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**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MCLAREN INDEPENDENT REVIEW TEAM DELIVERS A FRAMEWORK FOR CULTURE CHANGE TO GYMNASTICS CANADA**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- More than 1,000 voices representing the Canadian gymnastics community provided feedback, including 442 gymnasts along with coaches, judges, parents, GymCan staff, and national sport leaders.
- The gymnastics community demands change and strongly supports that a rigorous Independent Culture Review be undertaken.
- Most gymnasts report positive experiences; however, examples of abuse and maltreatment persist at all levels. Coaches, judges, and staff have also experienced maltreatment.
- Abuse and maltreatment of gymnasts appears most pronounced in Women's Artistic Gymnastics and Women's Rhythmic Gymnastics.
- The Gymnastics Culture Review should be led by an interdisciplinary team and take a Human Rights based approach.
- Every level of the sport and its stakeholders demands attention, from recreational to high-performance clubs to GymCan itself and how the sport is governed in Canada.

**Toronto, Ontario – January 25, 2023** – McLaren Global Sport Solutions (MGSS) today provided Gymnastics Canada with a detailed framework to begin the challenging task of implementing culture change at all levels of Canadian gymnastics.

“We heard it at every level of the sport: change is urgently needed in gymnastics,” said Professor Richard McLaren, O.C., CEO of MGSS. “Our report differs from other sports reviews in that it provides GymCan with an implementation plan and structure for change that reflects the concerns, priorities and solutions expressed by the gymnastics community.”

Titled ***A Framework for Change: How to Achieve a Culture Shift for Gymnastics in Canada***, the report provides GymCan and Provincial and Territorial Organisations (PTO) with the insights, findings, and recommendations needed to begin the critical and necessary work of changing the culture of the sport. The report offers GymCan a detailed Culture Review Framework which includes a total of 46 recommendations, each with supporting rationale.



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“This is just the beginning for GymCan and their PTO members. There is much work that needs to be done to implement the recommendations in our report. Our hope is that the investment of time and resources in the Gymnastics Culture Review will ensure that the concerns, priorities, and solutions expressed by the gymnastics community in this report are finally acted upon and real change can happen,” said Professor McLaren.

“On behalf of the entire team, I would like to thank all those who participated in this review. I trust that it reflects the collective voice and impassioned pleas for change of more than 1,000 members of the gymnastics community in Canada who spoke up. Without their courage and passion for the sport, this important step to change would not have been possible,” said Professor McLaren.

The report also includes a Safe Sport Policy Review — a comprehensive analysis of GymCan’s current national Safe Sport policies and procedures, including reporting procedures, case management procedures, codes of conduct and educational requirements.

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The full report is available on the [McLaren Global Sport Solutions website](#).

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