



# Memorandum

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**To:** Wheelchair Basketball Canada Active Members  
**From:** Wendy Gittens, Executive Director  
**CC:** Provincial Representatives  
National Coaches  
Committee Chairpersons  
Sean O'Donnell, Sport Canada  
Partners  
**Date:** October 15, 2010  
**Subject:** Welcome to the 2009 Annual General Meeting

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Dear Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the 2010 Annual General Meeting.

Please find enclosed the information package pertaining to the AGM. Reports not included in this package should be brought to the meeting three-holed punched and please provide 30 copies.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the office at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Wendy Gittens  
Executive Director

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CANADA

Wheelchair Basketball Canada

[wheelchairbasketball.ca](http://wheelchairbasketball.ca)

6 Antares Drive, Phase 1, Unit 8, Ottawa, Ontario K2E 8A9  
T: 613-260-1296 F: 613-260-1456

# Note de Service

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**À:** Membres actifs de basketball en fauteuil roulant Canada

**De:** Wendy Gittens, Directrice exécutive

**CC:** Représentants provinciaux  
Entraîneurs nationaux  
Membres des comités  
Sean O'Donnell, Sport Canada  
Partenaires

**Date:** 15 oct, 2010

**Sujet:** Bienvenue à l'Assemblée générale annuelle 2009

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Chers membres,

De la part du conseil d'administration, nous profitons de cette opportunité pour vous souhaiter la bienvenue à l'Assemblée générale annuelle 2010.

Vous trouverez ci-joint toutes les informations qui vous seront utiles durant l'assemblée générale annuelle. Les documents qui ne sont pas inclus dans cette trousse devront être remis perforés à l'assemblée. Veuillez, SVP, fournir 30 copies.

Si vous avez des questions, n'hésitez pas à contacter le bureau de l'association en tout temps.

Sincèrement,



Wendy Gittens  
Directrice exécutive

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CANADA



WHEELCHAIR  
**BASKETBALL**  
CANADA

## **2010 Wheelchair Basketball Canada**

### **Annual General Meeting**

### **Information Package List**

**October 30, 2010**

1. Welcome Overview
2. Information Package List
3. Schedule of Events
4. Agenda
5. Minutes from the 2009 AGM
6. President and Vice President's Reports
7. Finance – Audited Statements
8. Nominations Report
9. Reports
  - 9.1 Newfoundland
  - 9.2 Prince Edward Island
  - 9.3 Nova Scotia
  - 9.4 New Brunswick
  - 9.5 Quebec
  - 9.6 Ontario
  - 9.7 Manitoba
  - 9.8 Saskatchewan
  - 9.9 Alberta
  - 9.10 British Columbia
  - 9.11 National Coaches Reports
  - 9.12 Athlete Representatives Reports
  - 9.13 Partner Reports – Sport Canada  
- Canada Basketball

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## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Thursday October 28

Arrival of Board and AGM participants

*Board Meeting*

**Room**

*Suite*

**Time**

*6:00pm-*

### Friday October 29

*Continental Breakfast*

*Marine Room*

*8:00 am*

*Social Media Presentation – Kevin Lawrie*

*Marine Room*

*9:00 – 10:30 am*

*Break*

*10:30 – 10:45 am*

*NCCP Presentation – Catherine Ireland*

*Marine Room*

*10:45 – 12:15 pm*

*Lunch- provided*

*Marine Room*

*12:30 – 2:00 pm*

*IWBF Rule Changes 2010 – Trevor Kerr*

*Marine Room*

*2:00 – 2:30 pm*

*Classification Update – Wendy Gittens*

*Marine Room*

*2:30 – 3:00 pm*

*LTAD Presentation – Mike Frogley*

*Marine Room*

*3:00 – 4:30 pm*

*Raptor's Game - Air Canada Centre*

*Air Canada Club 5:00 pm*

*Game starts at 7:00 pm*

*- make your way to the ACC on your own, short walk/wheel (0.2 km)*

### Saturday October 30

*WBC Updates - Staff*

*Marine Room*

*9:00 – 10:30 am*

*Break*

*10:30 – 10:45 am*

*Annual General Meeting*

*Marine Room*

*10:45–12:30 pm*

Departures

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CANADA



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

October 30, 2010  
Westin Harbour Castle  
One Harbour Square  
Toronto, ON M5J 1A6  
Tel: 416 869-1600

<http://www.westinharbourcastletoronto.com>

- 1. Call To Order and Welcome**
  - 1.1 Roll Call
  - 1.2 Appointment of Scrutineers
- 2. Agenda**
  - 2.1 Additions
  - 2.2 Approval
- 3. Minutes**
  - 3.1 Approval of Minutes
  - 3.2 Business Arising from the Minutes
- 4. President and Vice Presidents Reports**
  - 4.1 President
  - 4.2 VP High Performance
  - 4.3 VP Athlete Representative
  - 4.4 VP Domestic
  - 4.5 VP Technical
    - 4.56 Officials Report
    - 4.57 Classification Report
  - 4.6 VP Marketing and Communications
  - 4.7 VP Finance and Administration

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- 4.71 Audited Statements
- 4.72 Appointment of Auditors
- 4.73 2010/11 Budget

**5. Nominations for the Board of Directors**

- 5.1 Nominations Report

**6. Member Reports**

- 6.1 Newfoundland
- 6.2 Prince Edward Island
- 6.3 Nova Scotia
- 6.4 New Brunswick
- 6.5 Quebec
- 6.6 Ontario
- 6.7 Manitoba
- 6.8 Saskatchewan
- 6.9 Alberta
- 6.10 British Columbia
- 6.11 Women's Head Coach
- 6.12 Men's Head Coach
- 6.13 Junior Head Coach
- 6.14 Espoir Head Coach
- 6.15 Women's Athlete Representative
- 6.16 Men's Athlete Representative
- 6.17 Canada Basketball
- 6.18 Sport Canada
- 6.19 OCWSA

**7. Notices of Motion**

- 7.1

**8. Elections**

- 8.1 Election of VP President – 2 year term
- 8.2 Election of VP High Performance – 2 year term
- 8.3 Election of VP Marketing and Communications – 2 year term

**9. New Business**

- 9.1

**10. Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CANADA

Wheelchair Basketball Canada

**Wheelchair Basketball Canada  
Annual General Meeting  
Minutes**

August 28, 2009

**1. Call to Order**

Steve Bach, President called the Wheelchair Basketball Canada Annual General Meeting to order on August 28 2009 at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel.

**Present:**

**1.1. Roll Call**

Joelle Buckle (SK) – 2 votes	Michael Broughton (SK)
Christina Swett (NS) – 2 votes	José Malo (QU) – 1 vote
Marc Antoine Ducharme (QU) – 1 vote	Mandy Johnson (MB) – 2 votes
Cathleen MacKinnon (PEI) – 2 votes	Chris Jackson (NFLD) – 2 votes
Karen Ferguson (NB) – 1 vote	Lynda Charters (ON) – 2 votes
Cheryl Corrigan (BC)	Lou Rene Legge (BC) – 2 votes
Mike Sandomirsky (AB) – 2 votes	Chris Alders (NB) – 1 vote
Sharron St. Croix -VP HP (1)	Phil Schlote – OTP
Stephen Bach - President	Janet McLachlan – Athlete Rep
Donald Royer – VP Finance (1)	Jeff Dunbrack – HP Coordinator
Trevor Kerr - VP Technical (1)	Anne Lachance - Classification
Christina Jones -VP Domestic (1)	Kathy Newman – VP Marketing (1)
Jennifer Krempien – VP Athlete Rep (1)	CJ Ireland – Domestic Coordinator
Jody Kingsbury – Communications Manager	Maureen Orchard – IWBF President
Wendy Gittens – Executive Director **** minutes	

Number of votes confirmed at 26

**1.2 Appointment of Scrutineers**

Scrutineers were not needed

**2. Agenda**

The following additions were added to the agenda:

6.20 – IWBF Report – Maureen Orchard

9.1 – Motion for WBC to nominate Maureen Orchard for another term as IWBF President.

**2.2 Approval**

**Motion:** To accept the 2009 AGM Agenda as presented with the noted additions.

Donald Royer  
Jose Malo  
*Carried*

**3. Minutes**

The minutes were presented.

There was one change noted in the minutes, Dominique Tremblay was representing AQSFR not OCWSA.

**Motion:** To approve the minutes from the 2008 AGM as presented

Karen Ferguson

Chris Jackson

*Carried*

**3.1 Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**4. President and Vice Presidents Report**

Steve Bach noted, the President's report along with the Vice President's reports, are included in the AGM package, which was on the memory stick that each member received. In an effort to "go green," WBC had tried to have a paperless AGM with all reports and information provided electronically. Steve's report was a summary of the highlights of the year which included, the new logo and re-branding, completion and implementation of the Strategic Plan, hosting the 2009 America's Cup, along with the developing stronger partnerships with several organizations in particular CPC and Canada Basketball. Steve spoke about the level of basketball being played at the international level in the junior age, having attended the Jr Worlds in Paris earlier in July. Lastly, Steve indicated the revenue streams have been sustainable which has allowed the organization to invest significantly in grassroots development and a particular focus on the LTAD model and the new NCCP program which will be top priorities moving forward.

**VP High Performance** – Sharron recognized the accomplishments of the national teams and updated the group on the activities within the National team program. With the increase in funding from OTP, head coaching positions have been maintained and we will be hiring a fulltime Jr Head Coach/Centre for Performance Coordinator, and a part time Espoir Coach. Sharron indicated it is exciting to see the development and growth of our HP program and noted a special thanks to staff and in particular Jeff for all their hard work.

**VP Athlete Representative** – Jennifer Krempien acknowledged that Janet McLachlan and Tara Feser are the team reps for the Women's program. David Eng and Bo Hedges are the team reps for the Men's program. Jen noted the athlete



agreement had been updated and was adopted by both programs. The updated version clarified language around marketing, sponsorship and athlete identity rights.

