



Remarks by President, Ben Sennik at the Canadian Cricket Association AGM November 25th, 2007

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the 115th Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Cricket Association. We are delighted to have you all with us this morning.

For the past three years, my reports to the AGM have been tinged with some somber points. Essentially, I view the past three years as having been "re-building" years for the CCA. This year, and on behalf of the board of directors, I am able to report significant progress on several fronts. Cricket is on its way to becoming one of the larger sports in Canada - and there is an increasing recognition of that fact in both the media and the corporate world.

Let me start with some highlights

1. I am sincerely pleased to announce that the board of directors has unanimously approved the membership application from Prince Edward Island and PEI is now a fully-fledged member of the CCA.

This brings the number of provincial members up to 9. Please welcome to the meeting Mr. David Doughton, a representative of the PEI Cricket Association.
2. For the first-ever time in the history of the CCA, we now have a full-time, salaried chief executive officer. We recognize - and the international cricket council also recognizes - that cricket in Canada has grown to the level where this position is a critical requirement - which will enable us to move even further forward. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Atul Ahuja to the meeting as CEO of the CCA.
3. We have also recently appointed a new, and full-time, national coach, Mr. Pubudu Dassanayake. We consider this a "Made-in-Canada" solution to the need for a national coach - because in addition to his extensive test and international career for Sri Lanka, he has played for Canada, and we can now consider him through-and-through Canadian. Please welcome Pubudu Dassanayake.
4. Your board of directors has yesterday approved

a name change for the CCA - from the "Canadian Cricket Association" to "Cricket Canada" while this may seem to some a small change or somewhat bureaucratic, it does move us in line with other major sports and provides a bilingual element which is appreciated in many circles.

5. In addition to that name change, your board of directors believes that the existing constitution has become somewhat outdated and is in need of reworking to bring it into the 21st century. The review process has already commenced, with the goal of presenting it for approval at the 2008 AGM.
6. The outstanding selection criteria issue has been resolved, which we believe will bring an equitable process for the country-wide selection of deserving players.
7. Your board of directors has approved acceptance of the ICC invitation to Canada to host the 2012 Under-19 World Cup. We believe this will be a valuable milestone for Canadian cricket since it means we will be able to welcome representative teams from the full-member ICC countries to Canadian shores. The event will also attract cricket fans from all parts of world, thus adding the strong element of the substantial tourist revenues coming to the country.
8. Five of Canada's under-19 players were given the opportunity through the courtesy of the Board of Control in India to train at Indian National Cricket Academy in Bangalore. We hope to be able to offer this opportunity to even more of our young cricketers in the future.
9. We are extremely close to being able to announce a substantial sponsorship agreement for Canadian cricket with a leading financial institution. The final details are being resolved at this moment, and we expect to be able to make a joint announcement in the very near future.
10. Our funding application (SFAFF 111) at Sports Canada has been approved pending official

confirmation, which again is expected very shortly. This will mean that cricket has been approved as a major amateur sport in Canada and will enable us to receive annual grants from Sports Canada. I am also pleased to report that we shall be filing - before November 30 - the SFAFF 4 application which will cover the years 2008 to 2012. Amongst us this morning is Mr. Patrick Healy, a senior program officer from Sports Canada. Mr. Healy has been of tremendous help to us in the completion of the various aspects of funding application. Mr. Healy please accept our warm and grateful thanks.

11. I am happy to report that for the year ending September 30, 2007, financially, we were able to maintain a very satisfactory course. With the advent of the World Cup in March this year in the West Indies and the Pre-World Cup preparations, which began as early as October 2006, it placed a severe burden on our financial resources. The participation in the World Cup cost us some \$510,000. Secondly, the upsurge in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar, we lost approximately \$38,000 in the currency exchange transactions. I believe, despite all the impediments your board managed the financial affairs admirably. A small loss of \$17,000 has been projected.

I'd like now to touch upon Canada's position "on the pitch", as it were, with just a few comments about this year's World Cup in the West Indies. Together with several other ICC Associate countries, we were often labeled "minnows" by the international press. While there is clearly still a gulf which exists between Associate Member cricket standards and those of most (perhaps not "all") of the full member countries, I believe that Canada was far from disgraced in the two games against England and New Zealand.

Since then, we have played ODI's and Intercontinental Cup 4-day games against Holland, UAE, Kenya and Namibia. The results have been mixed - but one major positive to take from this period is that we are learning a tremendous amount about the possible future make-up of the Canadian squad. This will stand us in good stead as we now focus on qualification for the 2011 world cup, via the 2009 ICC trophy.

As far as the future is concerned on the pitch, we expect to be welcoming West Indies and Bermuda in 2008 as part of the ICC's future tours program - and negotiations are also underway for "A" team tours of Canada by India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. We

will keep you informed of developments.

Over the coming months and years, we will also be concentrating on developing our Under-19 cricketers and expanding the presence of women's cricket across the country. For the national team our main focus will be to qualify in 2009 for the World Cup 2011.

Also, we plan to be able to introduce turf wickets to both Vancouver and Montréal in the 2008/2009 period - this will be a major step forward for cricket nationally across Canada. It will be our sincere endeavour that for the U19 World Cup 2012 event, other Canadian cities having the ICC approved grounds, should be given equal opportunity to share of the games.

Finally, some words of thanks to several individuals and organizations which have been extremely supportive and helpful over the past year. First, to the ICC America office and to Martin Vieira in particular who have given the CCA their cooperation whenever it has been needed and requested. I thank Martin especially for his detailed input into our SFAFF 111 application to Sports Canada.

I would like to give also a vote of thanks to Howard Petrook who unfortunately resigned as 1st Vice President of the CCA earlier this year. Howard has dedicated a tremendous amount of time and effort to the organization. His input will be sorely missed.

In closing, my thanks to the scores of individuals and volunteers who are too numerous to name, but who have helped in many diverse areas. My sincere thanks to you all.

This is the fourth AGM, which I have had the privilege to preside. In my opinion by far this has been the most successful AGM proceeding ever. Together we have reached to some far reaching decisions. The laurels of success goes to each and every member of the board around the table. I applaud you and congratulate you for your valuable input, decisiveness and far sightedness.

And finally, my thanks for the confidence you have placed in me as President of the CCA. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you. Whatever has been achieved has been through the joint force of the team at the helm of the executive board. My sincere thanks to each and every board member for his remarkable contribution.

Thank you.