

Growing Minor Football in Saskatchewan Backgrounder

In a 2002 'Public Opinion Survey on Youth and Sport' commissioned by the Canadian Centre for Ethics and Sport it was revealed that 92 per cent of Canadians believe that community sport can contribute to the development of positive values in youth. In Saskatchewan, minor football is a sport that has shown renewed interest in recent years. Over the last decade, the number of participants in the Regina Minor Football program has tripled.

The Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport recognizes the role that sport plays in the social and physical growth of youth in our province. With enthusiasm and interest in football at an all-time high after the Roughrider's recent Grey Cup victory, the Ministry has hired **Saskatchewan Roughrider Gene Makowsky** as a consultant to determine the role of minor football in realizing the potential of Saskatchewan's youth population.

Mr. Makowsky will develop a report that:

1. Provides a statistical overview of participation levels in organized minor football programs in Saskatchewan;
2. Examines barriers to participation and gaps in minor football in the province;
3. Investigates ways to overcome these barriers and advance minor football, especially in inner-city areas;

Mr. Makowsky will consult with major stakeholders such as Sask Sport Inc., the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA) and Football Saskatchewan.

Gene Makowsky

Gene Makowsky is an offensive lineman for the Saskatchewan Roughriders. Born and raised in Saskatoon, Mr. Makowsky attended the University of Saskatchewan, where he joined the U of S Huskies and helped lead the way to two Hardy Cup Championships in 1991 and 1994. He joined the Roughriders in 1995. Mr. Makowsky has won numerous honours, including being named a CFL All-star for four consecutive seasons. As offensive lineman, he helped bring the Grey Cup home to Saskatchewan in 2007. He is about to enter his fourteenth consecutive season.

Mr. Makowsky and his family live in Regina. He also works as a substitute teacher and donates his time to charitable causes.