**VP Domestic** - Christina Jones noted her report had been included in the AGM package. She noted the disappointment at the National Championships this past year in not having a Women's Division. She noted that the Women's Commission will be meeting to discuss how this coming year will see women's teams participating in our National Championships. Christina also noted that WBC had made significant commitment in funding to the provinces through the Special Project funding, BTG, our hosting grants and some targeted funding. Christina also noted that the Domestic Committee added 2 new members, Marc Antoine from Quebec and Ben Marston from NS and feels now that the Committee is now well represented demographically and divisionally.

**VP Technical** – Trevor Kerr noted his report was in the AGM package. Trevor highlighted that more people than ever before had completed the official's exam. Trevor also noted that the Officials Committee is working hard at developing officials and ensuring that they receive the appropriate training and support needed. Trevor also noted that the officials were now using video clips to review games, calls and overall help improve the level of officiating here in Canada. Trevor noted that both Vlad and Anne's reports were included with his.

**VP Marketing** - Kathy Newman acknowledged her report in the AGM package and thanked Jody Kingsbury for his help with the report. She highlighted the success of the re-branding and noted we were moving forward with some marketing initiatives.

## **5. Finance and Administration**

### **5.1 Audited Statements**

Donald Royer presented the 2008-09 Audited Statements. Revenue from Xentel and the Donations Canada program in addition to the investment fund continue to perform very well for the organization.

**Motion:** To accept the 2008-09 Audited Financial Statements as presented.

Mike Sandomirsky

Mandy Johnson

*Carried*

### **5.2 Appointment of Auditors**

**Motion:** To appoint the firm of Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham Deep LLP as the auditors for 2009-10.

Jose Malo

Karen Ferguson

*Carried*

### **5.3 2009-10 Budget**

Donald presented current financial statements along with expense and revenue projections to the end of the fiscal year indicating the organization will likely end the year with a modest surplus.

**Motion:** To receive the reports of the President and Vice Presidents as presented.

Christina Swett  
Mike Sandomirsky  
*Carried*

## **6 Nominations for the Board of Directors**

**6.1 Nominations Report** – Wendy reviewed the nomination procedures as outlined in the bylaw document. She reviewed the positions up for election and nominations received to date:

Donald Royer – VP Finance and Administration

Christina Jones – VP Domestic

Trevor Kerr – VP Technical

## **7. Member Reports**

**7.1 Newfoundland** – Chris Jackson handed out his report

**7.2 Prince Edward Island** – Cathleen spoke about the BTG program in Eastern Canada.

**7.3 Nova Scotia** – Nova Scotia reported that this year marked the inception of the Nova Scotia Wheelchair Basketball Association (NSWBA). The organization hosted the 2008 CWBL Open Finals in April and were pleased with the success of that event and look forward to hosting more events in the future. Christina also noted that they were working hard with the Junior program to ensure they had a competitive team at the Canada Games in Halifax in 2011.

**7.4 New Brunswick** – NB reported they are in the process of selecting their coaches and manager for the Canada Games team. The official's clinic that was held earlier in the spring was well received and they hope to hold another early next season in preparation for the 2011 Canada Games.

**7.5 Quebec** – Quebec noted they were very disappointed that there was not a Women's division at Nationals and felt that the organization needs to focus on women's development and we all need to ensure this does not happen again.

**7.6 Ontario** – Ontario reported the D-league it runs continues to grow and a special thanks was given to Steve Bialowas who stepped in to coordinate the league when Michael Broughton left to go to SK. OWSA hosted a successful Jr camp at Variety Village which helped identify future Junior athletes and well Canada Games athletes. Sudbury and Peterborough are new programs that OWSA assisted with sport wheelchairs. The BTG program in Ontario continues to grow and develop with many new partnerships being developed with organizations

such as London's Boyle Community Centre and Toronto Accessible Sports Council.

**7.7 Manitoba** – Mandy Johnson handed out her report and spoke to it.

**7.8 Saskatchewan** – Joelle Buckle noted basketball in SK continues to grow and develop. The Junior team under the guidance of Michael Broughton has been practicing and SK looks to improve upon their performance at the last Canada Games.

**7.9 Alberta** – Mike noted that WSA undertook a Basketball Strategic Planning session bringing together representation from the entire basketball community in Alberta. A Wheelchair Basketball Alberta Leadership team was created to guide the development of wheelchair basketball in Alberta with a redesigned and realigned vision that has support from all levels of the sport within Alberta. Mike was pleased with the progress made to date and thanked Vlad Eshenko, Jamie Peers and Christina Jones for their support and hard work.

**7.10 British Columbia** – Lou noted BC's report in the AGM package and if there were any questions to please ask. She noted that BC would be hosting the 2009 CWBL Finals. She thanked the BC staff for their hard work and support while Carrie is on maternity leave.

#### **7.11 National Coaches Reports –**

**Women** – Bill Johnson's report was in the AGM package although he was not present. Wendy indicated if anyone had any questions, she or Jeff would be happy to answer.

**Men** - Jerry Tonello's report was in the AGM package although he was not present either. Wendy indicated if anyone had any questions, she or Jeff would be happy to answer.

**Junior** – Cheryl Corrigan highlight the season of the Junior National team that finished 8<sup>th</sup> at the 2009 World Championships. Although we did not finish top 5 as we had hoped, she felt that the Junior program was in good shape with many of the athletes being age eligible for the next Worlds. With the additional funding to have a fulltime Jr/CP Coach, the program would grow and develop and Canada should anticipate a better finish at the next Worlds.

**7.12 Athlete Representatives Reports** – Janet thanked the staff for all of their support over the year. She indicated the women's team was looking forward to the future and felt that it had a successful season to date with the competitions and training received thus far. Janet took the opportunity to acknowledge the retirements of Jennifer Krempien and Lori Radke and thanked them for their contributions to the program over the years and wished them much success in their future endeavors.

**7.13 Sport Canada/OTP** – Phil Schlote spoke on behalf of Own the Podium. He emphasized that WBC received significant funds from OTP for our HP program, but this funding is contingent on performance. He challenged the provinces to

provide a quality daily training environment for our athletes and that this has to come from the grassroots level.

**7.14 IWBF** – Maureen noted that IWBF was pleased to be announcing it would seek bids to host the inaugural U25 Women’s World Championships in 2011, in addition to seeking bids to host the 2014 Women’s World Championships. She explained that IWBF was looking at splitting the men and women’s World Championships as each program would be increasing the number of teams participating to 14 and 12.

She congratulated both Anne Lachance and Trevor Kerr on the quality training of Canadian classifiers and officials, as Canada is viewed as having some of the top classifiers and officials in the world.

Maureen noted that in the America’s Zone, there are now 10 countries participating with women’s programs and was pleased at the growth seen in this zone.

Lastly, she noted that the Qualifier for the 2012 Paralympic Games would take place in Mexico during the 2011-Para Pan-American Games.

**Motion:** To receive the reports as presented by the membership.

Joelle Buckle

Chris Alders

*Carried*

## **8. Notices of Motion**

**8.1 Motion:** To elect by acclamation to the WBC Board of Directors for a two-year term

Donald Royer – VP Finance and Administration

Christina Jones – VP Domestic

Trevor Kerr – VP Technical

Mike Sandomirsky

Christina Swett

*Carried*

## **9 New. Business**

**9.1 Motion:** To nominate Maureen Orchard in the position of President of the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation at the 2010 elections during the World Congress.

Trevor Kerr

Donald Royer

*Carried*

## **10. Closing and Adjournment**

Steve thanked everyone for taking time out of their busy schedules to come to Vancouver and participate in the Leadership workshop and the AGM. He hoped everyone was able to catch some of the games at the Oval and wished everyone a safe trip home.

**Motion:** To adjourn the 2009 AGM Meeting.

Karen Ferguson

Marc Antoine Ducharme

*Carried*



## Wheelchair Basketball Canada 2010 Annual General meeting Presidents Report

***“WBC’s vision for 2020 is to be the world leader in wheelchair basketball”***

Wheelchair Basketball Canada remains vigilant to its vision of becoming the World leader in wheelchair basketball. Our vision is the reason we do what we do. It’s about equipping ourselves to demonstrate best practices in the management and organization of our game in Canada. It’s about nurturing new and existing partnerships to leverage our sport’s future capacity and sustainability. And it’s about contributing to the growth and well being of our international game. Just a few of the ways this past year that WBC has been going about realizing its vision:

### **Managing the Game in Canada**

Sport Leadership	WBC hosted a Leadership Development workshop for its constituents aimed at enhancing communication and leadership effectiveness
Risk Management	WBC Board members and key personnel took part in a two day risk management workshop culminating in a Risk Registry as a means to assist WBC in identifying, minimizing and managing risk in our organization
Women’s Summit	Women’s league stakeholders took part in a two day strategic planning session to map a plan and identify initiatives that promote the growth and development of the girl’s and women’s games in Canada
LTAD / NCCP	WBC contracted with Canada Basketball, drawing on their experience and expertise, to ignite the completion of our LTAD model and our NCCP modules
CRA / Xentel	WBC responded to new CRA fundraising guidelines resulting in the renegotiation of our Xentel contract and causing new discussions on the future of WBC fundraising





**Partnerships in Sport**

Sport Canada / OTP	WBC maintains its ever-present working relationship with Sport Canada/OTP in order to sustain the necessary funding required to maximize elite program development through enhanced training support and increased competitive opportunities
Canadian Paralympic Committee	WBC remains committed as a full member of the CPC in supporting and promoting the Paralympic movement and in lobbying for the equitable distribution of CPC funding between team and individual sports
Canada Basketball	WBC has nurtured a strong relationship with Canada Basketball, most notably through the sharing of financial and human resources to realize our mutual program objectives of development and sustainability
Canadian Team Sports Coalition	WBC remains active in the Canadian Team Sports Coalition in an effort to communicate to the Canadian Sport System the unique benefits, challenges, and opportunities facing team sports, and the need to establish key governmental and non-governmental partnerships to enhance the capacity and sustainability of those sports
Petro Canada Sport Leadership	WBC staff and Board members attend this annual conference as a means to remain networked with, and knowledgeable of, the Canadian sport system
True Sport	WBC remains an active advocate and representative for True Sport, a social movement in Canada committed to community sport that's healthy, fair, inclusive and fun
Toronto Raptors	WBC has entered discussions with Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment to explore partnership opportunities in their existing community programs and to develop new and creative opportunities to showcase our sport with the Toronto Raptors organization
NBA Canada	Ongoing discussions with NBA Canada culminated in an invitation for WBC to host a clinic and demonstration game at the recent 2010 NBA Jam Session in Calgary, the start of what we expect will be a mainstay partnership for the 2011 NBA Jam Sessions
Phase I (All Canada Classic)	WBC has been invited to partner in a national festival of basketball culminating in the National High School Basketball All-Star game televised by TSN at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto





