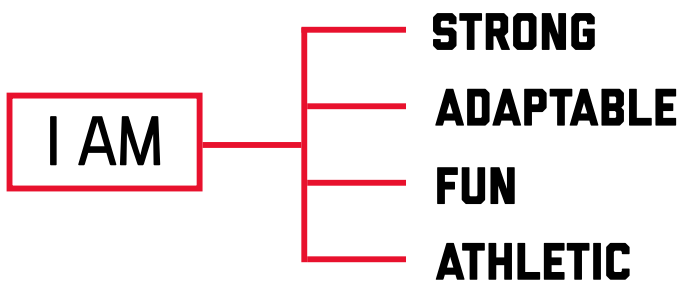# CODA

OFFICIAL CANADIAN PARALYMPIC TEAM MASCOT

Hi, I'm Coda the beaver!

My name comes from the musical term "coda" (◈) which is a segment of music that extends and elaborates themes in a piece, giving it a sense of completeness and balance before bringing the piece to a conclusion.

As Canada's national animal, beavers can be found all over the country in our beautiful lakes and rivers.

Beavers might not have the best eyesight, but we make up for it with a strong sense of hearing, smell, and touch. I don't let any challenge stop me! I always work hard and persevere through any situation so that I can accomplish all of my tasks and goals.

I believe that anything is possible, and I'm proud to share that belief with the amazing athletes who are training to be the best in the world and represent Canada at the Paralympic Games.

I AM
- STRONG
- ADAPTABLE
- FUN
- ATHLETIC

CODA'S SIGNATURE:

Coda's goal is to help propel the Paralympic Movement forward in Canada and support athletes and kids across the country to do the same.

Coda is a conduit between Canadian sports fans and the Paralympic athletes they cheer for on the world stage.

MASCOT CODE OF CONDUCT

Coda represents the five values of the Canadian Paralympic Committee at all times: **Excellence, Integrity, Focus, Team, and Inclusion**.

SAFETY:

At an event, safety is Coda's first priority. Coda must be aware of the space around them and adapt their movements to respect the space of them and others. This includes awareness of the tail, shoes, and head when navigating through crowds, tight spaces, and doorways. The mascot must not perform any sport or physical activity beyond walking and hand gestures at an appearance or event, as it may put the performer or the audience in danger.

Mascot handlers are also responsible for maintaining the safety of Coda and others by helping the mascot avoid obstacles. Performers must take regular hydration breaks and are responsible for informing their handler or a CPC staff person of any medical conditions or requirements.

It is recommended that the performer wear performance athletic gear that wicks moisture under the mascot costume, as well as sweat bands in order to stay cool and comfortable in hot weather. In cold weather, the performer should ensure that they wear enough layers to keep them warm.

BEHAVIOUR:

Coda communicates through actions rather than words, so it's important to practice non-verbal responses and perfomance gestures that are appropriate to the situation. At a sporting event this could include a thumbs up, high five, cheering action, signature dance, waving and more. At a corporate event, Coda will maintain a slightly more reserved demeanour with gestures such as waving and posing for photos.

Performers are expected to learn the seven American Sign Language phrases (video tutorial here).

What not to do:
• Do not speak in public while wearing the mascot costume
• Do not engage with disruptive or disrespectful audience members
• Don't be seen changing into or out of the mascot costume

HANDLER CODE OF CONDUCT:

Mascot handlers are responsible for the safety of the performer and others around them, and are an essential part of the mascot experience.

SAFETY GUIDELINES:

• Guide the mascot by the arm to navigate through tight spaces, dark spaces, or anywhere that might make movement difficult. Announce any obstacles such as stairs or objects on the floor
• Make sure people don't pull on the tail or damage the costume
• Check in with the performer periodically to ensure they get enough breaks
• Crowd control
• Always be within a meter of the mascot, with eyes on the mascot at all times

BEHAVIOUR GUIDELINES:

• Help the performer get in and out of the custume and make sure everything is put on correctly before entering a public space. Make sure the performer is in a secure location alone before taking the mascot costume off (not in a public washroom)
• Know the seven American Sign Language phrases to say out loud as the mascot signs (video tutorial here)