

### Are Professional Athletes Overpaid?

The history of professional sports has been marked by some significant societal accomplishments. Long before governments in the southern United States eradicated racial segregation, African-American athletes took the field alongside Caucasian athletes affectively challenging century's old prejudice. Sports have also had an impact on international relations – think of the Olympics, the Commonwealth Games, World Cup, or the Summit Series of Hockey between Canada and the former USSR. If you stop to think, how many other arenas within our society are there where people of all walks of life can be unified under one common purpose? Professional sports also have a more primal appeal that resonates deep within each of us. We as human beings want to see battle and competition. We want to see domination and defeat – perhaps as much as we want to see victory and triumph. Above all else, we value professional sports for their ability to entertain us. Yet despite an almost unanimous attraction to sports we often find ourselves disgusted or outraged at the amount of money professional athletes make. Despite working year round training and practicing, competing, travelling, and making personal appearances, there seems to be something inherently wrong with an athlete making millions of dollars a year to play a game. This is especially true when we consider that some professionals who serve for the betterment of society make only a fraction of that amount.

**Be it resolved that... Professional athletes are overpaid.**

**A few suggested readings for both the Affirmative and Negative:**

Helium.com – Politics, News, & Issues – Are Professional Athletes Overpaid?:  
[http://www.helium.com/debates/125438-are-professional-athletes-overpaid/side\\_by\\_side?page=3](http://www.helium.com/debates/125438-are-professional-athletes-overpaid/side_by_side?page=3)

Payscale.com: <http://www.payscale.com/>  
 ➔ Possibly Search: Doctors, Athletes, Teachers, Social Workers, not for profit organizations

Wikipedia.org – Professional Sports: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professional\\_sports](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professional_sports)



## Space Exploration

Since Jean Luc Piccard delivered his infamous monologue declaring space as the ‘final frontier’, and the Starship Enterprise as the means to “explore new worlds” and “boldly go where no man has gone before”, many Earthlings have countered with, “Who cares?” There are undeniable benefits that come from space exploration – understanding the space that surrounds the Earth contributes to a better understanding of the space we inhabit on the Earth. Opponents to space exploration often cite cost as a major reason to curtail space exploration, and follow with the general assertion that we would be better off solving the problems here on Earth before we go trying to solve and understand the problems which come from space exploration. One of the most dramatic assertions for a reduction of space exploration is that we have currently only explored 5% of the world’s oceans. Why does this matter? Because 78% of our world is covered by oceans, our current knowledge of this planet is comparable to knowing only a 9 x 9 foot box within an average sized home. With so much still to learn here on Earth, perhaps we would be better off spending money here on the ground as opposed to up amongst the stars.

**Be it resolved that... Space exploration is un-necessary and a waste of resources while there is still so much of Earth to explore.**

### **A few suggested readings for both the Affirmative and Negative:**

Astronomy for Kids: [http://www.kidsastronomy.com/explore\\_index.htm](http://www.kidsastronomy.com/explore_index.htm)

Wikipedia.org – Space Exploration: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space\\_exploration](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space_exploration)

Views of the Solar System – The history of Space Exploration:

<http://www.solarviews.com/eng/history.htm>

The Space Review – Essays and commentary about the final frontier:

<http://www.thespacereview.com/article/1040/1>

Ocean Explorer – National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration:

<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/>



### **Minimum Driving Age**

Whether or not the age young adults are eligible to begin driving is too high or too low has been a source of debate for quite some time; and this isn't true for Canada alone. Around the world, governments seem to be in a constant cycle of changing their laws around driving age for one very simple reason – there seems to be endless evidence for both sides of the argument. Those who are in favour of an increase to the minimum age often argue that in doing so we as a society can cut deaths, reduce congestion, curb obesity, and deflate the over-inflated sense of skill new and young drivers believe they have. Ultimately, whatever laws exist pertaining to the minimum driving age are unlikely to be lowered since there seems to be a consensus on 14 as the minimum age one is capable of operating a vehicle. That being said, these same laws could be repealed in favour of a higher minimum driving age as more evidence swings in favour of such a change.