## The International Game

2009 America's Cup	WBC hosted the America's Zone Qualifier in conjunction with its AGM and Leadership Development workshop
2010 World Championships	WBC were active participants at the 2010 World Congress and Forum of the IWBF where we mediated sessions on Risk Management, LTAD, Coaching certification, Classification, and World Championship bid presentations
2011 Women's Under 25 World Championships	WBC in partnership with Brock University was selected to host the inaugural Women's Under 25 World Championships in July 2011
2014 Women's World Championships	WBC was selected to host the Women's World Championships in partnership, it is anticipated, with the Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games Organizing Committee
International Classification	WBC has partnered with the IWBF by offering the staff and funding to develop resources and manuals for standardized training in international classification
International Officiating	WBC has partnered with the IWBF by offering the funding to develop resources and manuals for standardized training in international officiating
International Representation	WBC continues to ensure ongoing representation on the Executive and Standing Committees of the IWBF and the America's Zone by supporting Canadian representatives and by planning for their succession

My congratulations and thanks to our many partners in basketball for sharing the path and keeping our vision in sight.

Stephen Bach  
President  
Wheelchair Basketball Canada





**Wheelchair Basketball Canada**  
**2010 MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

**Submitted by: Kathy Newman, VP Marketing**



**WHEELCHAIR**  
**BASKETBALL**  
**CANADA**

**This report is an overview of Wheelchair Basketball Canada's marketing and communication efforts in 2010. The following report reviews major accomplishments to date and future plans through the remainder of the current 2009-2013 quadrennial.**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Wheelchair Basketball Canada recently reviewed and updated its communication plan in 2010 in order to reflect the progress that has been made in this area, and to address the evolving ambitions of the organization since the original plan was drafted in 2008. The overarching objective of the communications plan is to support the organizational goals of being a world leader through the development, support and promotion of the sport in accordance with the 2009-2013 Strategic Plan.

The hiring of communications staff have enabled us to make concentrated efforts to accomplish the **5 major goals** identified in the revised communications plan:

- 1 – Define and implement brand
- 2 – Raise awareness and enhance visibility
- 3 – Expand core audience
- 4 – Enhance existing partnerships and create new ones
- 5 – Advocate to actively enhance our role and influence

There are a number of exciting developments in each of these key areas that the following report aims to document. It also serves to reveal some of our immediate plans for the future.

**Phase one** of the communications strategy consisted of us laying a strong foundation for future growth. Throughout the last few years we have made strides to implement a new brand and to refine the way we communicate both internally and externally. We have made certain to begin benchmarking our data and have created infrastructure that allows us communicate more efficiently and effectively. With a greater sense of self (what we as an organization and sporting community are currently about, and strive to be) we have worked to implement a consistent image, look, and feel. We have since taken that image and tried to proactively convey it to the world through demonstration, promotion, and media relations. We continue to seek new opportunities to expand our audience, our partnerships, and our influence.

**Phase two** of the communications strategy seeks to expand on each of the aforementioned goals while welcoming ongoing growth and opportunity. In addition to expanding the ways in which we engage the outlined objectives, it is our ongoing intention to consistently improve on current tactics. First and foremost we must ensure we continue to evaluate our needs, monitor our progress, and always strive to be better. With the groundwork firmly in place we can confidently seek to better leverage existing opportunities and utilize our new capacity to explore new possibilities on the marketing and communications front.

## **1 - BRAND IMPLEMENTATION**

We should be reminded that it is vitally important that the organization takes ownership of anything and everything that bears our name, logo, or is associated with the products and services that we deliver. Everything that we do, the things we say, and information we choose to present is an opportunity to communicate a message about our sport, our athletes, our organization, and we want to ensure that message reflects positively.

### **2010 Notable Accomplishments:**

- Increased in number of visible applications and collateral (Brochure, Kit Folders, Image Sheet, Sponsorship Package, Signing cards etc.)
- Consistent application of brand across website and other mediums
- Review Key Messages

### **Current Projects & Future Plans:**

- Second round brand reaction survey (2010)
- Second round brand awareness survey (2012)
- Crisis management policy

## **2 - AWARENESS AND VISIBILITY &**

## **3 - EXPAND AUDIENCE**

Elements from each of the following communications areas fall under both objectives #2 and #3:

### **Website**

Wheelchair Basketball Canada's new website ([www.wheelchairbasketball.ca](http://www.wheelchairbasketball.ca)) launched in May 2009 remains a crucial component of the overall communications strategy (revised in 2010), and we continue to make strides toward improving our online presence.

### **2010 Notable Accomplishments:**

- Established benchmarks and increased use of website data and analytics
- Increased French content (working towards being fully bilingual)
- Increased Multimedia (Video and Images)
- Facilitated online (live) streaming

- Improved functionality in key areas (online store, calendar, interconnectivity with social media)

### **Current Projects & Future Plans:**

- Streamline homepage (include scrolling capabilities to main window) and revise content and links
- Explore feasibility of online National Team stats
- Improve functionality in key areas (video player, image galleries, athlete bio templates, calendar, secure site)
- Fix technical issues (search engine, archived news pages, menu structures)

As a primary communications tool that often serves as a first point of contact the website is the most comprehensive and extensive source of information about our organization. It also often presents our only opportunity to communicate with people outside of our internal community.

The following overarching objectives for the website were identified in the revised communications plan.

#### Website goals:

- Provide general information about Wheelchair Basketball Canada
- Communicate news in a timely manner
- Promote National Team athletes and events
- Promote Domestic athlete and events
- Introduce newcomers to the sport and encourage them to get involved
- Provide medium for communicating with internal audiences
- Offer fans a variety of unique content to maintain interest
- Create a positive image about wheelchair basketball.


## **Website - Quickstats**

*1-year period (Oct. 2009 – Sep. 2010)*

**19,837 people visited this site**

 **46,406** Visits

 **19,837** Absolute Unique Visitors

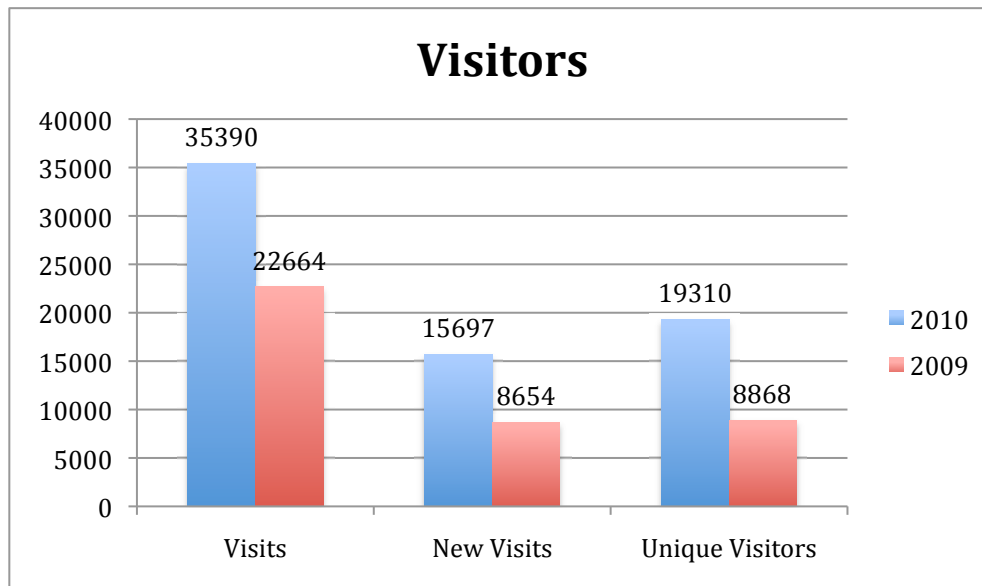
 **210,982** Pageviews

Over the course of a 12 month period (from October 2009 – September 2010) Wheelchair Basketball Canada had close to **50,000 hits** on our website ([www.wheelchairbasketball.ca](http://www.wheelchairbasketball.ca)) from 139 countries. Approximately 75% of the visits to our website originated in Canada with notable audiences in the USA, UK, and Germany.

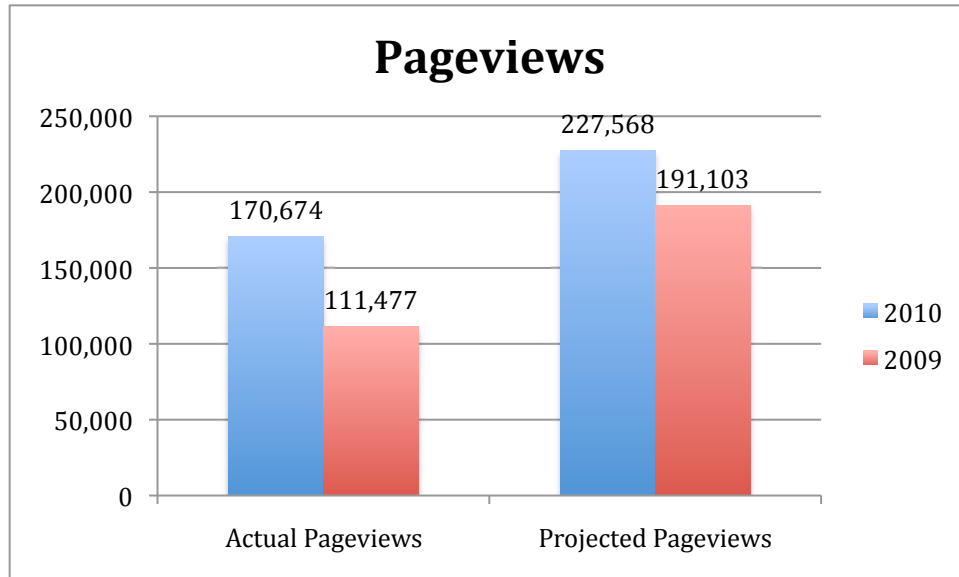
Nearly **20,000 unique visitors** viewed over **200,000 pages** of content during a one-year period.

