

2021

YEAR IN REVIEW

PARALYMPIC FOUNDATION OF CANADA



PARALYMPIC
FOUNDATION



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LETTER FROM PARALYMPIC FOUNDATION OF CANADA



The world came together for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

2021 was a year still very much impacted by the global pandemic, however, as we reflect back, that is not what stands out most. Instead, it was the return to in-person sport through which we saw firsthand the strength and resilience of Canadian Para athletes as they travelled to the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. The celebration of these Games may have looked different than we were used to, but what did not change was how thrilled we were to cheer on Team Canada, how proud we were of our athletes as they performed at their best, and how humbled we were that through everything, their positivity is what shone through.

It was not just the athletes that demonstrated this positivity. We are extremely thankful for our donors and supporters across Canada who, despite not being able to meet face to face again this year, remained

generous and provided their support as we continue working to break down barriers to participation in sport. This year, perhaps more than ever, we were able to see that the benefits of participating in sport go well beyond gaining physical fitness and strength. Sport has the ability to increase confidence, independence, and overall mental health. Together, we can ensure that everyone has the opportunity to experience these benefits.

With gratitude for your continued support through 2021 and with the hope to see you in person this year, we wish you all the best.

Jim Westlake & Dean Brokop



Jim Westlake
BOARD CHAIR



Dean Brokop
DIRECTOR





RECAP: TOKYO GAMES

HIGHLIGHTS FROM TEAM CANADA AT THE TOKYO 2020 PARALYMPIC GAMES

The Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games were held from **August 24th to September 5th, 2021**, after being rescheduled from the summer of 2020.

A total of 128 athletes from across Canada attended the Games, participating in 18 different sports.

A TOTAL OF 16 ATHLETES WENT HOME WITH A MEDAL

AURÉLIE RIVARD   
DANIELLE DORRIS  
NATE RIECH 
GREG STEWART 
BRENT LAKATOS   
TRISTEN CHERNOVE 

PRISCILLA GAGNÉ 
KATE O'BRIEN 
NICOLAS-GUY TURBIDE 
MORGAN BIRD 
STEFAN DANIEL 
SABRINA DUCHESNE 

ZACHARY GINGRAS 
MARISSA PAPAConstantinou 
KATARINA ROXON 
KEELY SHAW 



“WE ARE ALL STRIVING TO FIND THE BEAUTY IN THIS CHAOTIC, DARK, UNCERTAIN WORLD. AND BECAUSE OF THAT, I WANT TO SAY THAT I AM GRATEFUL TO BE HERE, FOR THESE GAMES. TOKYO 2020 WILL BE THE GREATEST GAMES TO DATE, SHOWING THAT THE WORLD CAN COME TOGETHER, EVEN IN UNFORGIVING TIMES, AND THAT THE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER CAN OVERCOME ALL!”

— GREG STEWART

PARALYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST, MEN'S F46 SHOT PUT



TOP ATHLETES IN TOKYO

AURÉLIE RIVARD



5 MEDALS
2 GOLD, 1 SILVER, 2 BRONZE



BRENT LAKATOS



4 MEDALS
4 SILVER



DANIELLE DORRIS



2 MEDALS
1 GOLD, 1 SILVER




DANIELLE DORRIS
was Canada's youngest medallist
at age 18 and 11 months


TRISTEN CHERNOVE
was Canada's
oldest medallist at age 46


WOMEN'S SITTING VOLLEYBALL
team was Canada's top team
finishing in 4th place


PRISCILLA GAGNÉ
became the first Canadian woman
to win a medal in Para judo



NICHOLAS BENNETT

NEXT GEN ATHLETE – PARA SWIMMING



Nicholas Bennett set four Canadian records at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

Swimming runs in the Bennett family, with Haley Bennett, a former competitive swimmer, now sharing her tips and tricks with her younger brother, Nicholas. Nicholas Bennett was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder when he was three years old and after doing water therapy and swim lessons as a child, he entered the competitive swimming world like his older sister Haley. “I started swimming because of the way the water feels and I’m able to move pretty well through it. I tried a lot of other sports, but swimming really appealed to me,” says Bennett.

Bennett was one of Canada’s revelations in Para swimming at the 2019 Parapan American Games in Lima, Peru. At only 15 years old, he won three gold medals and a silver in the S14 class. S14 classification is for athletes who have an intellectual impairment. These swimmers may find it challenging to understand and apply training techniques and competition strategies, especially in busy competition swimming arenas. “I sometimes have seizures, so a lot of coaches and clubs were not super

interested in me at first. I have an invisible impairment which means that I look, act, and swim just like anyone else. Sometimes people have a hard time understanding what makes me a Para athlete,” Bennett explains.

