



PARALYMPIC
FOUNDATION

**REMOVE EVERY
BARRIER**

**IGNITE UNLIMITED
POTENTIAL**



Photo credit: Gerry Kripps



Para athletics

Sport is more than a game – it is an unrivalled catalyst for personal growth, resilience, and creating connections.

Yet for the more than 27% of Canadians with a disability, in excess of 8 million people, the greatest challenge often isn't the competition - it's getting the chance to compete.

For a person born with a disability, a newly injured individual, or someone recovering from a traumatic condition, simply discovering available sport programs and activities can be a challenge.

And if they are able to navigate that first obstacle, the costs of adapted equipment are as much as ten times that of sport equipment for non-disabled athletes.

When athletes can make it onto the field of play, they then need the talent, passion, unwavering commitment, and the support of the nation to reach the Paralympic Games. And when these Para athletes proudly wear the maple leaf and represent our country, they become more than just competitors – **they become living proof of potential.**



NATALIE WILKIE
Para nordic skiing



Sport has the power to ignite a nation.

It bridges divides of geography, language, politics, and ability, uniting Canadians in a way nothing else can. The Paralympic movement is not just sport; it is a catalyst for redefining what is possible, in Canada and across the globe.

We've made progress, but progress alone is not enough. Right now, too many athletes with a disability still confront limited access, unequal resources, and gaps in holistic support. Without urgent action, dreams will stall, potential will go untapped, and the momentum of the Para sport movement will falter.

**Together, we have the power to shape the future -
to ensure every barrier is broken, every voice is heard,
and every athlete has the chance to compete, inspire,
and lead us toward a more inclusive world.**

OUR VISION

The vision of the **Paralympic Foundation of Canada** is an inclusive world through Paralympic sport. Since its founding in 2015, the Foundation has raised over \$20 million, with an additional \$8 million in matching funds from the Government of Canada, to ensure that every Canadian with a disability has the chance to access sport and pursue their potential from their community to the Paralympic podium.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to building a more inclusive and accessible sport system and empowering the next generation of Para athletes.



PARALYMPIC
FOUNDATION

A large, dark red, stylized graphic of a wheel or gear, composed of several overlapping curved lines, positioned in the background behind the main text.

IT IS TIME TO **IGNITE CHANGE**

Be part of the largest-ever initiative to
remove barriers and increase access to Para sport



PILLARS OF THE IGNITE CAMPAIGN

We are committed to removing every barrier, facilitating access to sport and providing Canadians with a disability the resources they need to thrive. This includes financial support for adaptive sport equipment, access to Paralympic sport programs and skilled coaches, and opportunities for specialized training and competitions.

The Paralympic Games, as one of the world's largest sporting events, represent the zenith of athletic accomplishment for those with a disability. It's a summit that should be attainable for any individual possessing the talent, passion, and determination.

When elite Para athletes wear the maple leaf and represent our nation, they ensure that others with a disability have a beacon to look up to, an example in whom they can see a reflection of their own possibilities.

THE
GOAL: **\$35M**

IGNITE OPPORTUNITY

\$17 MILLION

+

IGNITE BELIEF

\$18 MILLION



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IGNITE OPPORTUNITY

The opportunity to try Para sport for the first time opens doors to a world of athletic possibilities that an individual with a disability may not have known existed. For many Para athletes, this represents more than just trying a new activity, it's discovering a community, building confidence, and realizing that physical differences don't limit athletic dreams. To begin this journey, however, they need to gain access to these existing programs, obtain the necessary equipment, and build their skills.

PATRICK ANDERSON
Wheelchair basketball



IGNITE OPPORTUNITY

PARALYMPIC SPORT DEVELOPMENT FUND

\$7M

Through the IGNITE campaign, the Paralympic Foundation of Canada will invest in local and regional organizations to support innovative services and programs to remove barriers and address any existing system gaps and opportunities.