## Website - Growth Quickstats

As a major source of measurable growth it is important to continually monitor our online progress, examine strengths, identify weaknesses and be proactive in how we use our online presence to communicate our key messages.



As of September 2010 the average number of monthly visitors to the website ([www.wheelchairbasketball.ca](http://www.wheelchairbasketball.ca)) increased **+21.5%** compared to the previous benchmarks established in 2009; the average monthly number of new visits increased **+41.4%**; and the average monthly number of unique visitors increased **+69.4%**.



As of September 2010 the actual number of pageviews on the website ([www.wheelchairbasketball.ca](http://www.wheelchairbasketball.ca)) increased **+19.1%** compared to the previous benchmark established in 2009. Since the current website was launched in May 2009 we do not have data for the first 4 months of 2009, or the final 3 months of 2010 – therefore projected pageviews is a reasonable estimation based on monthly averages recorded during the respective years.

## Social Media

Wheelchair Basketball Canada began introducing a social media campaign in the fall of 2009 with concentrated efforts commencing in 2010. The results of our increased engagement are indicated by the steady growth we've experienced in the respective audiences. We currently leverage 3 social networks including Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

### **2010 Notable Accomplishments:**

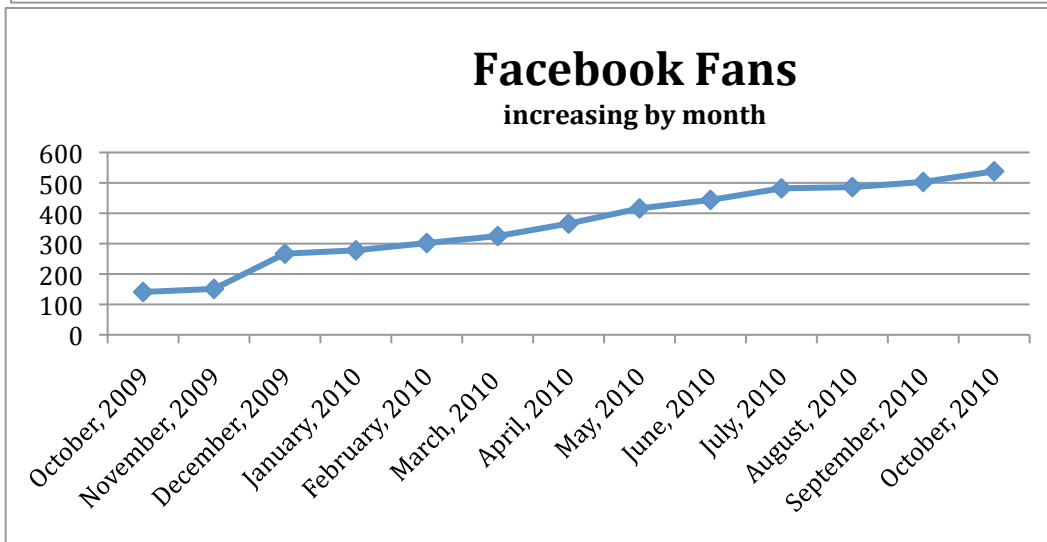
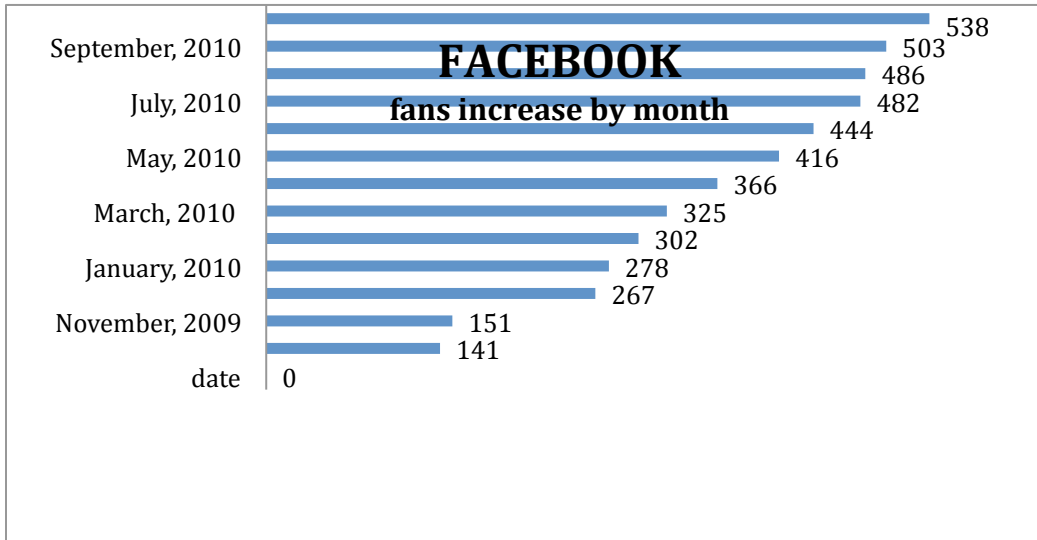
- Increased social media content
- Increased social media audience
- Better interconnectivity amongst social media mediums
- Facebook directed close to 4000 visits to our website in 2010

### **Current Projects & Future Plans:**

- Develop a social media policy
- Explore opportunities to grow audience, and promote events
- Explore opportunities to create incentives for sponsors
- Utilize as a tool in development of Alumni program

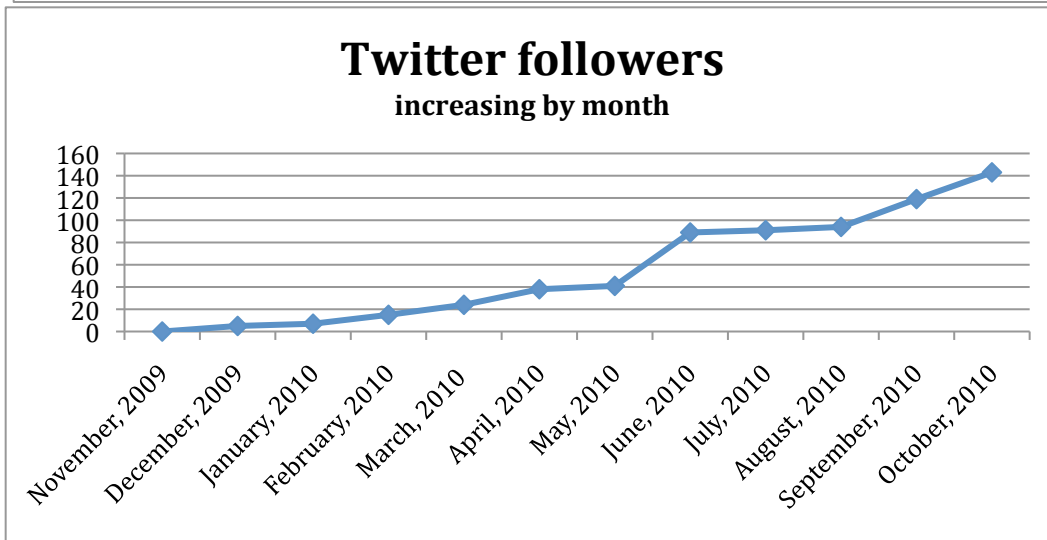
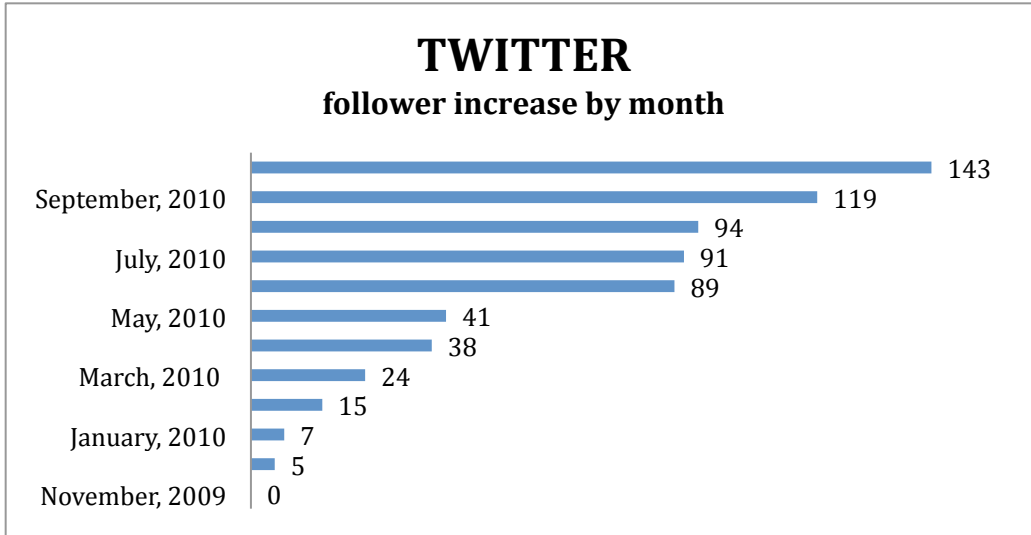
## Social Media - Facebook

Wheelchair Basketball Canada currently has 572 facebook fans (as of October, 2010).



## Social Media - Twitter

Wheelchair Basketball Canada currently has 152 followers on Twitter (as of October, 2010)



## Social Media – Youtube

Wheelchair Basketball Canada currently has 22 videos and 36 subscribers on YouTube, amassing a total of **22,635 views** (as of October, 2010).

