

2021-22

**ANNUAL REPORT
CANADIAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE**





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MOLLIE JEPSEN
PARA ALPINE SKIING



ABOUT THE CANADIAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE



The Canadian Paralympic Committee is a non-profit, private organization with 27 member sport organizations dedicated to strengthening the Paralympic Movement.

OUR VISION: TO BE THE WORLD'S LEADING PARALYMPIC NATION

OUR MISSION: TO LEAD THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SUSTAINABLE PARALYMPIC SPORT SYSTEM IN CANADA TO ENABLE ATHLETES TO REACH THE PODIUM AT THE PARALYMPIC GAMES

OUR VALUES: EXCELLENCE, INTEGRITY, FOCUS, TEAM, INCLUSION

By supporting Canadian high performance athletes with a disability and promoting their success, the Canadian Paralympic Committee inspires all Canadians to get involved in sport through programs delivered by its member organizations.

For more information, please visit [Paralympic.ca](https://www.paralympic.ca).



NATE RIECH
PARA ATHLETICS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Let me begin by commending everyone who played a role in making 2021-22 a success for the Paralympic community across Canada.

Two Paralympic Games within six months of each other, and during a global pandemic no less – this past year will go down in history like no other.

Traversing the past year so effectively is most definitely no small feat, and it remains a supreme privilege to be at the helm of the Canadian Paralympic Committee and work with so many incredible people. The spirit and leadership of the community – from athletes to coaches to administrators and support staff – was unparalleled as everyone came together to make the last year possible.

We are also proud of increasing CPC's role as a global leader, bringing our expertise and support to the international table of Paralympic sport, including for the Tokyo and Beijing Games. From safe sport and classification to increasing investment and exposure, there is no shortage of topics to be discussing. The dedication of Canadian athletes to take active roles in improving the Paralympic Movement is also positive, including over the past year which saw Chelsey Gotell elected to the IPC Governing Board and Josh Dueck elected to the IPC Athletes' Council.

A very important project which got its start this year is the 2030 Games Bid Project. The First Nations of Lil'wat7úl (Lil'wat), x^wməθk^wəy^əm (Musqueam), Skwx_wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) invited the Canadian Olympic Committee and Canadian Paralympic Committee to sign a Collaboration Agreement to explore the feasibility of an Indigenous-led process that would bring the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games back to British Columbia and Canada in 2030. We at the CPC are committed to this potential bid and greatly see

its value for the future of Paralympic sport. Our relationship with the Canadian Olympic Committee is critical here and elsewhere, and we continue to work closely with the COC on many different levels and initiatives.

We completed our first full year with our new Board of Directors, which was elected in March 2021, and great strides were made. This year we also began the process of reviewing our strategy for the next 10 years. This is a critical time for the CPC, the Paralympic Movement as a whole, and the entire sport system in Canada and these coming decisions will light the path forward.

Thank you for the support and commitment of our Board of Directors, corporate and government partners, donors, broadcast partners, member sports, and performance partners. We are proud stewards, but our efforts are collective, and the success of the Paralympic Movement relies on us all. The highlights laid out in the following report are evidence of this superb teamwork.

It has been a challenging couple of years, but the strength and resilience of the Paralympic Movement in Canada has never been greater. The future is bright, and we look forward to taking the next step.



MARC-ANDRÉ FABIEN
PRESIDENT

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



The 12 months of 2021-22 were memorable for many reasons, revealing both the incredible strengths of the Paralympic community and sport system in Canada, and the important work still needed to be done.

To start, there was of course an immense lift of work put behind the execution of the Tokyo and Beijing Games. While there are always new trials ahead of a Paralympic Games, doing two back-to-back with a heightened focus on mitigating risks was a new journey, to say the least. However, everyone stepped up and the result was hugely positive.

There were indeed many challenges to navigate throughout the year and as we entered both Games, including from a health and safety lens, geopolitically, and more. The need to adapt and be nimble was never more apparent, as was the need to prioritize mental health to protect ourselves and support each other as best we could.

And ultimately, from a performance perspective, there was so much to celebrate. Canada's Paralympians were ready for the Games and put forth many exciting podium finishes and personal bests, and each athlete and coach deserves to be applauded for their efforts in being able to compete. Our goal of safely bringing the Canadian Paralympic Team to and from both Games was also achieved. The story of how we were able to accomplish this can be found in this report.

Other utmost critical issues throughout 2021-22 and onwards are the ways in which we can support the sport system to provide safe, welcoming, and inclusive environments and opportunities for all athletes with a disability, and this is work we are putting in alongside all our sport partners towards safe sport and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

And while the two Paralympic Games were of course the major priority, other programming and initiatives continued to advance the Paralympic Movement. This report will share the top highlights of the past year, giving an overall picture of our major successes.

We are in a good position as look ahead to the next four years, and we look forward to the work ahead alongside the entire sport community to maintain momentum, nurture growth and a robust sport community, and generate more success.



KAREN O'NEILL
CEO

2021-22 OVERALL TOP HIGHLIGHTS



- We successfully delivered **two Paralympic Games within six months of each other**, safely bringing the Canadian Paralympic Team – athletes, coaches, and support staff – to Tokyo and Beijing and back
- CPC provided \$226,000 to 15 NSOs towards Games Preparation and Planning for both Tokyo and Beijing
- Canada's Paralympians posted remarkable results at the Tokyo and Beijing Games despite a lack of competition opportunities in advance of the Games. **Canada captured 21 medals in Tokyo and 25 podium performances in Beijing**
- Early planning and initial connections began for the Santiago 2023 Parapan Am Games and Paris 2024 Paralympic Games
- CPC hosted Connection 2021, a virtual event specifically organized to introduce more women to Para sport and provide them with the tools and resources to get involved in sport. The event was funded by the Innovation Initiative component of Sport Canada's Sport Support program
- CPC was able to reallocate budget and offer the opportunity for a funding top-up to the past two years of Paralympic Sport Development Fund (PSDF) recipients. **A total of \$95,000 was distributed to 10 recent PSDF grantees to support their Para sport programming**
- CPC supported 12 projects from 12 NSOs for a total investment of \$190,000 in classification grants and seven equipment requests from seven NSOs with \$48,000 total investment
- **Just over \$140,000 was provided by CPC towards Own the Podium's Pursuit program for coaches and technical leaders** (formerly referred to as the Coaching Enhancement Program), with 30 individuals in 19 sports receiving support from CPC. While programming support was impacted the past two years due to the pandemic, this brings CPC's total investment in this area to over \$700,000 since the beginning of program in 2017
- **The Paralympic Foundation of Canada (PFC) granted \$1 million to the CPC in 2021 towards Next Generation athlete programs.** For more information on the PFC's activities, please read its [2021 Year in Review](#)
- Canadian hockey legend **Wayne Gretzky officially joined the Paralympic Foundation of Canada's Honorary Board**

