



November 14, 2023

Mr. Baltej Dhillon
Chair
WorkSafeBC
6951 Westminster Highway
Richmond, B.C.

Dear Mr. Baltej Dhillon,

My name is Reid Reinholdt, Vice President and Executive Director of the National Lacrosse League Players' Association (NLLPA) and current Player in the National Lacrosse League (NLL). The NLLPA is the collective bargaining representative for all lacrosse players within the NLL (including players on the Vancouver Warriors). I am writing to you on behalf of the NLLPA to express our strong support for making workers' compensation coverage for professional athletes in British Columbia a high priority.

Since 2017, professional athletes in our province have faced a significant challenge. They have been denied access to the courts as a remedy for sports-related injuries and, more importantly, have been excluded from the workers' compensation system. This exclusion has left our athletes without a proper recourse for injuries sustained while performing their duties. Currently, employers are not held responsible for the effects of injuries sustained in the line of duty, and the Supreme Court's decision has also protected them from legal action in the courts. This situation has now left our members extremely vulnerable when they play in this province. These circumstances are fundamentally unfair and untenable for our athletes, who put their bodies on the line for the love of their sport.

We must also emphasize that in the United States, coverage for professional athletes under workers' compensation is mandatory. When our province's sports franchises compete in the US, they adhere to this requirement. It is time for British Columbia to align itself with international norms and provide our athletes with the same level of protection.

Furthermore, it's essential to recognize that the province's residents are currently subsidizing the ownership of professional sports teams as they pay for workplace injuries sustained by our athletes. This burden should not fall on the taxpayers but should be borne by the teams and organizations benefiting from the hard work and dedication of these athletes.

We implore the board to prioritize this initiative and address this issue promptly. Professional athletes, whom the province supports and cheers for when the lights are turned on, are being left behind once the arenas, fields, courts, and rinks close, and the game is over. It's time to rectify this situation and ensure that our athletes are protected and fairly compensated for their dedication and sacrifices.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and we look forward to your support in making workers' compensation coverage for professional athletes a high priority in British Columbia. Should you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please feel free to contact me at reinholdt@nllpa.com or at 604-897-5517.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reid Reinholdt', with a stylized, cursive style.

Reid Reinholdt
Vice President and Executive Director
National Lacrosse League Players Association

cc: Anne Naser, President & CEO, WorkSafeBC
Lori Guiton, Senior Policy Analyst, WorkSafeBC
Brian Ramsay, Executive Director, Canadian Football League Players Association
Robert DeGregory, Senior Counsel, National Hockey League Players Association
Larry Landon, Executive Director, Professional Hockey Players' Association
Johnny Andris, Deputy General Counsel, Major League Soccer Players Association