## Newsletter

Wheelchair Basketball Canada's e-newsletter is currently distributed to **257 subscribers**. + 98 (38.1%) since it's launch in July 2009.

### 2010 Notable Accomplishments:

- Sample: September 2010 newsletter opened by 46.5% of recipients compared to industry average of 18.2%



- Sample: September 2010 newsletter directed 459 visits to website – representing 14% of referrals (2<sup>nd</sup> only to Google at 33%)
- Better interconnectivity amongst social media mediums

### Current Projects & Future Plans:

- Continue to increase interconnectivity amongst social media mediums
- Explore opportunities to grow audience, and promote events
- Explore opportunities to create incentives for sponsors



## Media Relations

Effective media relations is crucial to Wheelchair Basketball Canada’s ability to raise awareness, enhance visibility, and ultimately expand its audience.

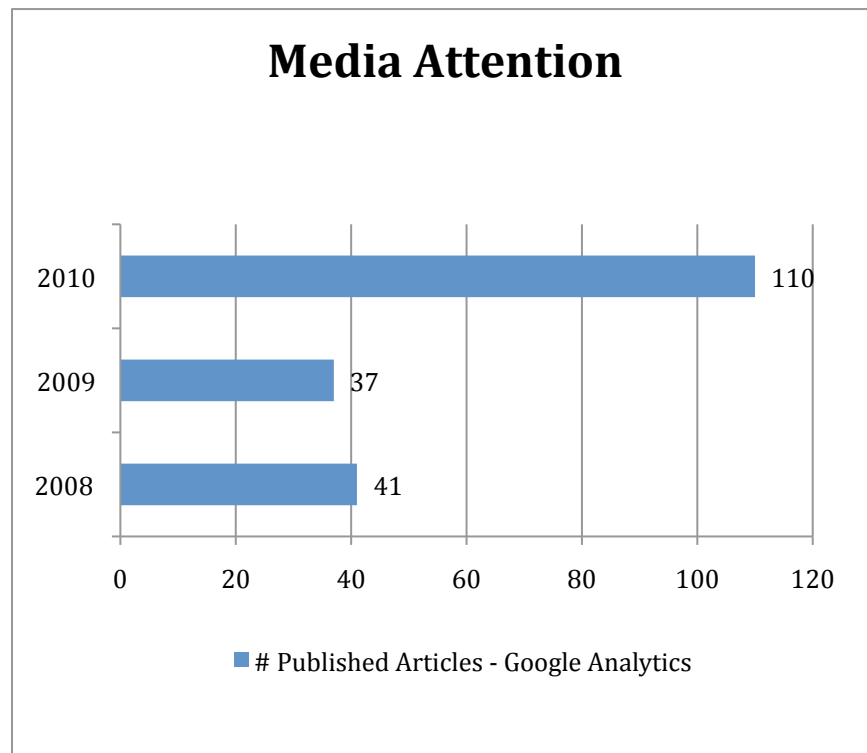
### 2010 Notable Accomplishments:

- Increased media attention
- Utilized targeted press releases at 2010 World Championships that focused on specific local athletes and proactively included images and relevant information along with general press release
- Enhanced access to information available to media (online press releases, media kits at major events, etc.)
- Better interconnectivity amongst social media mediums (inclusion of links to social media amongst press materials)

### Current Projects & Future Plans:

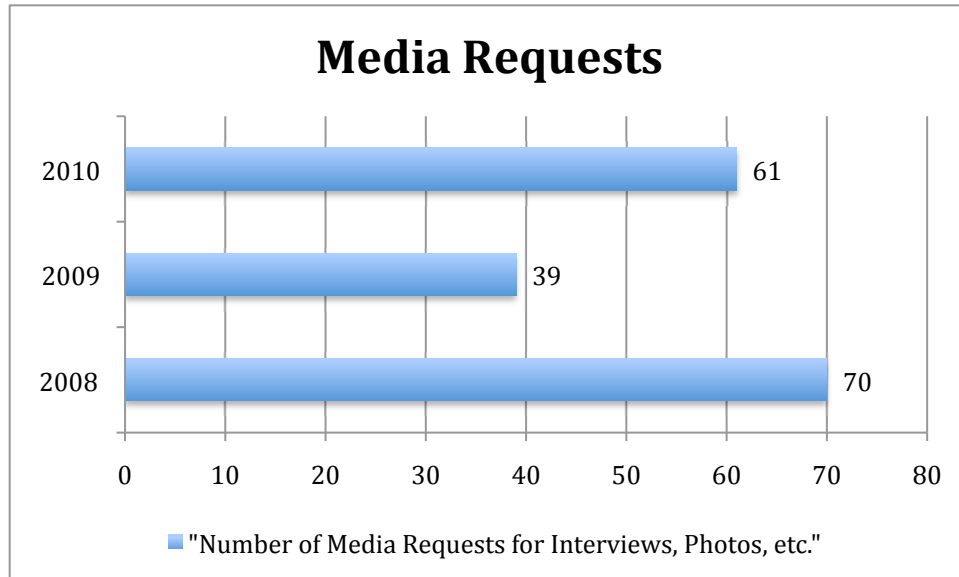
- Preparing template for daily media notes that could be updated and distributed at major events.
- Ongoing liaising with media to build stronger relationships and pitch stories

Since we do not have a formal media tracking service we rely on internal tracking and Google analytics to provide us with a picture of how well our media relations efforts are paying off. While there is still much work to do in this area the chart below (which indicates the number of published articles online meeting our search criteria in Google alerts) demonstrates positive results. As of September we can confirm at least 110 online publications about our sport, organization, athletes, coaches, and events.



*\*Actual reach and scope of media attention is far greater than 110 articles. For example we know that for the 2009 Americas Cup our media relations efforts reached a potential audience of 4.3 million people according to data forwarded by the Canadian Paralympic Committee, but Google analytics only flagged 37 articles for the entire year.*

Another cost-effective way to gauge the success of our media relations is to track the number of various media requests we receive from year-to-year. As can be expected in a Paralympic year (2008) we would typically receive more requests. So far in 2010 we have received 61 requests.



## Other – National Team Statistics

In 2010 we began working on a National Team statistical database to keep of track individual milestones and facilitate media relations efforts. We are also looking into the possibility of streamlining National Team statistics online so that they can benefit the general public's user experience in addition to providing easy access for coaches and other administrators.

## Other – Promotional Videos

We are currently pursuing opportunities to develop promotional video content that can be used for a multitude of purposes, but would primarily serve to promote our National Team athletes and major events such as the Women's U25 World Championships.

## 4 – EXPAND PARTNERSHIPS

### Sponsorship - Women's U25 World Championships & 2014 Women's World Championships

The upcoming Women's U25 World Championships & 2014 Women's World Championships present an excellent opportunity to augment our efforts to build relationships with potential sponsors and other important partners. Initial plans around marketing and communication have been laid and substantial resources will be allocated to ensure we leverage these opportunities to their full potential.

**2010 Notable Accomplishments:**

- Participation in 2010 NBA Jam Session (Calgary, AB) with promise of future opportunities.
- Greater collaboration with Canadian Paralympic Committee, Toronto Raptors, and Canada Basketball in the sharing and distributing news and information.

**Current Projects & Future Plans:**

- Ongoing efforts to obtain expertise in marketing and sponsorship to pursue initiatives in these areas
- Continuous development and refining of sponsorship packages aimed at attracting new partnerships (including creation of asset inventory).
- Long term hosting strategy (2014 Women's World Championships).

**5 – ADVOCACY****2010 Notable Accomplishments:**

- Participation in 2010 NBA Jam Session (Calgary, AB) with promise of future opportunities.
- Canadian Paralympic Committee names "Tim Frick Coaching Excellence Award"

**Current Projects & Future Plans:**

- Commenced recruitment for launch of new Alumni Program.
- Mentorship program around Women's U25 World Championships.

High Performance Report for the  
Wheelchair Basketball Canada  
Annual General Meeting, October 29-30, 2010

Since the last AGM, there have been significant changes in the High Performance portfolio.

New hirings

Paul Zachau was hired as the High Performance Director. Stephen Bialowas was hired as the Junior Men's Head Coach and the Coordinator for the Centres for Performance. Michael Broughton was hired as the ½ time Women's Espoir Coach.

Own The Podium

Significant financial support continues to be provided by OTP. Beyond the annual funding provided to WBC, an additional pot of money was made available in June for Team Sports. Sport Canada has recognized that Team Sports in Canada were not being supported fairly in comparison with their Individual Sport counterparts. WBC was able to access an additional \$157,000 this past summer for projects such as : Equipment subsidy for NT pool athletes, hiring team doctors for the Men and Women's teams, a formal HP planning meeting, basketball festivals and contracting a mechanic to work with each team.

Results

The Women placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at World Championships which was an excellent result. Our Men placed 7<sup>th</sup> overall which was, as I am sure we all agree, quite disappointing. As an organization we need to review our program and decide where we go from here.

The Women were able to train and play together in a significant number of events prior to World Championships. Two trips to Alabama, the Osaka Cup, training at the U of Illinois, followed by events at Warm Springs, Lakeshore and the Paralympic Cup. The team centralized in Ottawa for 1 week prior to departing for staging in Germany.

The Men trained at the U of Illinois, played in the Paralympic Cup and Lakeshore events, before competing in an exhibition tournament in Birmingham.

The future

WBC hosted a camp for Espoir and Junior age athletes at Brock University in August where 41 athletes attended. This number is very encouraging, particularly on the Women's side in advance of the first ever U25 Women's World Championship next summer.

The Head Coaches are hard at work planning for the upcoming two years leading into the London Paralympics. Our next OTP review meeting in November will be very important to secure the continued financial support we require to run full-time programs for all of our teams.

I would like to thank the staff of WBC for their continuous support over the last year. We should be very proud of the work they have accomplished and of their dedication to this organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharron St. Croix, VP High Performance

## 2009-2010 Domestic Report

The domestic portfolio within Wheelchair Basketball Canada through the 2009-2010 season was another busy and successful one.