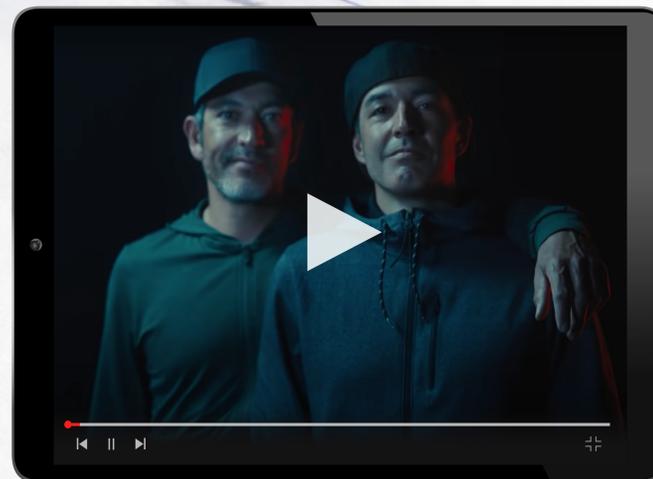
AMY BURK, MEGHAN MAHON,
AND WHITNEY BOGART
GOALBALL





BRIAN MCKEEVER
& RUSSELL KENNEDY
PARA NORDIC SKIING

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'BROTHERS' AD →



- Canadian entrepreneur Sanjay Malaviya donated \$1.2 million through the Paralympic Foundation of Canada and Canadian Olympic Foundation to support Canada's Tokyo and Beijing Olympic and Paralympic medallists. **Each medallist received a \$5,000 grant per medal won**
- The Para 50/50 presented by Canadian Tire, an initiative of the Paralympic Foundation of Canada, was introduced during the Tokyo and Beijing Games
- **CPC welcomed four new partners and suppliers: lululemon, Wayne Gretzky Estates, Empire Company Limited (listed on CPC materials as Sobeys), and EllisDon.** In addition, Canadian Tire renewed its longstanding partnership with CPC for another eight years
- World-renowned Canadian athletic apparel brand **lululemon was announced as Team Canada's new official outfitter** through 2028, beginning with the Beijing 2022 Games
- Pfizer, CPC's longest-standing corporate partner, celebrated its 25th anniversary of supporting Paralympic sport in Canada
- CPC hosted virtual activations for corporate partners and donors in lieu of being able to host onsite for both the Tokyo and Beijing Games and these were positively received as more people could attend the events and feel connected to the Games
- CPC partner Toyota featured the story of Canadian Paralympic legend Brian McKeever and his brother Robin (his former guide and head coach of Canada's Para nordic team) in its global ad for the Beijing Games, debuting during the Super Bowl. Entitled '**Brothers**' the widely well-received spot shares the **journey of the brothers from kids to world-class athletes**, winning Paralympic titles together
- Empire's support included providing all Tokyo and Beijing athletes with substantial grocery gift cards to use at any of their stores to fuel their training and preparation. **Three Paralympians also became Team Empire ambassadors ahead of the Beijing Games – Mark Arendz, Mollie Jepsen, and Frédérique Turgeon**
- During a difficult year, we successfully navigated many challenges heading into both Paralympic Games including COVID-19 safety and varying geopolitical landscapes, while CPC was a leading voice on many critical issues such as safe sport



- Alongside the Canadian Olympic Committee, we hosted **Games-time Team Canada Champion Chats, virtually connecting Tokyo and Beijing athletes directly with youth across the country** to share their experiences of resiliency, overcoming challenges, being leaders in their communities, and achieving success
- **Media coverage of the Games improved, showing continued interest and growth** of the Paralympic Games in the lead-up to and during, despite a lack of onsite media and challenging time zones for media back in Canada
- With COVID restrictions, we adapted our content strategies pre-Games to virtual interviews with athletes and **introduced MXZN portable stations at Games in the Village**, allowing us easier and more convenient access to capture video content of athletes
- Broadcast coverage continued to take strides forward and **new initiatives included primetime television coverage for the Tokyo 2020 Games as well as a new show for Para ice hockey games during Beijing 2022**. We are also a leading voice in making more sport available for broadcast or livestream at the Games, for example helping all of Canada's sitting volleyball games to be available to watch in Tokyo
- Several Paralympians appeared on the CBC/Radio-Canada Games broadcasts as talent, with their analysis and insight enhancing the coverage. This includes Summer Mortimer, Chantal Petitclerc, Benoit Huot, Philippe Gagnon, Paul Rosen, and Sonja Gaudet
- Canadian athlete leaders continued to make their mark internationally, with **Chelsey Gotell elected to the International Paralympic Committee's Governing Board and Josh Dueck elected to the IPC's Athletes' Council**
- CPC and COC signed an agreement with four First Nations – Liłwat7úl (Liłwat), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) – along with the City of Vancouver and the Resort Municipality of Whistler to officially collaborate on **exploring the feasibility of hosting the 2030 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in British Columbia**
- Demand for athlete engagements was high, with **CPC facilitating an increase of appearances by more than 50 per cent over the prior year**. The adaptation to virtual appearances also allowed for more unique opportunities for partners and stakeholders to meet with Paralympians
- **The IPC introduced the PLY designation**, an important step forward in recognizing the accomplishments of Paralympians. CPC has readily promoted this to Canadian Paralympians, and many jumped on board right away to become official PLYs, with numbers continuing to increase
- CPC initiated its new strategy renewal process which will continue into 2022-23 as we look to set the organization's vision for the next 10 years



SANDRINE HAMEL
PARA SNOWBOARD



TOKYO & BEIJING PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Heading into both the Tokyo and Beijing Games, no performance targets were set due to the pandemic. With a lack of competition opportunities for many athletes and teams during the two years heading into the Games and marked differences in access to training venues versus other countries, it was too difficult to predict the full competition landscape at the Paralympic Games.