**Be it resolved that... the driving age in Canada is too low and should be raised.**

**A few suggested readings for both the Affirmative and Negative:**

Service Alberta – information on Operators Licenses:  
[http://www.servicealberta.gov.ab.ca/drivers\\_licence.cfm](http://www.servicealberta.gov.ab.ca/drivers_licence.cfm)

Alberta Highway Traffic Safety Act: <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/t06.pdf>

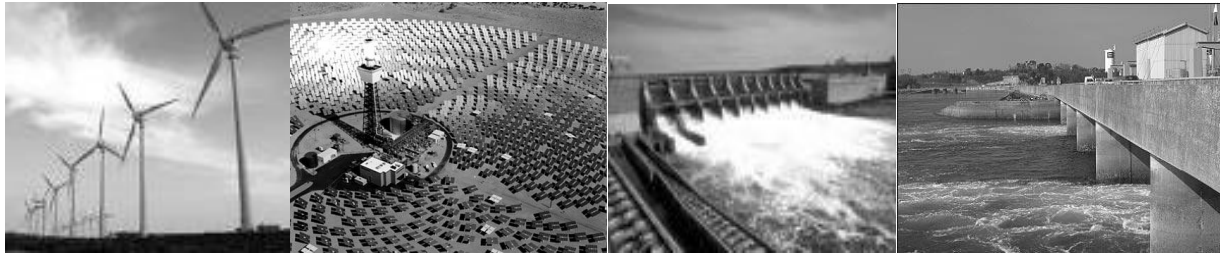
Alberta Traffic Safety Board: <http://atsb.alberta.ca/>

MADD Canada Stats: <http://www.madd.ca/english/youth/stats.html>

Young Driver Car Insurance – Car insurance tips for the first time driver: <http://www.young-drivers-insurance.net/>

Debatewise.com where great minds differ – Should the minimum driving age be raised to 18:  
<http://debatewise.org/debates/116-the-minimum-driving-age-should-be-raised-to-18>

→ Despite being from the UK, this site provides some excellent arguments on both sides of this debate.



### **Solar Power vs. Other Alternative Energy Sources**

In the last 20 – 30 years, the progress and technological development of alternative energies has been nothing less than astonishing. Fuelled by the Green Movement, mankind is on the brink of finally ridding itself of a dependence on fossil fuels, and the only obstacles that remain are a societal willingness to truly change, full and authentic government support, and economic feasibility. Though it may be generations before the use of fossil fuels becomes obsolete, the time is now for discovering and deciding what our next fuel source will be. Many people believe the answer lies within solar power, while others believe that a combination of Hydro-electric, Wind-turbine, or low-emission natural gas is the way to go. Each one of these alternative sources of energy has its short comings despite all the positive hype they receive. While it would be easy to say that we as a society should just adopt as many of these sources of energy as possible, the reality is that cost is a major preventer. Ultimately a choice must be made, and for all humanities sake, it must be the right one.

**Be it resolved that... Solar Power should be the dominant alternative fuel source to replace fossil fuels.**

#### **A few suggested readings for both the Affirmative and Negative:**

Wikipedia.org – Alternative Energy: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alternative\\_energy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alternative_energy)

Renewable Bio-fuels and Other Alternative Fuel Sources:  
[http://www.beyondfossilfuel.com/alternative\\_fuels.html](http://www.beyondfossilfuel.com/alternative_fuels.html)

Why alternative fuel sources are important for us, our country, and our planet:  
<http://www.hhogaskitwizard.com/blog/hho-cars/alternative-fuel-sources-important/>

Alternative Sources of Energy – Types of Environmentally Friendly Fuels:  
<http://www.suite101.com/content/alternative-sources-of-energy-a49284>

How solar panels work: <http://www.soltrex.com/learn/how.cfm>

Energy Matters: <http://library.thinkquest.org/20331/types/solar/problems.html>  
➔ Excellent resource for all types of alternative energy (click types)