



**British Columbia Baseball Association**

PO Box 33511, Surrey Place Postal Outlet, Surrey, BC V3T 5R5

Web Page: [bcminorbaseball.org](http://bcminorbaseball.org)

*Providing Canadian Youth Baseball Programs Since 1963*

Rally Cap \* 9U \* 11U \* 13U \* 15U \* 18U\* Junior Men\* Challenger\*

January 6, 2015

To: John Berry, President Baseball B.C. and the Board of Directors of Baseball B.C.

John, this letter is an official document which will speak to B.C. (Minor) Baseball's continuation of membership with Baseball B.C.

There has been no official writ of dialogue from us since October 8 other than off line conversations periodically. Quite frankly the determination of severing communication with Baseball B.C. was decided from the response letter received back on September 23 to which it became clear to us that the process you had chosen to address our concerns were not consistent and acceptable with our process and objectives.

I stated to you shortly thereafter via phone conversation that the longer this matter was to continue, the greater the risk to B.C.(Minor) Baseball remaining a member of Baseball B.C. Our associations began asking questions most specifically to the value of membership with Baseball B.C. From there a motion to withdraw was presented to us from two (2) incumbent members.

Your handling of this entire matter has been ineffective at best. You have acted in a manner to avoid personal accountability in the eyes of the collective B.C. sport community, and sport organizations outside of this Province. There was no more obvious proof of that than your actions prior to us attending Baseball Canada's meetings in Charlottetown. Your imposed gag order on us and the threat of canceling airline tickets were evidence that you did not want the scope of this issue revealed outside the perimeters of B.C. Your approach and methods are to entrench dialogue through bylaws and bureaucratic dogma; an approach that several within the sport community and our administration are tired of.

B.C.(Minor) Baseball concludes that you have demonstrated a lack of understanding, vision for the future, decisive leadership and accountability on items of concern to B.C.(Minor) Baseball and the collective B.C. sport community.

On November 13 Baseball B.C. sent a letter to our local associations. The irony of that letter was the fact that neither you nor anyone else from Baseball B.C. signed the letter. At our November 15 A.G.M. the motion to withdraw was discussed and debated. The vote result was 31 in favor, 3 against and 3 abstentions to withdraw by B.C.(Minor) Baseball from membership in Baseball B.C.

I have over the course of five (5) months consulted and spoken to numerous people throughout the baseball community including leaders not only within our membership but also individuals from the P.B.L. and respected others with long standing involvement. Our findings are that Baseball B.C. has fallen tremendously short on Grass

Roots Baseball presently and in years past. High Performance also is an item which is in question on its delivery. As much as this matter has been centered on our issues with the P.B.L., there is equally the importance of what is the best practice for the sport at large.

Baseball B.C. has also made it very clear that they will find ways and means to send teams to Western and National Championships in the event B.C.(Minor) is not a member of Baseball B.C. I caution Baseball B.C. on this course of action as that decision on its part would be viewed among our membership and board as completely self-serving and compromising the integrity of the current structure as it exists within our Province. Our associations were quite clear prior to the vote on not having access to those events in relation to membership. Western and National events appear to be the only card Baseball B.C. has at its disposal. That alone will not be enough to salvage this for you.

B.C. (Minor) Baseball at our board of directors meeting on January 6 passed a motion to continue our affiliation with Baseball B.C. in 2015 on the absolute condition and immediate confirmation that a change at the President position of Baseball B.C. be made. B.C.(Minor) Baseball will not accept the timeline of this condition to be deferred to Baseball B.C.'s A.G.M. in June.

B.C.(Minor) Baseball has determined that John Berry has lost the confidence of our collective baseball community. Our A.G.M. vote on membership was evident that John Berry has a vote of non confidence. In 2006 Baseball B.C. was restructured for the betterment of all youth organizations in the Province.

John, you have been the President of Baseball B.C. and led that organization over the past seven years and we thank you for the volunteer time and service to which you have given. However, the time has now come for a change in leadership. With all due respect it has been determined that you do not contain the foresight and vision required to take the sport where it needs to go.

This letter is not up for debate nor discussion. Please advise A.S.A.P on the immediate submission of your resignation so that we can move forward with all parties.

Mike Sarai

B.C.B.A. President

Cc: B.C.(Minor) Baseball Board of Directors

Cc: B.C.(Minor) Baseball Members

Cc: Baseball Canada Board of Directors

Cc: Western Canada Board of Directors



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