



Dear Climbing Facilities,

On behalf of Climbing Escalade Canada (CEC) and the Provincial Sport Organizations (PSOs), I want to thank you for filling out the National Climbing Facility Survey. We recognize that the current situation has resulted in a lot of uncertainty. We hope that we will collectively rise to the challenge and collaborate to support each other. Please do not hesitate to reach out to CEC for questions and comments.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC UPDATE #1

National Pandemic-Response Task Force

The CEC is leading the creation and implementation of a National Pandemic-Response Task Force. The mission of the Task Force is to research and develop best practice recommendations and educational resources to support gym owners and climbers, in order to successfully manage gym re-openings and sustainable changes in a post pandemic era.

The Task Force will focus on Occupancy Flow, Capacity Management, Hygiene Measures, Communications, Lobbying, and Education. It will not impose policies on gyms, but rather provide a common messaging and education effort directed toward the Canadian climbing community.

Meeting minutes, Task Force members, as well as up to date information will be made available on the CEC website: <http://climbingcanada.ca/en/2020/04/21/national-pandemic-response-task-force/>

Minister of Canadian Heritage and other stakeholders

The CEC has been participating in multiple meetings and conversation with Canadian sport industry stakeholders: Minister Steven Guilbeault of the Federal Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture, Sport Canada, Canadian Olympic Committee (COC), Own The Podium (OTP), and others.

In all these meetings, the messaging has been unified – Sport’s impact on physical and mental health will be an essential asset for a return to normal and economic relaunch in Canada. National sport organizations (NSOs) have highlighted the desire to be a critical partner for Canada’s recovery.

Earlier this week, the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, announced an investment of \$500 million in a Canadian Emergency Fund to support the Cultural, Heritage and Sport industries. At this time, we don’t have details as to how these funds will be distributed. Minister Guilbeault confirmed that the provincial and territorial ministries of sports will be meeting this week to coordinate matter of access to training and sport facilities. CEC will update this mailing list with any additional information as it becomes available.

Sport Climbing Industry Challenges

The CEC recognizes that the climbing industry has been struggling through the pandemic. Climbing facilities face very specific challenges due to their private business statuses. The Canadian Federal Government has announced significant investments in emergency support programs such as the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), the Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP), the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), and recently, the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA).

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses>

The CEC recognizes the climbing facilities' very specific challenges and the limitation of our role as a not-for-profit sport organization. CEC hopes to become a partner in lobbying for additional support for small business in the sport industry. The Task Force will be looking into how we can coordinate national efforts in lobbying and education.

Frequency of communications

Based on the survey, CEC and its Task Force will be communicating by email with climbing facilities no more than once a week, and only when new information comes to light. Should you desire not to receive these updates anymore, please reply and we will take your contact off the list.

Sincerely,

Christiane Marceau

She/Her - Elle

Executive Director - Directrice executive

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**Please communicate with me in the official language of your choosing.*

**Prière de communiquer avec moi dans la langue officielle de votre choix.*