The goal was to safely bring the Canadian Paralympic Team to Tokyo and Beijing, and back home. And in an unprecedented year with two Games within months of each other, this ultimately was a success. At the same time, Canada was indeed able to put forth several strong results at both Games with many moments to celebrate.

TOKYO 2020 PARALYMPIC GAMES

After a year postponement, the Tokyo 2020 Canadian Paralympic Team – **comprised of 128 athletes including guides across 18 sports** – finally had the chance to compete and take the spotlight.

Canada claimed **21 medals (five gold, 10 silver, and six bronze)** and finished 19th in the standings by total medals.

Podiums were achieved in five different sports:

-  **PARA SWIMMING – 8**
-  **PARA ATHLETICS – 8**
-  **PARA CYCLING – 3**
-  **PARA TRIATHLON – 1**
-  **PARA JUDO – 1**

In total Canada posted 49 Top 5 finishes.

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THE TOKYO 2020
RECAP MUSICAL** →



**BLAISE MUTWARE
& GARRETT OSTEPCHUK**
WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL





AURÉLIE RIVARD
PARA SWIMMING

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Aurélie Rivard was Canada’s top athlete, coming home with five medals – two gold, one silver, and two bronze. She now has 10 Paralympic medals through three Games appearances.
- Brent Lakatos earned four silver medals, bringing his career total to 11 podiums throughout his five Paralympic Games.
- Danielle Dorris was Canada’s other multi-medallist in Tokyo, winning gold in the 50m butterfly S7 and silver in the 100m backstroke S7



5 MEDALS
2 GOLD, 1 SILVER, 2 BRONZE




4 MEDALS
4 SILVER




2 MEDALS
1 GOLD, 1 SILVER



- **All of Canada’s gold medals were won in record-breaking times or distances:** Rivard set new world records in both the women’s 100m and 400m freestyle S10 races while Dorris broke the world record in the women’s 50m butterfly S7. Greg Stewart set a new Paralympic record en route to his men’s F46 shot put title, while Nate Riech also was Paralympic record-breaking in the men’s T38 1500m.
- All medals were won by individuals, except for Canada’s bronze in the women’s 4x100m freestyle relay comprised of swimmers Rivard, Morgan Bird, Sabrina Duchesne, and Katarina Roxon.

A total of 16 athletes went home with a medal from the Games:

AURÉLIE RIVARD		PRISCILLA GAGNÉ		ZACHARY GINGRAS	
DANIELLE DORRIS		KATE O'BRIEN		MARISSA PAPAConstantinou	
NATE RIECH		NICOLAS-GUY TURBIDE		KATARINA ROXON	
GREG STEWART		MORGAN BIRD		KEELY SHAW	
BRENT LAKATOS		STEFAN DANIEL			
TRISTEN CHERNOVE		SABRINA DUCHESNE			

- The women’s sitting volleyball team was Canada’s top team in Tokyo and posted its best-ever result at the Paralympic Games, finishing in fourth place.



EACH ATHLETE ON THE CANADIAN PARALYMPIC TEAM HAS POURED THEIR HEART INTO THEIR PERFORMANCES, WITH SO MUCH PASSION, RESILIENCE, AND DEDICATION. THE YEAR AND MONTHS LEADING UP TO THESE GAMES WERE SOME OF THE MOST CHALLENGING EVER WITH THE UNCERTAINTY, LACK OF COMPETITION OPPORTUNITIES, TRAVEL AND COVID RESTRICTIONS, AND HAVING TO ADAPT THEIR TRAINING, AND JUST TO MAKE IT TO TOKYO WAS A REMARKABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT. EVEN SO, WE SAW SO MANY WONDERFUL PERFORMANCES, INCLUDING PODIUMS, PERSONAL BESTS, LESSONS LEARNED, AND FORWARD GAINS.

**– STEPHANIE DIXON, CHEF DE MISSION,
TOKYO 2020 CANADIAN PARALYMPIC TEAM**



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THE BEIJING 2022
RECAP MUSICAL** →



TYLER TURNER
PARA SNOWBOARD

BEIJING 2022 PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES

With 25 total medals – eight gold, six silver, and 11 bronze – the Beijing 2022 Canadian Paralympic Team finished third in the overall medal standings (behind China and Ukraine). It was Canada’s second-best Paralympic Winter Games, just behind its 28-medal finish at PyeongChang 2018.

A team of 49 athletes, including guides, travelled to Beijing, with 48 athletes ultimately competing after Para alpine skier Frédérique Turgeon was injured in training only a few days before the start of the Games.

For the first time, Canada captured medals in all five sports at the Winter Games:

-  **PARA NORDIC SKIING – 14**
-  **PARA ALPINE SKIING – 6**
-  **PARA SNOWBOARD – 3**
-  **PARA ICE HOCKEY – 1**
-  **WHEELCHAIR CURLING – 1**

In addition to the medals, Canada earned another eight Top 5 finishes.



THIS TEAM HAS DISPLAYED SO MUCH HEART, RESILIENCY, AND PASSION AND IT HAS BEEN AN HONOUR TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WITNESS SO MANY INCREDIBLE ATHLETES COMPETE AND SHOW OFF ALL THE DEDICATION AND HARD WORK THEY HAVE PUT IN TO BE THE BEST AT WHAT THEY DO. THERE IS SO MUCH TO CELEBRATE FOR THE ENTIRE CANADIAN PARALYMPIC TEAM, FROM EVERY PODIUM PERFORMANCE TO THE PERSONAL BESTS TO SO MANY MOMENTS IN BETWEEN THAT HAVE ALL COMBINED TO ELEVATE, MOTIVATE, AND UNITE CANADIANS AND PARALYMPIC SPORT.