Bennett made his Paralympic debut at the Tokyo 2020 Games as the youngest member of Team Canada and set Canadian record times in all four events in which he competed, despite it being his first competitive event of the season due to the COVID pandemic. He won Swimming Canada’s Breakout Performer of the Year (Paralympic Program) in 2021. “I couldn’t have done it without my coach, or the sport science staff team,” he says.

“SPORT HAS OPENED SO MANY DOORS FOR ME. BUT MOSTLY IT’S GOOD FOR MY HEALTH. WHEN I SWIM, I AM ABLE TO WORK OUT MY NERVES AND ANXIETIES, AND ALSO AVOID OTHER NEGATIVE PHYSICAL EFFECTS THAT OCCUR WHEN I AM NOT ACTIVE.”

— NICHOLAS BENNETT
PARALYMPIAN



WOMEN'S SITTING VOLLEYBALL

TEAM SPOTLIGHT



Team captain Danielle Ellis celebrates with her teammates.

The women's sitting volleyball team was Canada's top team at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games finishing in fourth place. This was only the second time the team qualified for the Paralympics, the first being the Rio Games in 2016 where it finished seventh.

Head coach Nicole Ban describes how the road to the Tokyo Games was not an easy one for the team. "Our road to Tokyo was a bumpy one, we ended up qualifying at the last chance qualifier in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on March 1, 2020. Then, the world took a turn as we all know with the COVID pandemic, and all games and competitions were delayed. We took that time to continue to improve and make the most of what we were presented with. We had many changes prior to the Tokyo Games and eventually brought 11 athletes on the Tokyo roster (one less than the usual 12). Despite the adversity faced, our performance was our best yet."

Team captain Danielle Ellis, who has been on the Team Canada women's sitting

SPORT IS EVERYTHING IN MY LIFE, IT HAS BEEN SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART OF MY UPBRINGING AND WHO I AM TODAY. I TRULY BELIEVE SPORT TEACHES A LOT ABOUT LIFE, ABOUT ADVERSITY AND ABOUT BEING THE BEST VERSION OF YOURSELF. I AM TRULY GRATEFUL TO HAVE THE CAREER I DO AND TO WORK WITH THE INCREDIBLE ATHLETES I DO, EVERY DAY.

— NICOLE BAN
HEAD COACH, WOMEN'S SITTING
VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM

volleyball team for 12 years, says it was a roller coaster of emotions in the lead up to the rescheduled Tokyo Games. "As the pandemic hit and gyms across the country shut down, competitions and practices were cancelled, and we got the news of the Games possibly being cancelled only weeks after qualifying, it felt like it was for nothing. But, after a bit of wallowing, we all picked ourselves up and we made sitting volleyball courts in our garages or backyards and wrecked walls in our houses as we practiced our skills. And then the best news came that



WOMEN'S SITTING VOLLEYBALL

the Games were being postponed and we had one extra year to train to be at our best for the team's second Paralympic Games!"

“AS A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY, YOU ARE OFTEN BULLIED AND NOT GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY SPORTS. SO ALREADY YOU HAVE A HIGHER RATE OF DEPRESSION AND MENTAL ILLNESS. WE NEED TO GIVE KIDS AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES A CHANCE TO SEE WHAT THEY CAN DO.”

— DANIELLE ELLIS
TEAM CAPTAIN, WOMEN'S SITTING VOLLEYBALL

Sitting volleyball is only starting to become more well-known in Canada. As Ellis says, “I didn't even know there was such a thing as Para sport until 2007. And, as much as things have grown in Canada and across the world, there is still so far to go. One of the biggest challenges we have as a team is finding new athletes and I fully believe that there aren't enough recreational or competitive sports in Canada for athletes with disabilities who want to play team sports.”

Coach Ban agrees with Ellis. “We do not have the grassroots programming across

Canada [for sitting volleyball] that is needed to create a sustainable, long-term program that can thrive over time. We are, however, developing this programming now and have high hopes to increase the number of people playing sitting volleyball so that one day, soon we hope, we have leagues across Canada as well as a National Championship.”

