



ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Supporting Our Athletes Since 1977

The Government works to help Canadians participate and excel in sport, strengthening the unique contribution that sport makes to Canadian identity, culture and society.

For more than 30 years, the Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) has supported the pursuit of excellence through its contribution to improved Canadian athlete performances at major international sporting events, enabling athletes to combine their sport and academic or working careers while training intensively in pursuit of world-class performances.

Since 1977, the Government of Canada's (GoC) Athlete Assistance Program has provided over \$292 million to 10,556 athletes.

In particular, the AAP provides financial assistance to Canadian high-performance athletes. This assistance goes *directly* to athletes and helps them with their training and competition needs. The AAP budget for 2009-2010 is \$27 million, which includes \$7 million for Winter Sport Athletes.

The AAP is the only Sport Canada program that provides direct financial support to athletes. Over 1,800 athletes in more than 80 sport disciplines are approved for AAP support each year.

DID YOU KNOW?

- **Since 1977, the Government of Canada's Athlete Assistance Program has provided over \$292 million to 10,556 athletes.**
- **The Government of Canada is the largest single contributor in Canada to sport. In 2008-09, the Government's investment reached an all-time high of more than \$163 million.**