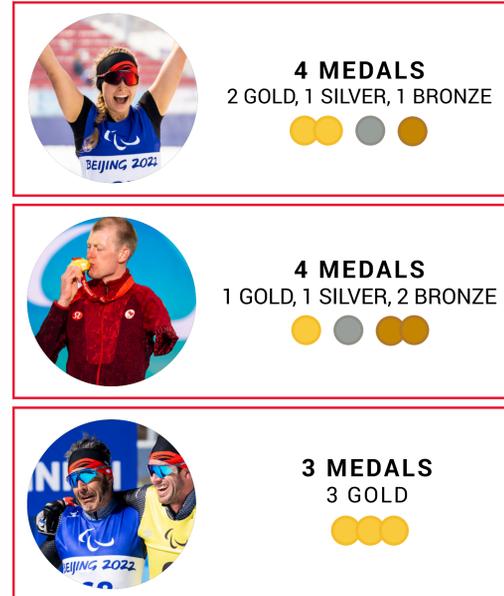
– JOSH DUECK, CHEF DE MISSION, BEIJING 2022 CANADIAN PARALYMPIC TEAM



HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Para nordic skiers Mark Arendz and Natalie Wilkie claimed the most medals for Canada, with four each. Individually, Wilkie captured two gold and one silver in cross country, while Arendz earned a gold, silver, and bronze in biathlon. Both were then members of Canada's bronze-medal winning mixed relay squad.
- In his sixth and final Paralympic Winter Games, the legendary Brian McKeever further cemented his place in the sporting history books, winning three gold for a total of 20 career Paralympic medals. Already Canada's most decorated Winter Paralympian and the world's most successful male Para cross-country skier heading into the Games, he is also now tied with German Para alpine skier Gerd Schoenfelder for the most-ever gold medals won by a male winter Paralympian with 16.
- Nine athletes were multi-medallists in Beijing: Mark Arendz (4), Natalie Wilkie (4), Brian McKeever (3), Collin Cameron (3), Mollie Jepsen (2), Tyler Turner (2), Alana Ramsay (2), Brittany Hudak (2), and guide Russell Kennedy (2).
- A total of 37 athletes won a medal at the Games, 14 from individual sports and 22 from team sports.
- Canada's Para snowboarders created history in Beijing, winning the country's maiden medals in the sport since it joined the Paralympic program in 2014. Lisa DeJong won a silver for Canada's first podium before Tyler Turner captured the first gold, both in snowboard cross. Turner also added a bronze in banked slalom.
- Canada's wheelchair curling team claimed bronze to extend its podium streak to five consecutive Games. The sport joined the Paralympic Winter Games in 2006 and Canada has since won three gold (2006, 2010, 2014) and two bronze (2018, 2022).
- Falling to USA in the final, Canada's Para ice hockey team captured a silver medal to match its performance from four years earlier.

For the second straight Winter Games, Russia did not compete. While PyeongChang featured a small number of athletes in attendance under a neutral flag, all Russian athletes, as well as those from Belarus, were banned from Beijing following the country's attack on Ukraine just before the start of the Paralympics.



MARK ARENDZ
PARA NORDIC SKIING





FLAG BEARERS

TOKYO 2020™



PRISCILLA GAGNÉ PARA JUDO, TOKYO OPENING CEREMONY

Competing at her second Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Para judoka Priscilla Gagné carried the flag for Canada at the Opening Ceremony. The world No. 2 in the women's 52kg category and a two-time Parapan Am Games medallist, Gagné won a silver medal in Tokyo to become the first Canadian woman to win a Paralympic medal in Para judo.



BRENT LAKATOS PARA ATHLETICS, TOKYO CLOSING CEREMONY

In his fifth Paralympic appearance, Brent Lakatos was one of the busiest members of Team Canada after adding long distance events to his repertoire for the first time. The wheelchair racer contested six different distances ranging from the 100m to the marathon, winning a quartet of silver medals in the 100m, 400m, 800m, and 5000m.

BEIJING 2022™



INA FORREST & **GREG WESTLAKE** WHEELCHAIR CURLING & PARA ICE HOCKEY BEIJING OPENING CEREMONY

Both longtime leaders in their respective sports, Ina Forrest and Greg Westlake became the first athletes to share flag duties for Canada at the Opening Ceremony. Wheelchair curler Forrest, at her fourth Paralympic Games, added a bronze medal to her trophy case in Beijing to go alongside her previous two golds and bronze. Westlake, who said Beijing would be his fifth and last Games, won a silver with the Para ice hockey team and is now a four-time medallist.



MOLLIE JEPSEN PARA ALPINE SKIING, BEIJING CLOSING CEREMONY

For the second consecutive Games, Mollie Jepsen was Canada's first medallist, winning gold in the downhill on day one of competition. After breaking out in PyeongChang four years ago with four medals, the Para alpine skier missed a full season after being diagnosed with Crohn's disease before having her comeback cut short due to the pandemic. She then raced through injury in Beijing to take home a gold and silver.



ANDREW PARSONS
PRESIDENT, IPC



A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER: EXECUTING BACK-TO-BACK PARALYMPIC GAMES

When Canada's Para athletics team came together for its pre-Games training camp in August 2021, it was the first time the group had been together for two years.

Canada's wheelchair curling squad had an extended team-only three-week staging camp. Alpine Canada had its own lockdown training period in Whistler ahead of the Games.

Several similar scenarios played out among many sports heading into the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games and Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games – the majority of which were definitely not typical.

But these, of course, were not conventional Games.

And being able to pull off two Paralympic Games within six months of each other, in the midst of a global pandemic, was a mammoth feat.

Stewarding the teams for the postponed Tokyo Games, held August 24 to September 5, 2021, and the Beijing Games, March 4-13, 2022, was the primary focus for the Canadian Paralympic Committee in 2021-22.

The task – which was done with staff working fully remotely due to the pandemic – required a lot of adaptation, flexibility, creativity, and a commitment to do everything necessary to enable success for the Canadian Paralympic Team.

PREPARATION UNLIKE ANY OTHER GAMES

While each sport had its unique circumstances, the commonality is that for athletes heading to either Tokyo or Beijing, training and preparation plans for the Games had to adjust once, twice, sometimes three times or more.

For Tokyo athletes, one of the biggest differences compared to previous Games was that their quadrennial turned into five years following the postponement to 2021. Some headed into Tokyo not having had a chance to compete at all in over 18 months, and it being two years or more since their last world championships. Qualifying opportunities for some sports were also quite limited.

And while many Beijing athletes had some form of opportunity to compete ahead of their Games, it did not follow a usual pre-Games schedule or environment.