A huge part of making this a reality is funding. “It is a major sacrifice to be a Paralympic athlete as balancing a full-time job while being a high-level athlete is difficult. The increase in funding that we have received over the past few years and specifically, this current season, make a huge difference in our ability to train and compete. As we can continue to increase our ability to provide high quality programming, we hope to be able to continue to support our athletes on their path to the podium,” says Coach Ban.

“We want sitting volleyball to become a well-known Paralympic sport that regularly brings home medals for Canada. The best is yet to come for this program, we are just getting started.”



Payden Vair is a member of Team Canada's Women Sitting Volleyball Team, who placed 4th at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.



BRIANNA HENNESSY

NEXT GEN ATHLETE – PARA CANOE

One of the things that stands out when interacting with Brianna Hennessy is her positive attitude. Hennessy was diagnosed as a tetraplegic after an accident at the age of 30, however, after working extremely hard at her recovery, she ended up competing in both Para canoe and Para kayak events at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. “When something bad happens, you only have three choices: you can let it define you, you can let it destroy you, or you can find a way to let it strengthen you. And for me, the third was my only option,” said Hennessy.

“WITHOUT PARA SPORT IN MY LIFE, I DON’T KNOW WHERE I WOULD BE RIGHT NOW. IT’S THE BEST THING THAT I HAVE MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY AND IT’S WHAT GETS ME OUT OF BED EVERY MORNING.”

**— BRIANNA HENNESSY
PARALYMPIAN**

Growing up, Hennessy played AA hockey, national-level rugby, and was an amateur boxing champion in Ontario. She believes it’s because of this background in sports and her ability to react quickly that helped

her survive her accident in 2014 where she was struck by a cab driver.

Through the Ottawa Hospital Rehabilitation Centre, she was introduced to wheelchair rugby. Playing against mostly men, Hennessy would go on to play on Ontario’s provincial team before becoming the lone Canadian woman to compete in the elite level U.S. Quad Rugby Association.

When COVID hit and team sports were suspended, Hennessy had to adapt once again. Her local rugby coach reached out to her with a new competitive opportunity that she could pursue during COVID – Para canoe. “I’d never done a water sport in my life,” Hennessy says. “So, I was completely out of my element, but I’m also the type of person that’s always looking for new challenges.” Through hard work, her shining positive attitude, and Next Generation development programming, she qualified to represent Canada in Tokyo where she raced in two events. She already has her sights set on the Paris 2024 Games and is working hard to make that a reality.



Brianna Hennessy competed in the finals of both her events in Tokyo and now has her sights set on Paris 2024.



PARA 50/50

PRESENTED BY CANADIAN TIRE



KATARINA ROXON
PARA SWIMMING



PARA5050.CA

The first-ever 50/50 raffle in support of Para sport launched in Ontario during the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. Presented by Canadian Tire, participants who purchased tickets had a chance to win Early Bird prizes as well as the overall Jackpot, all while supporting the next generation of Para athletes and their dreams of reaching a Paralympic podium.

Net proceeds of the Para 50/50 were dedicated to grants in Ontario through the Canadian Paralympic Committee's Paralympic Sport Development Fund, Next Generation Athlete Development Program, and Para Sport Jumpstart Fund.

The Jackpot prize of \$58,260 was won by Kenn Lee of Toronto.

JACKPOT PRIZE:

\$58,260

EARLY BIRD #1
WINNING NUMBER : 3153837



\$500 CANADIAN TIRE
GIFT CARD

EARLY BIRD #2
WINNING NUMBER : 4035580



\$1000 CANADIAN TIRE
GIFT CARD

EARLY BIRD #3
WINNING NUMBER : 1217170



SIGNED WAYNE GRETZKY
JERSEY



CAMPAIGNS



FASKEN ONE HOUR AT A TIME

Fasken, a corporate partner of the Canadian Paralympic Committee and supporter of the Paralympic Foundation of Canada, has demonstrated their

commitment to the Paralympic Movement in Canada by engaging in fundraising initiatives to support the creation of opportunities for Canadians with a disability to participate in sport.

Throughout the pandemic, fundraising for Para sport was greatly impacted as the

events that would typically support these efforts were not able to take place.

With that in mind, Fasken engaged with partners and associates firm-wide with a request for support that is uniquely aligned with the legal industry: partners

and associates bill by the hour and the request was that each consider a donation equivalent to one of their billable hours.

Together they raised close to \$44,000 One Hour at a Time!



SUM Series participants reaching their finish line.


SUM SERIES

The pandemic has limited our movements and challenged us like never before. This was not an issue however for those participants of the SUM Series, organized by Paralympic Foundation of Canada Board Member Tim Rallis.