Utilizing the strategic plan (2009-2013), the domestic portfolio is guided through the critical task of implementing various goals and strategies. To date, the domestic development portion of the strategic plan has made significant strides. We have engaged in every single component goal (5) and have, at a minimum, initiated development in 20 of 23 of the strategies outlined.

Most significantly, the Long Term Athlete Development model has considerably forged ahead toward completion and is in the final stages of editing. A lofty task by the LTAD steering committee with assistance from Canada Basketball, we are very proud of this document and the time and effort put forward to produce.

Another important task within the strategic plan was the targeted development of the female game in Canada. As a result, WBC and the women's commission teamed up to host a Women's Summit. The summit was aimed at assessing the current state of female wheelchair basketball in Canada and brainstorming potential opportunities for growth and development. In total 21 individuals came together for a weekend long meeting, along with 12 telephone interviews. A consultant was hired to assist in the process and produced a report following which summarized the weekend. This report will help us in creating a detailed and executable plan for female basketball in Canada.

Wheelchair Basketball Canada continues to provide resources to assist in the growth and development and Special Project Funding is an excellent example of this. The 2009-2010 phase of Special Funding accepted 45 applications each at \$1000.00. This is the largest acceptance that Wheelchair Basketball Canada has had for Special Projects! Within those acceptances were seven clubs who have never applied before and five new to Wheelchair Basketball Canada.

A big thank you to all the host cities, provincial sport associations and hosting committee's for the championships held throughout this season. Each did a fantastic job in representing their province as well as our sport. National Championships returned to include the Women's CWBL division and were hosted in Saskatoon, SK. On the men's side, British Columbia took gold, Ontario took silver and Quebec took Bronze. On the women's side, BC Breakers claimed Gold, Edmonton Inferno claimed silver and Quebec claimed Bronze.

This year Junior National Championships were scheduled to feature Provincial Junior teams vying for seeding heading into 2011 Canada Games. This event was hosted in Montreal, QC by AQSFR. Quebec claimed top seed and final rankings heading into 2011 are as follows:

- (1) Quebec
- (2) Ontario
- (3) Manitoba
- (4) BC
- (5) Saskatchewan
- (6) Nova Scotia
- (7) PEI
- (8) Alberta
- (9) New Brunswick

CWBL Open championships were hosted in Coquitlam, BC by BC Wheelchair Basketball Society. Douglas College Lions (BC) claimed first place, Variety Village (ON) claimed second and Glads de Laval (QC) claimed third.

Numerous successful mini regional events were hosted across the country and varied in format from province to province.

The domestic committee bid adieu to Darrell Nordell (CWBL Open Commissioner) and is currently seeking a replacement. On behalf of the committee and WBC, we would like to thank Darrell for his contributions to wheelchair basketball and wish him best of luck in the future. I am happy to report that although he is stepping away from the domestic committee he will still be a part of our community in various other capacities. We also welcomed Carrie Linegar back from her maternity leave and otherwise remained the same with Ben Marston representing the Maritimes , Lori Radke representing the women's portfolio and Marc Antoine Ducharme representing central Canada.

2010-11 has been very successful. On behalf of the Board of Directors of Wheelchair Basketball Canada I wish to thank our office staff for their work and dedication. To the countless volunteers, athletes, coaches and organizations from coast to coast thank you for the critical grass roots work you all do. Our sport is rich with support. To CJ Ireland a special thank you, congratulations and best wishes on your maternity leave.

- Christina Jones  
VP Domestic



# **REPORT FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT - TECHNICAL**

*The Classifier and Officiating Committee statistical reports are included and follow my report.*

**Note:** *Any references to one gender apply equally to the other except where specifically indicated.*

There are often comments about a referee's eyesight, but most of the time the comments fall on deaf ears. If an eyesight comment had been made to or about me this year it might have had some truth to it because this year has been a bit of a challenge due to several retinal detachments. In fact, for five months it was so bad I was unable to drive or fly. As a result, I was unable to officiate or travel as much as usual and thus I was neither able to see as much basketball as I would in a normal year nor observe as many officials as necessary to have a good grasp of how our officials are developing. Thankfully there are other members of our officiating community who are doing a superb job in their geographical areas and I can definitely state that the game is in good hands.

Sebastien Gauthier is developing a strong group of referees in Quebec. Mario Boutin is one of his up and coming WC arbiters who, like many before him, has also officiated other high levels of basketball. I'm happy to announce that Mario has been selected to attend an IWBF Americas Zone Qualification Tournament, which will be held in Mexico, in order to attempt to obtain his Zone License. We wish him well. Vlad Eshenko and Sergio Giordano have both conducted clinics in Alberta and through their guidance the number of WC referees in our database in that province has risen dramatically. Don Steponchev conducted a clinic in Saskatoon for a small group but, unfortunately, only one has continued forward. Keith Finck has been a strong advocate for WC basketball officiating in the Maritimes and has encouraged several new and young referees to consider making our game theirs. He and I both hope they continue because we need a larger base for the MWBA. A concerted effort in Ontario has resulted in six new officials. This is particularly important because our "faithful" group is aging. Also, I personally am pleased because I was not the only one doing the recruiting.

I appreciate the time and effort expended by Sebastien, Vlad, Sergio and Don as well as that put forth by Jean Choiniere who conducted a Maritime clinic. In many cases, the people attending these clinics are already officiating able-bodied, stand up or running basketball. The clinics give these referees a better understanding of the wheelchair game and provide them with the opportunity to experience another side to their avocation. If we are to remain world leaders in the sport, we must continue to have grass roots development.

As well, our Head Classifier, Anne Lachance, after building a strong base of classifiers in Canada, has been developing classification materials for the IWBF. We all know the excellent work she has done for us and I'm sure the whole IWBF community and the game itself will benefit from her efforts. She hopes the DVD will be ready for presentation to the IWBF in 2011.

Unfortunately, there is one area in which we may need to do some serious work but it is really not directly involved with the Technical Officials. We have a large number of players holding classification cards and each year we register several more - 39 this year alone. Our overall numbers though are heavily skewed with almost 40% of the males and more than 50% of the females in the 4.5 or Able Bodied class. Whereas this might be fine for local or provincial competition in that more teams can be formed, when it is time to select players for national or international competitions the pool is

much reduced. Countries that have a deeper pool from which to draw have been able to develop their athletes, coaches and officials so that they are now providing stiff competition for us.

The decision to present all first time officials at any national championships with a referee's shirt bearing the WBC logo was warmly received by all the new arbiters. This initiative has the additional benefit of giving the crews, and consequently the program, a very professional look. Thank you to Sebastien Gauthier for arranging the supplier for the shirts and to Wendy Gittens for supporting the initiative.

I'm sure very few people noticed or knew about the difficulties concerning the officials at the Nationals in Saskatoon this year. These difficulties were encountered at the last minute because several officials, for various reasons, were not able to attend and it was not possible to bring in replacements. This put pressure on the A/E, Vlad Eshenko, to rework his assignment schedule so that the event could be successfully officiated. It also required the other A/E, Butch Steponchev, to don his officiating apparel and join the referee crews. With everyone's co-operation the Nationals were again a WBC showcase.

The annual WBC examination was again compiled by Vlad Eshenko with input from other members of the Officiating Committee and was written by 51 individuals. Of these, 5 were from other countries and three of them (60%) attained the pass mark of 88%. Of the 46 Canadians who wrote the exam, 32 (70%) earned 88% to pass. Although many of those who failed the exam are new WC officials, every one of us should be striving for better marks than the year previous - unless of course we got perfect. Since more experienced officials work crucial games, we are confident that the people who work the significant games in Canada are competent and capable individuals. The percentage of correct answers compared to the total was down slightly from last year but that could have been because one of the questions was particularly tricky. It tripped up 31 of the 51 responders one of whom was the creator of the exam.

We have found that conference calls are a more cost effective method of discussing time sensitive and imperative issues instead of paying the transportation to bring a small group to a common location. One such call in early September enabled the Officiating Committee to discuss selections for the 2011 Canada Games officials. The criteria we used when considering which officials to suggest was; provincial representation, officials we want to develop further and, most importantly, a range of experience. We appreciate the effort that the provinces put into bringing a team and exposing their players to the Canada Games experience and we feel it is equally important that technical officials from those areas should have an opportunity to have the same experience. All those selected will be learners but there should be leaders among them as well. Of the nine primary selections, eight have been to national championships and performed well, six are university officials with several years experience and five are officials we hope (expect) will develop into future candidates for an IWBF license. Time will tell whether our efforts with the players and the officials have been successful.

During the year we developed better lines of communication and a consistent philosophy with regard to national appointments and international exchanges. This should enable the Program and High Performance Co-ordinators to perform their duties in a less stressful manner and us to better budget for expenditures while increasing the number of officials who might be able to gain better experience by working higher levels of competition.

On behalf of the many Technical Officials in Canada (Classifiers and Referees) who have worked tournaments across the country and internationally, I wish to express our thanks to Wendy and the staff

for their diligence making travel and other arrangements and for the many hours communicating with us to ensure everything occurs seamlessly.

## **Recommendations:**

As a convenience to those reading my report and the associated reports from the Head Classifier and the Chair of the Officiating Committee, I have summarized the recommendations into the following:

1. Arrange officiating clinics for Newfoundland and the Territories.
2. Conduct a clinic for MWBA early in this season.
3. Set the minimum number of classifiers required for the classification of players at national events at three (3).
4. Clarify the situation of class 0.5 players competing internationally as class 1.0 athletes.
5. Include a written response to requests for classification reviews.
6. Align the procedures for teams requesting a review of a player's classification on another team to coincide with those used by IWBf.
7. Refund no fee for the request mentioned in #6 above.
8. Do not change the class of the player mentioned in #6 above until the end of the tournament.
9. Convey in writing only the decision to the team requesting the review mentioned in #6 above.
10. Give explanations referring to the decision only to the player about whom the review in #6 above is conducted.
11. Conduct another Classifier Clinic and attempt to develop more player-classifiers.
12. Develop a classification curriculum for teaching coaches and referees.
13. Develop a protocol by which an athlete's chair set-up is formally evaluated.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Kerr', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Trevor Kerr

**WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CANADA  
NATIONAL OFFICIALS COMMITTEE REPORT  
AUGUST 2010**

A conference call was held Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - 6:00 pm MST. In the conference were Trevor Kerr, VP Technical and representing Ontario, Sebastien Gauthier, representing Quebec and Maritimes East, Don Steponchev representing Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Wendy Gittens - Executive Director Wheelchair Basketball Canada, and Vlad Eshenko - Chair and representing British Columbia and Alberta.