Other major differences included not being able to experience the field of play ahead of the Games and thus coming in new, managing different training scenarios for athletes based on the restrictions where they lived, and having to adapt or cancel plans at the last minute when new COVID limitations or risks presented themselves.



MARISSA PAPACONSTANTINO
PARA ATHLETICS



**DENNIS THIESSEN
& MARK IDESON**
WHEELCHAIR CURLING

In terms of preparing for the Games environment, CPC conducted site visits to both Tokyo and Beijing pre-pandemic, but had no further opportunity to do so after March 2020. All communication with the host organizing committees was virtual, mainly through email. Due to time zone differences, there was also usually a delay to receive answers.

Obtaining as much information as possible was the goal, through the local organizers, working with the Canadian Olympic Committee, or even other National Paralympic Committees. CPC in turn shared this with the sports. All planning and preparation sessions with the NSOs were done virtually through Zoom.

“For me, I find it really important to be really prepared and the more intel I have, the more I can support the team and prepare them about what this is all going to look like,” said Carla Nicholls, Para performance lead for Athletics Canada, who says she appreciated any and all information she received, which she would then disseminate to her team.

CPC provided support where possible in providing better training opportunities for the teams leading into Games. For example, CPC procured new rock handles for each of Canada’s wheelchair curlers to use in their home environments. When the team then decided on a three-week staging camp in Vancouver ahead of Games – a new initiative for them decided upon because of the pandemic to bring everyone together safely – CPC played a role.

“There is no substitute for being together, being on ice and problem solving with everyone, being face to face and in the moment,” said Wendy Morgan, team leader for Canada’s wheelchair curling team. “And the staging camp was more than being together, it was the hotel we chose, it was the ice maker we brought down and the stones we brought in that would mirror the conditions in China, and CPC’s help was huge in this.”

A big logistical change for Beijing was acquiring a charter flight with Air Canada to bring the entire team to and from the host city. Travel to China was a significant challenge at the time, and this was the most effective way to get everyone there safely and efficiently.

This helped take stress away for the sports in a number of respects.



Morgan actually had the experience of arranging travel to China for the wheelchair curling world championships in October 2021. She says it was extremely difficult to organize.

“When CPC identified the charter as our transportation, it was the happiest day of my life in terms of the planning.”

Matt Hallat, team leader for Canada’s Para alpine skiing team, notes it also took a weight off in terms of worrying about equipment.

“The charter was enormously helpful. One of the biggest risks for us is getting equipment to a venue; if we somehow had not gotten skis, it can essentially be game over for a Games period,” he said. “That can’t be underestimated how important that was for both health and logistics.”

Ultimately, while there were many unknowns, the common refrain was to control what one can and not worry about the rest.

“My message to the athletes was that this is an unprecedented time, and we are all doing the best we can,” said Stephanie Dixon, chef de mission of Canada’s team in Tokyo. “Any and all feelings and experiences are valid. We are planning the best we can, but the reality is that we will all need to adapt and change with little to no warning and to navigate through unexpected circumstances.”

And what this resulted in was great support among teammates.

“The collaboration and collective support the athletes provided one another was actually quite beautiful and very genuine,” said Josh Dueck, Canada’s chef de mission in Beijing. “The absence of friends, family and stakeholders was a significant void, and I think we all missed the energy and excitement that is traditionally brought by all the fanfare. The absence of that kind of forced the athletes to lean into each other more than they might at other Games.”

And once onsite at Games, a focus for CPC was still making all its services of the same top-notch quality, and making sure all the sports felt comfortable at the Village, no matter the unique environment.

“Once we arrived there, the [COVID] restrictions were there, but it was still a Games,” said Andrzej Sadej, head coach of Canada’s Para judo team. “Even if the restrictions were not there, we would not have done anything different. The CPC is doing a phenomenal job, they always do, but this time it was so obvious to us. Every angle was covered, we didn’t have to worry about anything else, there was no additional stress.”

“When we finally got into the Village, instantly it felt like we were at the Games,” said Nicholls. “It didn’t feel like the COVID Games, because I think CPC did everything it could to keep things as normal as possible.”



**MOLLIE JEPSEN
& MICHAELA GOSSELIN**
PARA ALPINE SKIING



MANAGING COVID CONCERNS

The COVID-19 pandemic was of course the reason for needing to have two Games in one year, and it was the biggest factor affecting planning and preparation into the Games.

Handling COVID protocols and logistics increased the task list for many, adding a massive new layer to already bursting workloads. This included making sure testing requirements were met pre-Games and during Games, the logistics of being able to travel, and managing COVID risks while helping the teams to be able train and compete safely. CPC also assisted many sports in accessing testing kits to support training environments.

The host organizing committees instituted many COVID protocols, including masking, testing, and the implementation of the COVID Liaison Officer role. The CPC layered on its own, such as hiring cleaners to maintain Canadian spaces at the Village to the highest degree.

Vaccines, however, were the most critical countermeasure.

“One big step was immunization for people to go, especially for the Tokyo Games because it was more relevant at that time. By the time Beijing came around, people had two sometimes three immunizations,” said Dr. Andy Marshall, CPC’s Chief Medical Officer for the Games.

Dr. Marshall, who is a member of the Sport Medicine Advisory Committee, worked alongside Canadian Olympic Committee CMO Mike Wilkinson to speak with Canadian government officials on the importance of providing all personnel going to the Games with vaccines. Once this was made possible, a tall task was the logistics of ensuring everyone had access to the vaccines where they lived.

For Beijing, vaccination was mandatory for the entire Canadian delegation, a decision CPC made well in advance of knowing of the lengthy isolation requirements for those entering unvaccinated.

Dr. Marshall and CPC also worked with other NPCs in sharing relevant medical learnings related to COVID-19 and collectively making suggestions to the host organizing committees based on real-life evidence on what worked.



ROD CRANE
& TYLER MCGREGOR
PARA ICE HOCKEY



A big stressor leading into the Games was not getting COVID, and teams adapted as best they could to mitigate risks, including longer isolation and pre-Games lockdown training periods. It required true dedication and sacrifice from all team members to be able to realize their goal of making it to the Games. Back-up plans were also made in the case of someone getting COVID.

And then, one of the biggest tasks was getting the team through protocols at the airport with negative tests.