From May 16-30, participants chose their favourite trail to run, walk or wheel 25km

or 50km. For those that felt intimidated by those distances, they formed teams in which the individuals ran, walked or wheeled a total SUM of 25km or 50km.

It's the SUM of your resilience, the SUM of your effort, and the SUM of your perseverance that will push you over the finish line!


10 RUNNERS
(& 1 young cyclist)
reach a SUM of **536 kms**


147 INDIVIDUALS
supported their friends
and family members
with a donation


CLOSE TO \$10,000
raised in support of
Para sport in Canada

LAWYERS ON THE LINKS: GOLFING FORE OUR PARALYMPIANS

Organized by Paralympic Foundation of Canada Board Member Jennifer Labrecque, 152 golfers came together on a beautiful June day in support of

Canadian Paralympians. KMB Law supported as the title event sponsor with over 20 other sponsors adding to the success of the event.

More than \$35,000 was raised in support of the Paralympic Foundation of Canada.



Golfing in support of Para sport in Canada.



WAYNE GRETZKY JOINS HONORARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wayne Gretzky joins the Paralympic Foundation of Canada Honorary Board.

The Honorary Board was established in 2020 with an esteemed group of well-regarded members of the sport community: The Honorable Chantal Petitclerc, one of the most decorated Paralympians in Canadian history, disability advocate Rick Hansen, renowned Olympic and Paralympic broadcaster Scott Russell, and Dr. Robert

Steadward, founding President of the International Paralympic Committee.

In April 2021, Wayne Gretzky, one of the greatest hockey players of all time and famously known as The Great One, became the fifth member of the Honorary Board. “I have so much admiration

for athletes who are able to push the boundaries of sport and there is no better example of this than our Paralympians. I know the feeling of pride you get from competing for your country and I am excited for all our athletes who will feel that burst of pride as they excel at their chosen sport,” says Gretzky.

NEW PARTNERSHIPS LULULEMON

In September 2021, the Canadian Paralympic Committee and Canadian Olympic Committee announced athletic apparel brand lululemon as the new Official Outfitter of Team Canada. Beginning with the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in 2022, the multi-year partnership will span four Games inclusive of the Los Angeles 2028 Games.

At the heart of the Team Canada collection is the Future Legacy Bag — a special edition item for which a portion of the sales of each bag sold support the Canadian Olympic Foundation and Paralympic Foundation of Canada. This give-back program marks the first time one item has benefited both foundations and is aligned with lululemon’s core value of inclusion.



Sales of lululemon’s legacy bag will support the Paralympic Foundation of Canada.



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

The Paralympic Foundation of Canada provides financial support across three main program areas:

PARA SPORT AND EARLY ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT.

Sport starts in the community. By providing funding to community-based Para sport organizations, we're working to ensure that sport is available and accessible for all Canadians with a disability.

NEXT GENERATION PROGRAMMING.

Next Generation programming supports Canada's aspiring Paralympians who, with support, will have opportunities to excel in their sport at national and international competitions including the Paralympic Games. Funding supports Canada's Next Gen of Para athletes through five key areas of programming: coaching; training environments; equipment; health and wellness; and sport science.

HIGH PERFORMANCE.

High Performance programming supports Para athletes who represent Canada at the highest levels. This funding supports the Para athletes who have the drive and talent to pursue their sport further and represent Canada on the world stage.

**CRA fundraising ratio*

***All amounts based on the 2020-21 Audited Financial Statement.*

“PARALYMPIC SPORT IS EXPENSIVE. ADAPTIVE SPORT IN GENERAL IS EXPENSIVE. WHAT IT COSTS TO GET INVOLVED IN STAND-UP HOCKEY, IT'S A FRACTION OF THE COST OF WHAT A NEW SLED FOR PARA ICE HOCKEY COSTS. IT'S AN EXPENSIVE ENDEAVOUR, SO IF WE CAN HELP IN ANY WAY TO MAKE SURE THOSE COSTS ARE OFFSET AND KIDS GET INVOLVED, I THINK THAT'S A REALLY GREAT THING.”

— GREG WESTLAKE
PARA ICE HOCKEY, 5-TIME PARALYMPIAN



\$0.98

of every dollar raised is directed to the programs we support.*

In 2021 the Paralympic Foundation of Canada received donations and support totaling:

\$957,457

\$1,040,000

Granted to the Canadian Paralympic Committee to support early athlete development, Next Generation athlete programs, and high performance.