During this call the document "Officiating Committee Terms of Reference" was discussed at length and adopted with revisions. Consequently, the VP Technical Board Member of WBC will be the new Chair of the Officiating Committee. This change was made to conform to the requirements in the newly revised Terms of Reference. As well Sergio Giordano, from Calgary, was accepted as a member of the Officiating Committee bringing the number of committee members to five. This gives the committee an odd number of members so that future voting should not result in a tie. Future vacancies on the committee or additions to it may be filled by recommendations from the original committee or from applications solicited from the WBC membership.

**WBC National Events/Tournaments for 2010**

**CWBL Finals** - Vancouver, BC - April 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>

Assignor/Evaluators - Vlad Eshenko and Dean MacKinnon  
Officials - Kristen Kwiatek and Chad Titsing (AB), Mark Halpren (ON), Eric Chiasson and Nathalie Asselin (PQ), Jeff Hurtig (MB), Butch Steponchev (SK), Tony Mauro and Fred Gunn (BC).

**Junior Nationals** - Montreal, PQ - April 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>

Assignor/Evaluators - Guylain Lapointe and Jean Choiniere  
Officials - Kevin Bowie (BC), Angie Celino (AB), Johann Markussen (MB), David Mahy (ON), Nathalie Asselin and Alexandre Lapointe (PQ), and Mary Ellen Gaudet (NS).

**WBC Nationals** - Men and Women - Saskatoon, SK - May 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>

Assignor/Evaluator - Vlad Eshenko  
Officials - Fred Gunn (BC), Sergio Giordano, Keith Uthe, Kristen Kwiatek (AB), Frances Kremerik (ON), Sebastien Gauthier, Guylain Lapointe, Jean Choiniere, Mario Boutin (QC) and Butch Steponchev (SK).

Clinics were conducted in Quebec (Sébastien Gauthier), Ontario (Trevor Kerr), Saskatoon (Don "Butch" Steponchev), Calgary (Sergio Giordano) and Edmonton (Vlad Eshenko).

**International Assignments**

VISA Paralympic Championships - Manchester, England - May 25<sup>th</sup>

IWBF appointed Frances Kremerik as an official and Jean Choiniere as a commissioner.

World Wheelchair Basketball Championships - Birmingham, England - July 6<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>

IWBF appointed Sergio Giordano and Frances Kremerik as officials.

German pre-World tournament - Berlin, Germany - July 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>  
Sergio Giordano was invited by Germany.

Joseph Lyttle International (Women) - Warm Springs, GA - May 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>  
Nathalie Asselin and Jeff VanEeno were selected. Jeff declined. Mario Boutin replaced Jeff.

Joseph Lyttle International (Men) - Warm Springs, GA - June 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>  
Guylain LaPointe and Fred Gunn were selected. Neither one of them could go and we could not arrange for anyone on short notice so, unfortunately, we missed an international opportunity for one of our officials.

North American Cup (Women) - Birmingham, AL - May 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>  
Kristen Kwiatek was selected.

North American Cup (Men) - Birmingham, AL - June 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>  
Mario Boutin was selected.

The committee appreciates WBC's approval and continuing support.

## **Official Development**

The Officiating Committee also discussed plans for further developing new officials to the game of wheelchair basketball especially in the Maritimes, Newfoundland and the Territories. Boards will be contacted to encourage new officials to attend developing clinics and participate in the national exam.

The Officiating Committee is quite pleased that all new officials at every national championship will receive a WBC official's shirt.

## **Annual Examination**

The national wheelchair rules exam will be posted October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 on WBC's website. New rules will be incorporated after the completion of the World Championships. The committee continually stresses the importance of achieving 88% or better on the open book exam so that officials will be knowledgeable and prepared if they are appointed to future national tournaments. The deadline for submitting responses to the exam will be January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

## **Fees**

A review of the 2010 national game fees was also discussed. The 2010/2011 national game fees will be \$55 per game per official. The per diems will be at \$55 per day and mileage will be the federal government standard.

## **Canada Games**

The Officiating Committee will also have a conference call early in October to appoint officials for the Canada Games scheduled for February 2011. The new chair and VP Technical, Trevor Kerr, will organize that call in late September.

I would like to thank the members of the Officiating Committee - Don Steponchev, Trevor Kerr and Sebastien Gauthier for their diligent support and commitment to wheelchair basketball in Canada.

I respectfully and officially relinquish my duties as Chair of the WBC Officiating Committee,

Vlad Eshenko



## CLASSIFICATION REPORT

Annual General Meeting  
October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010

### STATISTICS FOR 2009-2010

#### JUNIOR NATIONALS, Montreal, QC, April 16-18 2010

Number of players in tournament: 86  
Number of players reviewed: 28

- New players: 23 (13 able-bodied; 10 classifiable)
- Former Mini players: 4 (no changes)
- Formal Appeals: 1 (denied)
- Classification adjustments at the end of the tournament: 1 (moved down)

Classification Panel: Hugh Witty (Nova Scotia)  
Cher Smith (Nova Scotia)  
Tami Turner (Ontario)  
Sandy Loewen (Manitoba)  
Anne Lachance (Head Classifier)

#### CWBL FINAIS, Vancouver, BC, April 2-4 2010

Number of players in tournament: 61  
Number of players reviewed: 11

- New players: 8 (0 able-bodied; 8 classifiable)
- Formal Appeals: 3 (1 granted; 2 denied)
- Former Mini Player: 0
- Classification adjustments at the end: 0

Classification Panel: Tim Fric k (British Columbia)  
Karen Gillespie (Manitoba)  
Anne Lachance (Head Classifier)

#### NATIONALS, Saskatoon, SK, May 21-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

Number of players in tournament: 60  
Number of players reviewed: 2

- New players: 1 (classifiable)
- Former Mini players: 0
- Formal Appeals: 1 (granted)
- Classification adjustments at the end: 0

Classification Panel: Karen Ferguson (New Brunswick)  
Lara Bloxham (Alberta)  
Anne Lachance (Head Classifier)

**CWBL WOMEN'S FINALS, Saskatchewan, SK, May 21-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010**

Number of players in tournament: 59

Number of players reviewed: 7

- New players: 7 (4 able-bodied; 3 classifiable)
- Former Mini players: 0
- Formal Appeals: 0
- Classification adjustments at the end: 0

Classification Panel: Karen Ferguson (New-Brunswick)  
Lara Bloxham (Alberta)  
Anne Lachance (Head Classifier)

**NEW PLAYERS IN 2010**

39 new players were issued WBC classification cards in 2010. Of those:

<b>Males</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>A-B</b>
Mini Division		1		1	1					8
Junior Division	1	1		1	1					2
Open Division		5	1			1		1		0

<b>Females</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>A-B</b>
Mini Division										2
Junior Division		1			3		1			1
Open Division	1					1				4

Alberta was the most active in recruiting 8 new classifiable players. BC comes in second with 6 new classifiable athletes. Nova Scotia recruited 3; Ontario and New Brunswick 2 each, Quebec 1.

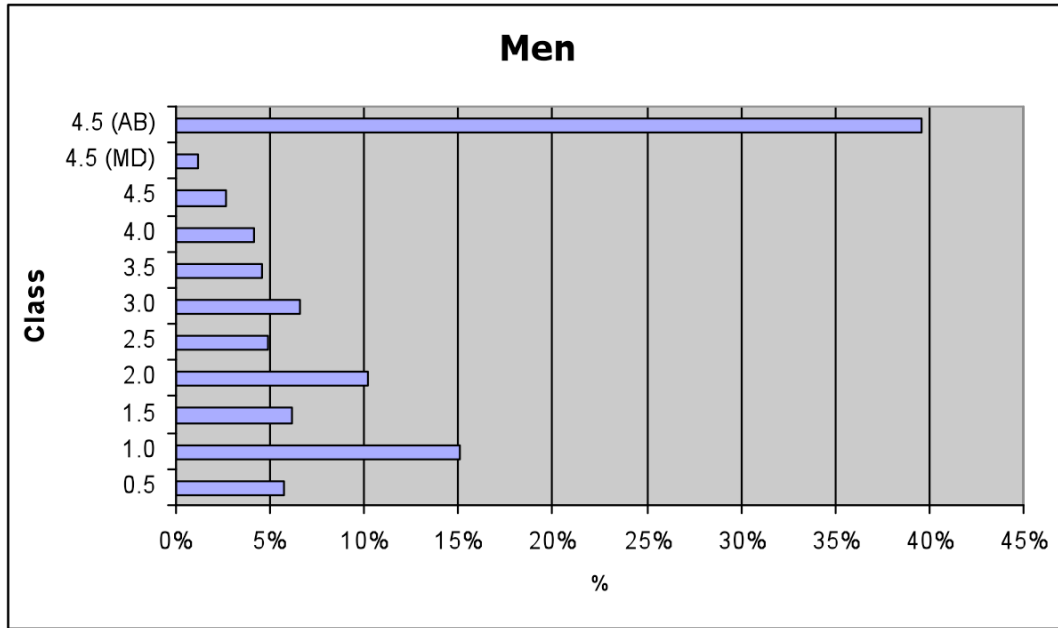
**CLASSIFIER DUTY IN 2010**

9 classifiers were officially involved in classification this season;