“The arrival at the Games was a big crunch point that luckily, we were very fortunate we didn’t have anyone on the Paralympic side test positive,” said Dr. Marshall, speaking about both the Tokyo and Beijing Games.

“When the team arrived at the airport and passed all their COVID tests and finally arrived in Beijing, there was a collective sigh of relief,” said Dueck. “That was a herculean effort just to get there, and then the tone of our team became one of immense gratitude for the privilege and opportunity to be there, and to be in the start gate.”

And not only did not a single member of the Canadian Paralympic Team – athletes, coaches, staff – contract COVID while at the Tokyo or Beijing Games, in fact other illnesses were severely decreased. This is a direct result of the COVID protocols.

“Typically if you look at the illnesses that would happen at the past Paralympic Games – gastrointestinal issues, respiratory issues, UTIs, skin issues – we had none,” said Nicholls about the Para athletics team. “I think we still need to approach all our major championships with that lens of keeping germ free as much as possible, and that saves performance as well.”

“A benefit that maybe gets overlooked is that we didn’t get sick in any other way which will often be the case during a season,” said Hallat. “We move around a lot, we get run down, and the various protocols kept us healthy from the flu and cold and all the other things as well we would normally get.”

Dr. Marshall says these are learnings to move forward.

“Maybe that means, not everyone wears a mask all the time, but if someone gets sick, we are more aggressive in isolating them and masking and being more

diligent in our surfaces and keeping everything clean and germ free. There are some positives that even if COVID did magically fly away, we could continue forward that would be beneficial for us at other Games.”

And the success of the Canadian Paralympic Team from a health and safety perspective was due to everybody playing their role.

“It was really everyone, it wasn’t just the medical people, it wasn’t just the mental health people, it wasn’t just logistics, what it came down to in the end was everyone playing a part,” said Dr. Marshall. “Whether that be just doing their own thing in terms of being safe for everyone else, the tons and tons of logistics, and looking at the different scenarios and adapting.

“It was a huge team effort.”

JULIE KOZUN,
FELICIA VOSS-SHAFIQ
& DANIELLE ELLIS
SITTING VOLLEYBALL





HEIGHTENED FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH

It was already in the works pre-COVID for CPC to increase mental health support for the Games, but with the added layer of the pandemic this became even more important for Tokyo and Beijing.

Susan Cockle, a registered psychologist and mental performance consultant, came on board for both Games as CPC's mental health lead. Her services were available for everyone on the Canadian Paralympic Team, including athletes, coaches, and staff.

She says that athletes have the same rate of mental health concerns as the general population, which increased about four per cent during the pandemic to 24 per cent.

And for anyone, at any point in time, distressing news can happen and having support and strategies in place to handle it is critical. During a high stakes Games environment, the possibility for stress and anxiety also increases, even more so in the pandemic conditions.

"One of the biggest differences for Tokyo and Beijing is that the high pressure, high stress environment was more isolated," Cockle said. "Athletes and staff didn't have that outlet they would have at other Games where friends and family may have travelled with them, and they could have taken time out to connect. Just seeing a familiar face that gets what you're going through but is outside the Games bubble can be a boost for your mental health."

Overall, there was a positive response for the mental health support, regardless of whether it was specifically used or not – the point is it was available.

"I think it was critical because we didn't know what was going to happen at the Games, we didn't know if people were going to have to be isolated and miss their performances," said Nicholls. "Just due to accreditation and the costs of bringing people, it would have been incredibly difficult to manage mental health with our team and so I do think CPC adding a mental health lead was very important."

Cockle also says that people were very open to chat about mental health, a signal of how important it is to keep the dialogue going.

"One of the main learnings from Tokyo was how important it was to have those soft conversations, which weren't necessarily appointments or scheduled time, but to be able to have casual and natural touchpoints with people, just checking in, asking how they were doing, just be a friendly face, that allowed people to really connect and be able to speak about how they were doing."

Mental health support will remain a priority for CPC going forward.

STAFF
TEAM CANADA





CHEERING ON THE ATHLETES

With COVID restrictions and nearly no fans in the stands, it was certainly a different environment for the teams than past Games.

For the chefs de mission, this made their role as official team cheerleader even more important.

“Knowing our athletes wouldn’t have their friends and family in the stands, I worked very hard to be at as many venues as possible and to bring the loudest cheer I could muster,” said Dixon.

Both Dixon and Dueck were honoured to be presented with ceremonial Indigenous drums ahead of their respective Games, which accompanied them to each venue to cheer on the athletes. Dixon was gifted hers from Alice Guss of Squamish Nation, while Dueck’s was from the Maskwacis Cree Nation under the stewardship of Chief Wilton Littlechild.

“Steph and I were both blessed with a traditional ceremonial Indigenous drum to bring the heartbeat of Canada to the athletes overseas, and to quote Chief Littlechild, as a signal towards reconciliation,” said Dueck. “The stage has really been set that sport does have the power to change the world.”

Another aspect of the Games was trying to make family and friends still feel connected from home. Part of this was naturally done through coverage of the Games – broadcast, social media, and content – of which there was lots to follow. CPC also sent a daily newsletter direct to family and friends and hosted a virtual event for Beijing, which featured Jim and Deb Westlake, parents to Paralympian Greg Westlake, speaking of the challenges of not being able to support in person.

For both the summer and winter Games, Petro-Canada sent each athlete’s No. 1 fan a cheer kit featuring a \$100 gas card and other fun cheering items to show their support.

Canadian Tire’s Pass the Puck Challenge and the Toyota Wave also virtually aimed to connect Canadians with the Games and have athletes feel the support of their country. Pass the Puck encouraged people to share videos of themselves receiving a puck pass with the hashtag #WeAllPlayforCanada while the #ToyotaWave saw social media users upload photos doing the wave. Both activations also directly supported Paralympic sport in Canada, with Pass the Puck resulting in a \$100,000 donation to the Paralympic Foundation of Canada and the Toyota Wave in \$50,000.



KEELY SHAW
PARACYCLING
PHOTO CREDIT:
JEAN-BAPTISTE BENAVENT

STEPHANIE DIXON
TOKYO 2020



JOSH DUECK
BEIJING 2022





A NEW VIRTUAL GAMES FOOTPRINT

With no fans in the stands, this of course meant adaptations had to be made in other Games related areas as well. The decision was made early on not to have a Canada Paralympic House or onsite hospitality, which meant several shifts needed to be made to ensure partners and other stakeholders maintained a connection to the Games.

