



Hon. Natalie Jameson  
Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning

3 December 2021

**Subject: Action on racism in Island sports**

Dear Minister Jameson:

Earlier this week, Islanders were shocked and disturbed by reports that racial slurs were directed towards a Black athlete during a recent hockey game on PEI. We join our voices with the many Islanders who are concerned and who desire immediate action to remedy the harm being caused in Island sports and in the community.

Under the *Education Act*, the Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning may issue directives to provide and coordinate education and administrative services. One such directive is the Minister's Directive on the PEI School Athletic Association ("PEISAA").

We are urging you and your Department to review the existing directive and the policies made thereunder. In particular, we would like your Department to consider amendments that would create greater accountability for school athletes who engage in unacceptable and unsportspersonlike conduct, whether this conduct occurs at a PEISAA-sanctioned event or in an out-of-school athletic environment. In practical terms, this could mean clearer remedial actions (such as mandatory education through the school system for offending athletes) and/or disciplinary actions (such as suspension or ineligibility for participation in PEISAA competition, including in other sports, as a result of unsportspersonlike conduct).

Of course, these measures are not substitutes for improved and ongoing education for all school-aged children and youth with respect to racism and other forms of discrimination. We also ask, due to the potential added work burden on teaching staff, that you provide appropriate resources to teachers in implementing this change to the Minister's Directive.

Racism is a learned behaviour, and we would like to know what further action you are taking to help students unlearn harmful prejudices and racist attitudes and build a more inclusive school environment.

Sincerely,

Peter Bevan-Baker, MLA  
New Haven-Rocky Point  
Leader of the Official Opposition

Stephen Howard, MLA  
Summerside-South Drive  
Official Opposition Critic for Education and Lifelong Learning