

August 25, 2011-08-25

Dear Dasha:

We wish to address your message to the national Taekwondo community.

You state that those that have filed the legal challenge: "I can assure the Taekwondo athlete community that the legal application has not been brought forward by individuals who support the forward momentum we have worked too hard to achieve, and they have not been instrumental in our achievements over the last 10 months." Have you once approached any "individual" personally to find out firsthand what are the important issues in dispute or have you formed this opinion from hearsay from the current board?

We have talked to and continue to talk to athletes, coaches, referees regarding the concerns and do not come at this problem because we are self-centred. Where was your outrage and concern when the over \$1,000,000 in OTP Funding was lost? Was that the action of a forward moving board? Where was voice of the athletes during that complete disaster or do you consider this to be an example of athlete centred decision?

The OTP funding was secured through three years of studying, planning and consultation by garnering as much input as possible from many Taekwondo coaches, athletes, PSO presidents, OTP, sport Canada and sport scientists (as esteemed as Istvan Balyi. The OTP believed in and approved that plan for significant new funding. From out in the general community it appears that the firing of the HP Director and resultant loss of OTP funding was in response to the Board having no political influence on the head coach selection for one of their friends. Oh wait, you have strong ties to this head coach! Could some people surmise that this is why there was no public announcement or outrage by you, the athlete rep? Where was the voice of the athlete?

You state: "Taekwondo Canada is finally on track to become a sport body that can be an international leader, and set an example as opposed to one that is lagging behind." In 2008 Canada was the #1 overall team in the PATU region while in 2010 Canada ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Pan-Ams and that without the participation of the powerhouse teams of USA and Cuba. Canada with it's HP plan in place was poised to become not only a top 10 but a top 5 nation on the world stage.

You state: "I remember writing to the national team athletes that Taekwondo Canada only exists because of, and for, the athletes, and that its actions should reflect this reality." While the peak of the pyramid is those very elite athletes, you cannot forget that at the base are the many everyday recreational practitioners that significantly contribute to the funding of Taekwondo Canada and the elite athletes. Probably 90% of these practitioners will never make it to the national stage and a large majority will never compete at all. To dismiss the extreme importance of these participants to the future success of the top of the pyramid is quite self centred not athlete centred. Without consideration of this group there never will be a structured developmental and feeder system to create depth at the elite level.

You have failed to mention that the legal action has letters of support from Taekwondo Associations of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick along with NWT and First Nations. The support for your board comes from Alberta, Manitoba, NFLD and PEI along with the CF. Your support groups represent about 16% of the population. This contributes to a critical flaw in

your Strategic Planning retreat. Within a small group of same politically minded individuals you will reach a “group think” state of mind. You failed to include or even invite contrary views from your “opponents”. When the HP planning was in progress the invitees were there because of their expertise and experience not because they were from the same political camp. You need to be inclusive in order to get buy in of any long term plan let alone develop a viable plan. Your current board has marginalized and alienated the large majority of the provincial associations. Your long term plan will mirror your current reality.

The athlete rep used to be elected every year and you were elected in early 2010. There was a very close election that was contested and a complaint filed with the Sanction Committee. The Sanction Committee rightly upheld your election but recommended some changes to ensure a fair and transparent election process that could not be interfered with by the politicians. Has the policy changed? Why has there been no election since early 2010?

It is unfortunate that Taekwondo Canada uses the website as a vehicle for dissemination of propaganda and then turns off the comments feature to not allow that communication that you find it important to establish. It has left us no option but to respond in the manner that is available to us.

Sincerely

{Jointly authorized and approved by:}

1. Master Dale Halewich, President, Saskatchewan Taekwondo Association
2. Grandmaster Dae Lim, President, British Columbia Taekwondo Association
- ~~3. Mr. Jean Faucher, President, Quebec Taekwondo Federation~~  
**see last page for update**
4. Grandmaster Hwa Sun Myung, President, Ontario Taekwondo Association
5. Master Allie Vaughn, President, New Brunswick Taekwondo Association
6. Master Phil Power, President, Nova Scotia Taekwondo Association
7. Mr. Andy Ing, President, Northwest Territories Taekwondo Association

Cc: Eva Havaris, with the request to post this letter on the Taekwondo Canada website



## FÉDÉRATION QUÉBÉCOISE DE TAEKWON DO

Montreal, September 30<sup>th</sup> 2011,

Dear Mr. Wayne Mitchell and Mr. Hwa Sun Myung,

I am writing this letter to ask that you immediately withdraw my name and the Taekwondo Quebec Federation's name from the letters that were published on these sites.

You will find the references below:

1. The Dasha Press release response and the FitzGerald Press release response final on this site <http://www.saskwtf.ca>.
2. «The Letter in response to Dasha Peregoudova's message to the National Team Members and the Canadian Taekwondo Community » and the «Letter in response to a message from Sean Fitzgerald »on this site <http://www.taekwondo.on.ca>.

Respectfully yours,

**Jean Faucher,**  
President of the Quebec Taekwondo Federation