

Pierre Trudeau's Political Philosophy and Agenda: The Advent of the Canadian Federal Sport System

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Most politicians, when seeking public office, establish a platform through which they generate support for their election. In most cases this platform is loosely articulated and highly changeable. When Pierre Trudeau first ran for Prime Minister he had a clearly articulated and documented platform. This platform was based upon many years of study, travel, and writing. It could be described as a philosophy, to which a concomitant agenda was developed for the future of the Canadian state. Trudeau used this philosophy and agenda as an election platform in his first federal campaign in 1968. There are many elements of this philosophy and agenda which have salience for understanding why Trudeau promised to form a task force to study Canadian sport. These elements include: liberalism; federalism; cultural identity; nationalism; and cybernetic rationalism. Much has been written about Trudeau's 1968 election promise to form a task force to study the Canadian sport system, of the *Task Force Report*, and of the developments of the federal state sport system. It is acknowledged that many of the task force recommendations had been identified beforehand and it was the announcement of the task force which led to rapid developments in Canadian sport history. This paper attempts to tie together the elements of Pierre Trudeau's politics with the events of the late 1960s and early 1970s to give a fuller understanding to the beginning of the Canadian federal sport structure.