

Faculty of Applied Health Sciences Centre for Sport Capacity

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CSC Dialogue- What is Sport Capacity

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Fall, 2010

The term 'Sport Capacity' has been used extensively the past few years by sport organizations because Sport Canada identified capacity as one of the four pillars in its vision for building growth and strength in Canadian Sport. Sport managers and scholars have wrestled with the definition of sport capacity and how it may relate to them as academics, sport leaders, and administrators. Did the administrators of Sport Canada use the term capacity to mean tangible entities such as building infrastructure, technology, and/or financial sustainability? Or did they refer to capacity as an intangible entity in organizational attributes, such as cultural identities? Recognizing that human resources in administrators, volunteers, athletes, and coaches can be referred to as both tangible and intangible I acknowledge that defining the term can be ambiguous at best.

To be honest when I was interviewed for this position I had a very vague idea on capacity in sport save for the capacity of a stadium or the amount of equipment required for a practice or a regatta. Being involved in high performance sport for much of my life I never viewed capacity and sport in the same breath. It wasn't until I began to do a little research on the buzzword of this millennium in capacity and sport. As I interviewed my own colleagues it became clear that I was not alone in this thinking. Water cooler discussions ensued and we still have a murky idea on capacity in sport. It is apparent however that every thought on capacity holds a sense of truth for each individual. I believe that we may never nail down a precise definition on sport capacity however with the continuation of dialogue in this forum we may come close to a meeting of the minds on this topic.