THANK YOU!

Thanks to the generous gifts from individuals, corporations, and foundations, the Paralympic Foundation of Canada is helping to provide more Canadians with a disability the opportunity to be active in sport in their communities and perhaps one day, reach the Paralympic podium.



Meet the Circle of Champions

Circle of Champions members are generous individuals who have donated \$1,000 or more through their lifetime giving to ensure that together, we can make a profound and lasting impact on Para sport in Canada.



\$1 MILLION HALL OF CHAMPIONS

Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities

Pfizer Canada

Jim & Deb Westlake

HALL OF CHAMPIONS (\$100,000+)

B2Ten
Fasken
Harper Grey LLP

Hudson's Bay Company
Iululemon
National Bank

Petro-Canada / Suncor
Power Corporation of Canada
Mike & Linda Shaikh

GOLD CIRCLE OF CHAMPIONS (\$25,000 - \$99,999)

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MEET THE TEAM



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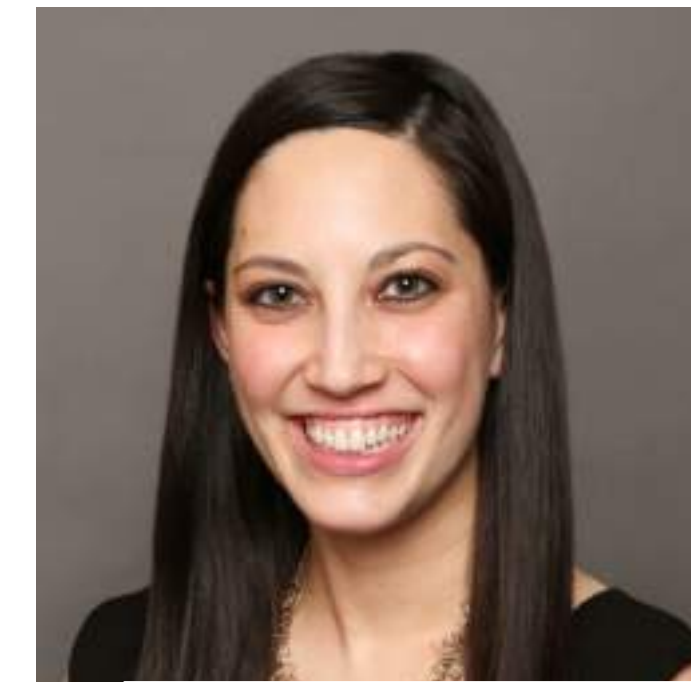
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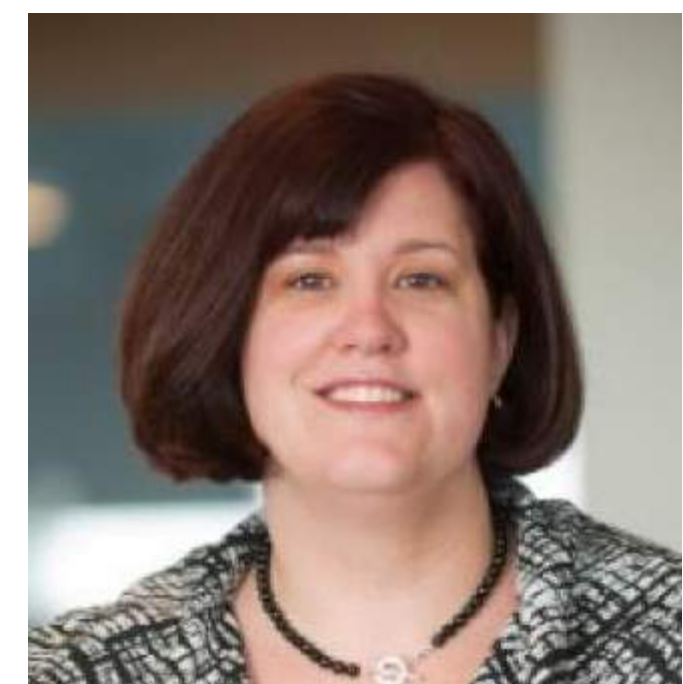
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HONORARY BOARD *(as of December 31, 2021)*



Wayne Gretzky



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Chantal Petitclerc**



Scott Russell



**Dr. Robert
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STAFF *(as of December 31, 2020)*



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Alison Costa
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Danielle Gattinger
DONOR EXPERIENCE

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