



To the Standing Committee Members for HUMA,

I'm writing this letter on behalf of Sportball Calgary, one of 20 Canadian franchises of Sportball Ltd. We are a company that coaches sports primarily to young children (16 months – 6 years) and have been operating our business in Canada for 27 years. (www.sportball.ca/calgary)

I'd like to express our interest in seeing a change to the eligibility criteria for the Canada Summer Jobs program. We were successful and very appreciative to receive grant money from the program in 2021 under the modified eligibility criteria that was in place that year as our company attempted to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. However, we could not qualify for the CSJ in 2022 or 2023. The size of our company and the times at which we can offer our programs to the public prevents us from offering full-time (30+ hours /week) employment opportunities to any new staff.

The young age groups (16 month – 6 years) that most of our business revenue comes from are only available to attend extra-curricular programs, like Sportball, at certain times in the day because of their parents' work schedules, nap times, preschool/kindergarten times, etc. This obviously impacts the hours of work we can offer employees. We meet all other eligibility requirements, however, due to the nature of our industry, we are unable to offer new employees the required minimum of 30 hours/week.

We also can and do offer our summer staff continued employment after the grant has closed. The majority of our staff are secondary and post-secondary students who enjoy the benefit of part-time employment with Sportball throughout their school year. Our employees generally work evenings and weekends (throughout the year) and choose Sportball as a place of employment because it works well with their studies and/or other sport and study commitments.

The final consideration is the fact that changes in the job market in recent years have meant a shift in employment preferences for many 15-30 year olds. Many of the applicants for our job postings are NOT interested in full-time employment. They prefer part-time employment even during the summer, which allows them the time to pursue other interests and fulfill other obligations. This factor further magnifies the challenge we face with the current eligibility requirements.

My request is for a permanent change in eligibility to 12+ hours/week. This would allow businesses like ours to benefit from the CSJ program just like businesses in other industries. It would also allow us to continue to be a top employer for many students across the country for years to come.

I appreciate your time and consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

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