IGNITE OPPORTUNITY

ADAPTED EQUIPMENT

\$5M

The cost of adaptive sport equipment is one of the primary barriers for individuals with a disability to participate in Para sport. Through this funding, the Paralympic Foundation of Canada will support adaptive sport equipment needs for Para athletes at all levels.

IGNITE OPPORTUNITY

NEXT GENERATION ATHLETE PROGRAM

\$5M

Next Generation athlete development programming supports Canada's Paralympic hopefuls who have the potential to excel in their sport at national and international competitions including the Paralympic Games.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING



SANDRINE HAMEL
Para snowboard

Alberta Snowboard received a grant for a Para snowboard coaching and community workshop held in May 2025. The event attracted coaches from six provinces. It was an opportunity for the Para snowboarders to explain to coaches about their disabilities, how it affected their movement and what type of adaptive equipment they needed. "Having this knowledge is really going to be important for these coaches especially when they deal with younger athletes and their parents in their community."

THE COST OF PARA SPORT

Before being able to compete a Para athlete often requires specialized equipment and other costs above and beyond the traditional expense of participating in competitive sports.

 <p>PARA ATHLETICS</p> <p>Running Blades \$25,000</p> <p>Racing Wheelchair \$12,000 - \$15,000</p>	 <p>WHEELCHAIR SPORTS</p> <p>Specialized Sport Wheelchair +\$15,000</p>	 <p>PARA ICE HOCKEY</p> <p>Sled +\$10,000</p>	 <p>BOCCIA</p> <p>Boccia Balls \$2,600</p> <p>Ball Ramp \$5,000</p>	 <p>PARA ROWING</p> <p>Specialized Seat +\$5,000</p>
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+ EXTRA TRAVEL COSTS

Since many Para sport programs aren't available in every city across Canada, an athlete and their family may have to travel long distances to access it.



+ EVERYDAY ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

Athletes who require mobility aids or other adaptations in their everyday life, have to spend their money on these needs before considering Para sport.





IGNITE BELIEF

The long journey from the first Para sport experience to competing for Canada at the Paralympic Games requires substantial investment and meticulous preparation to achieve success.

When Para athletes reach the elite level, they must navigate a complex pathway that begins with being classified within their sport, obtaining specialized coaching, high-performance training, and international competition experience. This transformation from promising talent to Paralympic medallist requires a sustained commitment to excellence across every aspect of development, planning, and preparation.



IGNITE BELIEF

CLASSIFICATION GRANT

\$2M

Classification is an integral aspect of Paralympic sport but can be expensive and distracting to athletes training for competition and preparing for important events. These grants allow National Sport Organizations to prioritize classification where it best fits for athletes.

IGNITE BELIEF

PARALYMPIC GAMES PREPARATION

\$8M

Success at the Paralympic Games is the result of meticulous preparation. This funding supports National Sport Organizations and highperforming athletes to address their areas of greatest needs in achieving their Games performance plan.

IGNITE BELIEF

PERFORMANCE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

\$8M

This program ensures that Paralympic medalists receive equal financial recognition to their Olympic counterparts—a commitment that will carry forward to future Paralympic Games.

GETTING STARTED



LEANNE TAYLOR
Para triathlon

In 2018, at the age of 25, Leanne Taylor was injured in a cycling accident, paralyzing her from the waist down. As part of her recovery process she was invited to observe a wheelchair athletics program, and just eight months after her injury, Leanne took part in her first Para triathlon race.

“I was intimidated at first. But the way the Para sport community is, everyone supports you and encourages you. As a new wheelchair user, everything you do is new and having that community so important.” Leanne continued to become a Paralympic bronze medalist at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

JOIN US!

TOGETHER, WE WILL IGNITE CHANGE THROUGH SPORT

Since its founding, the Foundation has worked to ensure that every Canadian with a disability has the chance to access sport and pursue their potential, from community programs to the Paralympic podium.

Learn more at: paralympicfoundation.ca

Email: foundation@paralympic.ca