Pfizer Canada is the CPC's longest-standing partner and usually has representatives onsite at the Paralympic Games. While there was disappointment this would not be possible for Tokyo and Beijing, they understood the change.

"We totally endorsed the decision, because of course there was no other responsible decision. Of course it was sad, but at the same time, we were convinced it was the right

thing to do to protect everybody's safety," said Vincent Lamoureux, director of global health and social impact at Pfizer Canada, who has worked closely with CPC for the past several years and attended the Pyeongchang 2018 Games.

The biggest loss for Lamoureux, similar to the loss felt from the CPC's Communications team with a smaller onsite presence, was no longer being able to capture their own original content at the Games.

One of the big resulting changes was the implementation of virtual engagements, with CPC hosting a few special events for partners and donors. For Tokyo, this included one at the beginning of the Games where guests were delivered Japanese food to their doors, as well as one at the end of the Games to celebrate Canada's success. For Beijing, it was one event mid-way through the Games.

CPC also hosted separate virtual events specifically for a few partners, including Toyota, Pfizer, Canadian Tire, and Sport Canada, whereby the organization's employees could attend.

The engagements featured a variety of discussions with special guests, such as CPC leadership including Karen O'Neill and Marc-André Fabien, athletes, and the chefs de mission, who Lamoureux says were excellent at conveying what was happening at the Games.

"Looking at how things turned out, I was overjoyed with the participation and the quality of the virtual events we had. The feedback was incredibly positive."

And ultimately, the events were able to connect even more people to the Games.

"The idea of the virtual events turned out to be a brilliant idea," said Lamoureux. "For the company, those are probably even better than sending individuals in person, because when you have a virtual engagement – and at the highest quality you can do – you can have a lot more people participating."

Pfizer Canada, for example, had more than 100 employees attend their virtual engagements.



**NATALIE WILKIE,
EMILY YOUNG,
MARK ARENDZ,
& COLLIN CAMERON
PARA NORDIC SKIING**



SHARING THE STORIES OF THE ATHLETES

As Zoom became a primary way to communicate for everyone worldwide, so too did it become an important tool for connecting with athletes from a broadcast and content lens. Unable to capture content with athletes in person ahead of the Games, CPC adapted its strategies to virtual interviews and activations.

Onsite at Games, the Communications presence was significantly lowered due to COVID protocols. While this did result in its own challenges, modifications were made to still offer the best coverage possible to audiences across Canada.

For Tokyo, one of the major new initiatives was setting up a studio in the Village using MXZN, a new easy-to-use technology providing high quality video. Run by CPC, the studio provided a convenient way for athletes to do interviews with media and capture content for CPC, NSOs, and other partners.

In Beijing, the set-up was different due to having three Villages. After not having onsite media attachés for Tokyo, they were added back for Beijing which significantly helped in providing proper media and content support. Additionally, a larger broadcast team was present, with four separate, bilingual teams to look after the three clusters.

The demand for content is ever increasing. CPC's website and social media channels were the hub of all Games content, aimed at celebrating the performances and achievements of Canada's Paralympians while also educating the audience on the athletes and sports. In addition to organic and planned editorial content, CPC also helped coordinate and create several sponsor-related content pieces for broadcast and social media.

The Tokyo and Beijing Games were the fourth and fifth Games in which CPC held the broadcast rights and worked with media consortium partners to bring the Games to life.

The relationship with CBC/Radio-Canada remains of utmost importance, and continues to evolve and grow with each Games. New for Tokyo and Beijing, CPC instituted a Communications hub in Toronto at the CBC offices. This allowed for a common working environment and ultimately a much closer working partnership with CBC as the Games were happening.

TEAMWORK BRINGS IT ALL TOGETHER

For CPC, one of the biggest challenges of course was the quick turnaround to Beijing after the conclusion of Tokyo. It was all hands-on deck.

"The team's ability to dig deep and make a lot of personal sacrifice in order to make sure that sports and our team stayed the course was impressive," said Dueck. "You knew it was exhausting on many, but nobody showed it, everybody showed up every day and put in the same efforts our athletes did as well."

All told, there were many successes to be celebrated from all areas of the Games, such as zero COVID cases, a combined 46 medals, and positive broadcast and news coverage.

And ultimately, the key was in fact the whole team – athletes, coaches, support staff, and everyone else with a role to play.

"I am very proud of the way that Team Canada came together in a very difficult time," said Dixon. "The amount of work that was done – mostly behind the scenes and never to be widely known or appreciated – by countless people determined to send Team Canada safely into the most challenging Games of our lifetime humbles me beyond words."

BRIANNA HENNESSY
PARA CANOE



MORE STORIES



LULULEMON JOINS TEAM CANADA FAMILY

Dressed in shades of red head to toe, Mark Arendz imitated skiing motions and let out a powerful roar, reminiscent of his release when crossing the finish line for gold.

But this time, the Para nordic skier had not just completed a grueling race. Instead he was playing the role of model for the day.

Arendz was one of 18 athletes who participated in the reveal of Team Canada's official Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games kit. Arendz, suited up in the podium jacket, was joined on the Paralympic side by Brittany Hudak (Para nordic skiing), Mac Marcoux (Para alpine skiing), Tristan Rodgers (Para alpine skiing – Marcoux's guide), Sandrine Hamel (Para snowboard), Frédérique Turgeon (Para alpine skiing), Cindy Ouellet (Para nordic skiing and wheelchair basketball), and John Leslie (Para snowboard).

In September 2021, Canadian athletic apparel brand lululemon was officially announced as the new official outfitter of Team Canada for the Olympic and Paralympic Games through 2028, beginning with Beijing 2022.

As part of the partnership, the Team Canada collection released with the launch included the Future Legacy Bag, a stylish and functional small crossbody bag. Ten per cent of sales for each bag sold support the Paralympic Foundation of Canada and Canadian Olympic Foundation, marking the first time a single item has benefited both foundations.

A month later, the Beijing kit was unveiled at an event at Royal York Hotel in Toronto, with Canada's 2022 chef de mission Josh Dueck on hand as co-host. Items on display included the Opening and Closing Ceremony outfits, podium ensemble, and media jacket.

