbing. We need to ensure that climbing is represented - we have X# of gyms, we have # across country/province - its a big part of the industry.

- Demonstration of # of gyms, # of climbers, and that we have been proactive and positive in our community is important

CM: the goal is to make ourselves heard in a positive way

- Deliverable: a letter from the task force from the CEC to show the MPs and MPPs who we are, what we do, etc, - it can be combined with a letter that is specific from each gym
- That way there is a local letter and an NSO letter
- Kenneth - should explain that climbers are good at risk management and that the gyms are actually already very good at explaining risk to customers. This will actually be very easy to do

Jon - government will give us the framework to determine what we need to do to open

- we must come up with processes that are practical, reasonable, and not overly burdensome
- avoid the term best practices- go with “SOPs, recommended guidelines, objectives”

CM: agrees that vocabulary will be important.

- CEC has no legislation or jurisdiction over gyms.
- These recommendations can be used as a marketing strategy for the gyms

Jordan - on the political side: here in Saskatchewan, gyms are in phase 3 and recreation is phase 4

- Want to ensure that we are considered GYMS and not recreation
- we want to be in phase 3 and not 4

Andrew - discussion of climbing as a sport can be problematic. However, in this crisis, it would be useful to reframe climbing gyms as a sports practice. This could allow us to be in the discussion of reopening earlier

- in order to get things opened, the Government is looking for NSOs and PSOs (regulating bodies) to determine the plan on how to get back to participation
- Can we lean on SCBC and PSOs for guidelines - this will be helpful in getting people to open early

CM: when it comes to government institutions, they will look to Sports Canada > NSO > PSO

- Regardless of the agreed-upon CEC mandate (competitions) it would be in our best interest to have the NSO participate in these issues from a government lobbying perspective
- Climbing gyms are two folds – 1) they are small business that can regulate themselves, and 2) they offer recreation/sport services, which is governed by PSOs and NSOs.

JCF - at the PSO level in Qc, the gyms really want to be sure that the PSOs are careful in what they will say, so they won't be held to unreasonable requirements

- The QC Government asked 4 questions:

- What is the % possibility that 2m separation can happen within your institution
- What is the % in your industry that people will do an activity that is not communal (e.g a football huddle)
- What is the % that is occurring outdoor or indoor
- What measure of hand sanitizing can be improved in your organization
- The Q's were more asked for information so the government is aware of this. This was not to say that if you can't answer the questions favourably it means you cannot open

Regan - is on the ACA board - the ACA has not been involved with the Alberta gym owners. The gym owners have met weekly and have put together a document to align gyms in Alberta

- Will allow everyone to be on an even field
- Yesterday Alberta released their recommendations - and gyms are located in the 4th phase
 - The ball is rolling quickly
 - Is there actually time for us to lobby for this?

Michelle - commenting on the methodology for the recommendation development is important

- assure gyms that owners were involved in the development of these recommendations
- keep a list of suggestions and resources that could be handed to gyms would be important
 - An appendix of possible solutions collated (and state that this is not a comprehensive list on strategies, but simply a collected list with references back)

CM: another item that CEC can be involved with is marketing - a unified marketing scheme that could be provided to the gyms so that they can use them in their gyms so that climbers can see the same resources - this could be helpful for the gym

JFC - the CEC is there to HELP. we can be there to provide help into things. Help do recommendations. Help with lobbying. Etc. The CEC position should be to help and support - to give additional resources.

7. Next steps

Consensus that lobbying and suggestions/recommendations should be the two mandates of the Task Force

CM recommends creating two sub-group to work on these mandates and bring drafts to the Task Force for review and approval.

Sub-groups:

Lobbying - Lauren (BC), Kori (MB), Regan (AB) Matthieu (Qc), Davis (ON)

Recommendations/Operations - Kenneth (BC), Andrew (BC), Regan (AB), Jordan (SK), Sylvia (ON),

8. Closing

CM sets next meeting for Friday May 8th, 2020 from 2-4pm EST