

August 19, 2011

Dear Eva Havaris:

On August 15, 2011, Taekwondo Canada released their national newsletter which included an article written by Sean FitzGerald, titled "Why do we serve?" In the interest of transparency and fairness, we are compelled to release this collective letter to provide a fair rebuttal to the errors and misleading statements in Sean's personal viewpoint article contained in the newsletter.

In our opinion, Taekwondo Canada has been using their web site as not only a method to pat themselves on the back at every turn, but to disseminate one side of the story with no opportunity of rebuttal.

The Taekwondo Canada newsletter is accessible to individuals across the country, most of who are interested in the sport and martial art of Taekwondo, not politics and governance. If the newsletter contains an article regarding governance, that is one matter. However, Taekwondo Canada has used an article related to governance to provide incomplete data regarding an ongoing court application, and to point fingers. This is unacceptable.

We request that Taekwondo Canada immediately removes Sean FitzGerald's article from the newsletter, and posts this our letter on their website so that those people who have already received the newsletter can have our facts as well.

Lawsuits within the Taekwondo Community

Nobody wants legal actions, however, sometimes they are necessary to ensure due process. Sean takes the high road in stating that members should be concerned that the current Saskatchewan lawsuit is costing both sides tens of thousands of dollars. He further states that "it appears a sect within Taekwondo prefers to waste precious time, energy and invaluable funds on elections that could and should be spent on member programs and services."

Sean Fitzgerald, a 3rd degree black belt, has failed to mention or take responsibility for the extreme financial damage during his short tenure as President of Taekwondo Canada. Yet, he is now the current treasurer of Taekwondo Canada, in charge of Taekwondo Canada's funds??
Facts:

- Taekwondo Canada lost OTP (Own the Podium) funding as a result of his action to fire the High Performance Director. This loss of OTP funds over a four year Olympic Cycle amounts to over one million dollars (\$1, 000, 000.00). A moral and ethical president would have taken responsibility and resigned for this travesty.
- There is still an active legal action against Taekwondo Canada by the fired High Performance Director for wrongful dismissal. In September of 2010, Taekwondo Canada had reported that they have budgeted \$15,000 for this dismissal. The fired HP Director has reported to us that he is asking for \$25,000 for dismissal plus \$15,000 in his legal costs. Taekwondo Canada could be responsible for \$60,000 including their legal costs, all because they did not follow the OTP High Performance Agreement and Sean Fitzgerald unilaterally fired the HP Director.
 - This was a disaster for the HP Taekwondo Program. It will take four years to recover to 2009 levels not considering the four years of positive development lost to the tier one and tier two elite athletes and coaches. Canada was poised to be not only in the top 10 but conceivable top five.

- Evidence of this tragedy is also the fact that Canada failed to qualify even one spot so far for the 2012 Olympics under the current leadership of President Simon Chung, Vice President of Sport Tommy Chang, and Treasurer Sean Fitzgerald.
- During Sean's short time as president, he dismissed two other head office employees. One of those dismissals required a significant termination payout, money which should have been spent on member programs and services.
- During Sean's term as president, Taekwondo Canada didn't budget money to send the Junior National Team to the World Juniors. Instead, Provincial Associations and Individual Masters donated money to Taekwondo Canada to help send these athletes to Mexico.

We urge the members to pursue truth – ask Taekwondo Canada for their detailed financial statements, and to explain and account for their shortfalls and spending patterns.

Saskatchewan Court Application – the issues

Ask yourself “Why would little old Saskatchewan file a lawsuit and what does it hope to accomplish?”

Sean Fitzgerald indicates that the Court Application wants only one item (elections) overturned. This is incorrect. He implies that Saskatchewan is alone in this matter. If this were the case, this matter would have been forgotten before it started. The letters of support for Saskatchewan's legal action includes:

- British Columbia
- Ontario
- Quebec
- Nova Scotia
- New Brunswick
- Northwest Territories
- First Nations Association

According to Statistics Canada, these provinces/territories/associations represent about 84% of the population!

Here are additional facts:

Taekwondo Canada called an AGM in Prince Edward Island for the middle of the week on September 23, 2010. The voter list was included in that notice along with the agenda. There were 18 voting members listed: the 10 Provinces, First Nations, NWT, Athlete rep, Canadian Forces, VP Sport, VP Martial Art, Secretary General and President.

It is required to have 10 members personally present to have a quorum for the AGM. However, 10 members signed a petition requesting a last minute postponement of the AGM due to the short notice, inconvenient location, among other reasons.

Knowing that Quorum would not be met, we feel that Taekwondo Canada called an unscheduled Board meeting right before the AGM and added additional individual voting members in order to stack the election in their favour. It is convenient that the members that were added 'knew' to be in PEI that day to attend the AGM, yet there was never any national announcement of membership applications. Each of these new individual members had the same voting power as Quebec and Ontario. Do we have a democracy or a “self-perpetuating board”?

Alberta Court Case

Sean refers to the Court Case in Alberta, where "...both sides spent well over \$80,000 on legal fees to overturn the board, the membership re-elected a similar board to stay the course." We have confirmation of the following from one of the members who initiated this lawsuit:

- The lawsuit was necessary since the 2009 board, with ATA President at the time Simon Chung, held an illegal Special AGM at which they changed the Provincial bylaws and extended their term in office (Master Simon Chung's term, the sitting President, was extended 2 years).
- The court overturned the illegal bylaw changes, ordered reinstatement of the original bylaws and ordered a new election according to the original bylaws.
- Many Board members ran for re-election and were successful, however there were many changes in the executive including a new President, and the original bylaws remained in place.
- the costs were actually under \$60,000 and still remain an unsettled matter.

With a new President and new Executive Members, and the original bylaws, how does this satisfy Sean's statement to "stay the course"? It is irrelevant that many board members remained – the fact is, due process was followed and there was transparency.

Loss of Funding

Sean's statements regarding loss of all provincial funding amounts to fear mongering. Bringing up the subject that the provinces could lose their funding if Taekwondo Canada loses its Sport Canada recognition is a misleading statement meant to shock.

Sport Canada has confirmed that if the Saskatchewan Court Application is successful, Taekwondo Canada will not lose Sport Canada Funding.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Sean reports that Saskatchewan's Court Application (e.g. a new election) will destroy Taekwondo Canada. He also states that "Instead we have famously focused on the personal will and inner goals of a select few based upon their affiliation." It is his group that through the ethically questionable actions of adding voting members an hour before the election that acted in the self interest of a few. These current directors that hang on to their perceived power and have high-jacked our Taekwondo Canada only have 16% support of the population from the provinces of

- Alberta,
- Manitoba
- Newfoundland,
- PEI.

Saskatchewan requested an out of court settlement that included a new election of directors. Let true members of the provinces decide their leaders not some artificial created stacked list. The legal proceedings and the costs associated with this court application would have been significantly reduced if a new election was called.

If the current Taekwondo Canada Board of Directors (and Executive) is confident that they are truly the chosen representatives, why don't they simply resign, hold a new election, and move forward.

If democracy re-elects them, then that is fine. If Sean is confident that everything he is stating is correct, why would he not want to save Taekwondo Canada tens of thousands of dollars, follow due process and proper procedure and why is he afraid to have a new election?

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: Provincial Presidents



FÉDÉRATION QUÉBÉCOISE DE TAEKWON DO

Montreal, September 30th 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