



**MASTERS SWIMMING ONTARIO**

23-May-2017

**OPEN LETTER to the Board of Masters Swimming Canada (MSC)**

Carol Fitzwilliam  
MSC President

**Re: MSC's Disrespectful treatment of Ontario Masters clubs and swimmers at CMSC 2017-Quebec**

Dear Carol,

The MSO Board expresses its strong protest to MSC concerning the disrespectful way that Ontario Masters Clubs and swimmers were treated by MSC at our National Championships. To find out on day two of competition that Ontario Clubs would not be recognized when there had been ample time to clarify their status was unacceptable. A last-minute decision by SNC and MSC is not an acceptable excuse.

The meet package never suggested that MSC's Ontario member clubs or registrants would be treated differently from any other. Ontario swimmers paid the SCCM fee, submitted their information, including Club name, and all to ensure that they could swim at their own national championship. We are aware that the question of club status was raised to MSC by multiple swimmers and clubs. All were assured that their club efforts would be recognized. MSC reneged on its assurances at the last minute, well past the withdrawal deadline and it wasn't till day 2 of the meet that MSC announced that Ontario clubs would not be eligible to compete for team banners.

Some Ontario Clubs have said that they would not have attended this meet had they been forewarned that their clubs efforts would not be recognized. Can we remind you that all Ontario Masters Clubs and swimmer registrants continue to be in good standing with MSC and that Ontario constitutes the largest Provincial Group in Canada? Also, the 37 Clubs and 235 swimmers from Ontario made up more than 35% of the attendees, without whom the National Championship would have been a pale shadow of a Championship? You, MSC, benefited by Ontario swimmers' participation and yet by treating us this way you registered contempt rather than support for your membership.

Sincerely,

Brian Sheridan, President, Masters Swimming Ontario

CC: Doug Hannum, Executive Director, MSC