

To whom it may concern,

This past week I have been following the events regarding Jennifer Carroll, Dave Johnson, and Swimming Canada.

First of all, I am going to tell you a bit about myself. My name is Doug Wake. I am the swimmer that was deselected from the Commonwealth Games Team twice this past summer. The second time occurring one week prior to my departure for the Games in Manchester, England. I have recently retired (due to last summers complications) and have been doing a lot of thinking about how I ended up where I am today. I had my future planned. I made the Commonwealth Games Team. I was going to get my Senior Card Funding and begin my next two years of preparation for the Olympic games in Athens 2004, but one phone call changed my life completely.

I was taken off the team and replaced by Nadine Rolland because of the legal and political pressure that Nadine Rolland put on Swimming Canada. I had not mentally and physically recovered from the ordeal by the time of my next and final competition, which was only two weeks after the whole Commonwealth Games selection incident took place. In great part due to this, I never made my carding time, which would have allowed me the opportunity to receive funding for this upcoming year. With no funding I was forced to retire. I must admit that the last six months of my life have been extremely difficult, both mentally and physically. I swam competitively for eighteen years and now I have been forced out of my sport because politics got involved when they obviously should not have. It is very hard to go out of a sport that you have dedicated your entire life to, especially when it is NOT OWN YOUR OWN TERMS!

I am not here to plead my own personal story. I am only writing this letter because I am disgusted with what Jennifer Carroll and Nadine Roland are doing to the sport which I still very much love. I am also appalled that the Federal Government is supporting the actions of these two athletes, while not defending the people who have spent their entire lives to better this sport in Canada.

I have thought up some questions that I think you should take a serious look at and ask yourself:

- 1) Why is it that Jennifer Carroll and Nadine Rolland are the only two swimmers that seem to play the “Quebec Card?” If a swimmer from any other province had committed this offence would there be the same level of government interference?
- 2) Has anyone talked to Quebec swimmers and coaches to learn about the past issues of these athletes? Will their voices be heard without any threats of being blacklisted by their local peers?
- 3) Do you know all the rules these two swimmers broke at the games? Do you know the actual Commonwealth Games regulations regarding flag-waving at the Games? If so, then why are you defending Jennifer Carroll?

- 4) Have you talked with the swimmers, coaching staff, Commonwealth support staff, parents of athletes and general spectators that were at the Games? How did they feel about what this athlete did? What was their interpretation? There are two sides to every story!
- 5) Do you know the one event Jennifer Carroll swam at the Games is not even a recognized Olympic event, and that swimming an Olympic event is required to be considered for funding/carding by the federal government?
- 6) Why are politicians getting involved when they do not even understand the situation or have all the information?
- 7) Where was my support from the government when I met all the selection requirements for the Commonwealth Games Team? Nadine Rolland complains that because she was injured, she should be placed on the team. She had 10,000 dollars in legal support from the Quebec government! How was I supposed to compete with that? Especially when I thought my competing was to be done in the pool, not in the courts!! After all, are results in the sport of swimming not based on performance first?
- 8) Why do we have the Athletes Disputes Resolution Council? Although it was created to solve athletic disputes, especially with regards to the Commonwealth Games, it actually created more problems.
- 9) Should I take my story to the press, and if so, will the federal government support me this time?
- 10) Do you know how much this has affected my life? I have not even received an apology!
- 11) Jennifer Carroll and Nadine Rolland are trying to play the federal government and the press like puppets. Why not find out the truth before making such threats? i.e. withholding 1.78 million dollars in funding unless Dave Johnson apologizes and/or is fired.
- 12) Did you know that Dave Johnson and Swimming Canada were following the correct procedures regarding punishment for violating Commonwealth Games and Team Canada codes of conduct in Manchester, England?
- 13) Where is the support for Head Coach Dave Johnson, who was just following protocol in regards to disciplinary matters?
- 14) Why should Dave Johnson be punished, reprimanded or fired for all the problems/controversy that Jennifer Carroll and Nadine Rolland have caused in the last 8 months?

- 15) Does the government have the right to bend guidelines, rules, punishments, or selection criteria only for certain individuals with political ties? Certain federal and provincial government officials are advocating that we should take away rules, criteria, and selection committees. Instead, these government officials are giving way to those who have the best lawyers or raise the most controversy in the media!
- 16) Why doesn't the federal government show support for the athletes that are proudly representing and swimming fast for this country? Why instead is the federal government supporting a swimmer who has broken the rules of a prestigious international event while representing our country?
- 17) Why is the federal government jeopardizing the future of Canadian swimmers and coaches by threatening to withhold crucial funding based on one athlete's decision to break a well-known rule regarding conduct at the Commonwealth Games?
- 18) **DOES THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REALLY HAVE ALL THE FACTS? HONESTLY? DO THEY KNOW THE WHOLE STORY, WHICH STARTED BACK IN MARCH AT THE COMMONWEALTH TRIALS?**

My purpose in writing this letter is to make you stop and think. I am not looking for justice or retribution for myself personally. I simply do not wish to see someone else's dreams be ripped away. I hope you take the time to answer the questions I have raised properly and truthfully. It is my personal opinion that politics have no place in sport. Let the athletes' performance and conduct in and out of the pool determine their opportunities, not their lawyers and politicians.

If you have any questions (and I hope you do), please do not hesitate to contact me. I am looking forward to your reply, and learning that you have discovered the truth about these incidents.

Sincerely,

Doug Wake

[dougwake@hotmail.com](mailto:dougwake@hotmail.com)

\*Please request in your reply for my phone number.

cc. Mr. Paul DeVillers  
cc. Mrs. Shelia Copps  
cc. Mr. David Tkachuk

cc. [Coderre.D@parl.ca](mailto:Coderre.D@parl.ca)  
cc. [Duceppe.G@parl.ca](mailto:Duceppe.G@parl.ca)  
cc. [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)  
cc. [Dion.S@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Dion.S@parl.gc.ca)  
cc. [natloffice@swimming.ca](mailto:natloffice@swimming.ca)  
cc. Tom Johnson  
cc. Steve Price  
cc. David deVilieger  
cc. Allan Maki