

To: The Honourable Cathy Cox Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage

CC: Joel Fingard Executive Director of the Manitoba Combative Sports Commission

The Manitoba Combative Sports Community have united in respectfully lobbying the **Manitoba Government** and the **Manitoba Combative Sports Commission (MCSC)** to **regulate and sanction Amateur Kickboxing and Amateur Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) in Manitoba.**

The most important issue at hand is Fighter/Athlete safety. Having the MCSC regulate, sanction and oversee Amateur Combative Sports will eliminate the current practice of Manitoba athletes going out of province to compete on unsanctioned fight events where they risk serious injuries. This current reality in turn impacts the Manitoba Health care system that will have to treat those injured athletes who fought on events outside of Manitoba.

The MCSC currently regulates Professional Kickboxing and Professional MMA in Manitoba. The MCSC set a precedent in April 2006 and again in September 2011 when they sanctioned and officiated Amateur Kickboxing on the undercard of Professional Kickboxing & MMA events in Winnipeg. This was prior to the 2013 amendment to Section 83 of the Canadian Criminal Code which defines Prize Fights *(See Attachment).

****Modifications to the Manitoba Combative Sports Act and Regulations are required in order to regulate and sanction Amateur Combative Sports in our Province.**

The MCSC is one of the most knowledgeable and well trained Combative Sports Commissions in Canada. Amateur athletes would follow the MCSC guidelines for concussions, blood work and medical exams, which would ensure athlete safety.

Amateur fighters from Manitoba will continue to seek out venues in which to compete, so it is better for them to compete in our province **under the supervision of a well respected organization that enforces strict regulations- the MCSC.**

In addition, **regulating Amateur Combative Sports will generate revenue for the MCSC and the Province of Manitoba** through event sanctioning fees. **This will help stimulate the economy by creating a more robust Combat Sports scene,** and will in turn draw bigger Professional Combat Sports promotions to Winnipeg and other parts of the province.

In any sport, **athletes need to first compete as Amateurs before they can compete as Professionals.** Unfortunately there is currently no Amateur Kickboxing or MMA platform for these athletes to compete in Manitoba. Providing an Amateur platform under the MCSC safety regulations **will grow all Combat Sports in Manitoba,** and ensure these athletes can compete at their own skill level, without being rushed into Professional Combat Sports before they are ready.

Respectfully submitted:

The Manitoba Combative Sports Community