"I think the world is going to be obsessed with the kit," said Turgeon. "I've never seen a kit this amazing with all the modifications that you can bring to it. It's truly so unique, and I think the world is going to be jealous of what we have."

Turgeon was one of two Paralympians who also joined lululemon as brand ambassadors ahead of the Beijing Games, alongside Para ice hockey star Liam Hickey. Both athletes were featured in lululemon's brand campaign, lookbook, and website modelling the clothing.

FRÉDÉRIQUE TURGEON
PARA ALPINE SKIING





TYLER MCGREGOR
PARA ICE HOCKEY

CANADA'S PARALYMPIANS ARE HERE

Katarina Roxon posing for cameras at a premiere for her own documentary. Tyler McGregor signing copies of his autobiography. A young fan excitedly unboxing Patrick Anderson's signature sport wheelchair.

These are all scenes from We're Here, the CPC's brand campaign for both the Tokyo and Beijing Games, designed to showcase the athletes on and off the field of play.

Due to the two Games taking place back-to-back, We're Here was created to bridge both Games. It was initially launched featuring wheelchair basketball star Anderson, Para swimming champion Roxon, and Para ice hockey captain McGregor, with Para alpine skier Frédérique Turgeon joining for an updated version ahead of Beijing.

A collaboration between CPC and BBDO Canada, We're Here debuted during CBC's broadcast of Game 5 of the Stanley Cup Finals and was featured on CBC/ Radio-Canada, Sportsnet, AMI, Facebook and Twitter leading up to and during the Tokyo and Beijing Paralympic Games.

The fast-paced commercial transcends sport, using both real and imagined scenes, to celebrate the athletes and show they are taking their rightful place as national and global stars.

In addition, CPC and BBDO collaborated to create the Para Expansion Pack, a set of mini figurines representing individuals with a disability and different Paralympic sports, which are available via [3D printing](#).

**CLICK TO WATCH
THE WE'RE HERE
CAMPAIGN VIDEO**





CONNECTING MORE WOMEN TO PARA SPORT

“The power of sport is really wide. Sport is more than just a game.”

These were among the words of 10-time Paralympian Colette Bourgonje as she discussed her involvement in Connection 2021, how sport has impacted her, and the range of benefits of sport at all levels.

A CPC special event, Connection 2021 was created in recognition of lower participation numbers of women at Paralympian Search events, which is reflective throughout Paralympic sport overall. The goal was to introduce more women to Para sport and provide the tools and resources to get involved and stay active.



ELISABETH WALKER-YOUNG
PARA SWIMMING



L-R, TOP: KAROLINA WISNIEWSKA, MICHELLE SALT,
MARISSA PAPACONSTANTINO
L-R, BOTTOM: KIRSTEN SHARP, SANDRINE HAMEL,
CHRISTINE SELINGER

Funded by the Innovation Initiative component of Sport Canada’s Sport Support program, the initial concept was to host three Paralympian Search-style events specifically tailored to provide a safe and welcoming space for women.

Due to the pandemic, the shift was made to a virtual event, hosted over two days in June.

“Across Canada and globally, there are fewer women participating in Paralympic sport, so what can we do to try and shift that,” said Paralympian Elisabeth Walker-Young. “There could be a whole ton of different reasons, but we do know that girls and women-only programming is successful in making programming seem more approachable and welcoming for women.”

The design, planning, execution, and follow-up of the event was led almost entirely by women, specifically with many women with disabilities in leadership roles. Walker-Young co-emceed the event, and also worked with CPC to initially develop the project’s direction.

Walker-Young and Bourgonje were two of several female Paralympians, both active and retired, to lend their time, expertise, and advice to the event’s 22 participants.

The attendees also learned about a variety of sports through presentations from Athletics Canada, Canoe/Kayak Canada, Nordiq Canada, Canada Snowboard, and Alpine Canada. They also heard from sport scientists from Canadian Sport Institute Calgary, Canadian Sport Institute Ontario and Institut national du sport du Québec, as well as sports psychologists and recreation therapists.

The event was very well-received, with the virtual format making it more accessible for women across the country to attend and for a wider range of presenters and panelists.

“Being part of an entire weekend where there were female athletes and people that shared the same experience and trials and tribulations that I did, even meeting women who got into sport later than I did or as late as I did, it meant a lot,” said Candice Combdon, one of the event’s attendees who is a wheelchair tennis player on Team Ontario.

“It lit a fire under me to say, you know what, this is possible.”

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year ended March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
Assets	\$	\$
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	5,152,302	7,325,694
Accounts receivable	5,631,121	975,215
Due from PFC	—	470
Prepaid expenses	264,073	1,539,671
	11,047,496	9,841,050
Capital assets	128,760	117,538
Intangible assets	354,066	382,626
	11,530,322	10,341,214
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	3,408,573	691,012
Due to PFC	47,817	—
Deferred revenue - Current	1,014,281	4,876,755
	4,470,671	5,567,767
Deferred revenue	2,037,053	498,279
Deferred contributions related to capital and intangible assets	482,826	500,164
Lease inducement	27,827	34,005
	7,018,377	6,600,215
Commitment		
Net assets		
Internally restricted	1,000,000	—
Unrestricted	3,511,945	3,740,999
	4,511,945	3,740,999
	11,530,322	10,341,214



ALISON LEVINE
BOCCIA



STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

Year ended March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Government contributions	10,789,573	4,865,256
Sponsorships	8,994,618	2,796,914
Grants - Paralympic Foundation of Canada	1,000,000	1,040,000
Interest	30,180	32,622
Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital and intangible assets	333,965	307,449
In-kind contributions	3,803,932	533,814
Other	795,268	700
	25,747,536	9,576,755
Expenses		
Corporate Services	2,183,587	2,372,678
Amortization of capital and intangible assets	333,965	307,449
Communications & Brand	7,397,224	697,351
Major Games Canada	262,590	178,599
Games Operations and Delivery	6,188,084	500,660
Paralympic Performance and Pathways	3,410,768	2,603,516
Partnerships	1,396,440	626,108
Utilized value, in-kind contributions	3,803,932	533,814
	24,976,590	7,820,175
Excess of revenue over expenses	770,946	1,756,580



TRAVIS MURAO,
BYRON GREEN,
& MIKE WHITEHEAD
WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

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