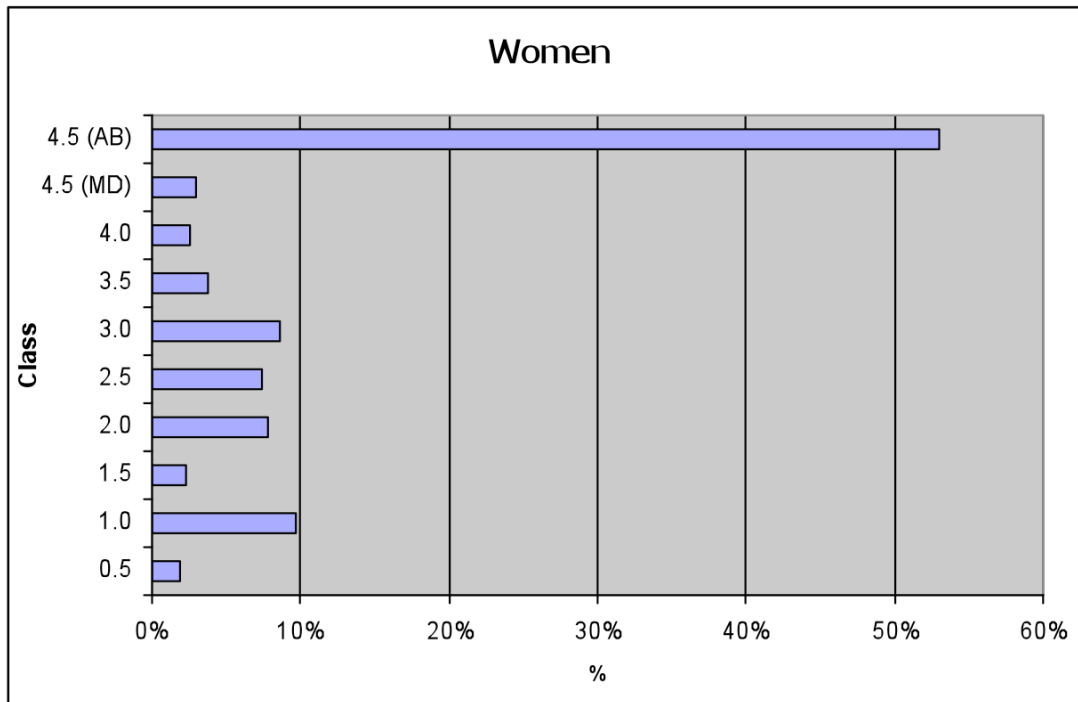
- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Cher Smith (Nova Scotia)      | Karen Gillespie (Manitoba) |
| Hugh Witty (Nova Scotia)      | Karen Ferguson (NB)        |
| Tami Turner (Ontario)         | Lara Bloxham (Alberta)     |
| Sandy Loewen (Manitoba)       | Anne Lachance (Quebec)     |
| Tim Fric k (British Columbia) |                            |



There are now 651 male players in possession of a WBC classification card. The distribution is as follows:



There are 277 female players in possession of a WBC classification card. The distribution is as follows:



## **DOMESTIC LEVEL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

### **Sanctioned events:**

This past season, 3 panels of classifiers were assembled to cover the following WBC-sanctioned events: Junior Nationals, CWBL Open Finals, Nationals and CWBL Women's Finals.

All three tournaments were well run and classifiers did not experience any particular issues. For the first time in several years a team filed a request for the classification review of another team's player. Our procedures for handling the request were closely followed.

### **Refresher Clinic :**

Junior Finals in Montreal in April was host to our second Classification Refresher Clinic in as many years. Starting one day prior to the start of the tournament the panel members met for several hours to discuss and review classification. Several video clips were reviewed along with several power point presentations. Special attention was paid to the classification of players with upper extremity impairment. In the last two years 7 out of 14 of our nationally certified classifiers have attended a refresher clinic.

### **Men Selection Camp, Toronto, February 2010:**

Having recently received Dartfish Team Pro Software, Anne was present at this camp to gather video footage of the participants for the purpose of clarifying their function and possible need for modifications in chair set up. Unfortunately several problems arose with the software during the camp and the initial goal of producing a video analysis for each athlete was not accomplished. Later on, analysis of two of the athletes was completed and follow up of the changes in their chair set ups is ongoing.

### **Men Training Camp, White rock, BC, April 2010**

Anne was present for a short time during this camp to begin gathering video footage for the new IWBF Classification DVD to be completed in 2011. Special thanks to David Eng, Bo Hedges, Brandon Wagner, Chad Jassman and Jerry Tonello for their cooperation in this project.

### **Chair Set-Up Clinics; Montreal April 2010 and Edmonton September 2010:**

During Junior Nationals an effort was made to use the expertise of our panel to evaluate and give chair set-up recommendations to athletes interested in obtaining such advice. This seemed to be appreciated by athletes, coaches and parents alike. As young players are still growing it is of utmost importance that they sit appropriately not only for the purpose of improving their function but also as a preventive measure for worsening asymmetries.

Another Chair Set-up Clinic was held this Fall at the invitation of the Edmonton Infirmo / Alberta Northern Lights Club. This Clinic took on a more advanced form as three individuals were formally trained in what to look for and how to proceed to systematically evaluate an athlete's chair set-up. Several videos, photos and a PowerPoint presentation were presented. Within a week of the tournament the team received a Dartfish video analysis of each of their players (Media books). Sharing of information on the athlete's progress has since been ongoing through videos uploaded on a shared dropbox.com folder.

#### **INTERNATIONAL LEVEL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

##### **America's Cup, Richmond, BC**

Anne was a member of the classification panel for the America's Cup in Richmond in August 2009. She was also the classification instructor for the Candidates Clinic. Karen Ferguson of New Brunswick performed extremely well during the course and successfully obtained her international certification.

##### **BT Paralympic Cup, Manchester, England**

Thanks to special funding from WBC, a group of top classifiers from around the world was assembled during this event for a series of meetings to discuss various subjects in classification. The meetings were very productive and several projects were able to move forward as a result.

##### **World Championships, Birmingham, England**

Again thanks to special funding from WBC, Anne was able to attend this event as part of the IWBFF's media group. Anne was involved in preparing the material for the Classification Clinic, updating the Official Classification Manual and Classification Regulations. During the tournament Anne was active on the sidelines obtaining video footage and photos for the eventual production of the new IWBFF Classification DVD. Several sessions were also conducted with individual athletes for the purpose of obtaining video footage of isolated movements.

Special thanks for their cooperation to: Brandon Wagner and Jessica Vliegenthart, Canada; Stephanie Wheeler and Paul Schulte, USA; Shaun Norris and Cobi Crispin, Australia; Caroline Maclean and Simon Munn, Great Britain; Mari Amimoto, Japan; Piotr Luszyński, Poland; Fu Yongqing, China; Frédéric Guyot, France; Nabil Guedoune, Algeria; Carina Versloot, Netherlands; Francisco Lugo, Mexico; Mareike Ademann, Germany.

##### **Central American Qualifiers for Guadalajara, Mexico**

Karen Ferguson was selected by IWBFF to be a member of the Tournament Classification Panel for this event held in Mexico mid-October of this year. This will be Karen's first event as a classifier on an international panel.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT SEASON

### CLASSIFICATION PROCEDURES:

New classification procedures have been drafted and it is the recommendation of this committee that they be adopted by WBC for next season. The new procedures include the following changes and additions:

- The minimum number of three (3) classifiers required for the classification of players at national events is now specified.
- The situation of class 0.5 players competing internationally as class 1.0 athletes is clarified.
- The necessity to provide a written response to requests for reviews is now included.
- Procedures for teams requesting a review of another team's player's classification have been modified to align with procedures followed at the IWBF level. Amongst the changes:
  1. The fee is no longer refundable.
  2. The player's class may not be changed until the end of the tournament.
  3. Only the player and their coach receive explanations referring to the decision. The team requesting the review receives the decision in writing but not the explanations referring to the decision (may contain confidential information).

*For further information, please see the full text, available on the WBC web site.*

### PROVINCIAL CLASSIFICATIONS:

This past season, Quebec, Ontario and the Maritimes were again the most active in getting their local athletes classified. Other provinces are welcome to join the trend. The following is a list of the certified classifiers in each province.

BC:	Tim Fric k Je nnife r Kre mpie n Jo e Hig gins	<a href="mailto:Tim_Frick@Douglas.BC.CA">Tim_Frick@Do ugl a s.BC .C A</a> <a href="mailto:goosedawg@hotmail.com">go o s e d a w g @ h o t m a i l . c o m</a> <a href="mailto:5higgins@telus.net">5hig gins@te lus.net</a>
AB:	Lara Blo xham	<a href="mailto:lloxham@telus.net">l b l o x h a m @ t e l u s . n e t</a>
SK:	Co lle e n Jo hnso n	<a href="mailto:mrscolleenjohnson@gmail.com">m r s c o l l e e n j o h n s o n @ g m a i l . c o m</a>
MB	Angie Ma idme nt Ka re n Mo re Gi lle spie Sa ndy Lo ewe n	<a href="mailto:TheRapyFirst@shaw.ca">The r a p y F i r s t @ s h a w . c a</a> <a href="mailto:kurydee@hotmail.com">k u r y d e e @ h o t m a i l . c o m</a> <a href="mailto:scloewen@shaw.ca">s c l o e w e n @ s h a w . c a</a>
ON:	Ta mi Tu me r Ta mmy Hu ll Emilie Ne we ll	<a href="mailto:tvt758@hotmail.com">t v t 7 5 8 @ h o t m a i l . c o m</a> <a href="mailto:tamtamlynn913@yahoo.ca">t a m t a m l y n n 9 1 3 @ y a h o o . c a</a> <a href="mailto:emiliennewell@sympatico.ca">e m i l i e n e w e l l @ s y m p a t i c o . c a</a>
QC:	Anne La ch a n c e	<a href="mailto:lachancea@aeica">l a c h a n c e a @ a e i c a</a>
NB:	Ka re n Fe rg us o n	<a href="mailto:ferka@reg2.health.nb.ca">f e r k a @ r e g 2 . h e a l t h . n b . c a</a>
NS:	Hug h Wit ty Ch e r S m i t h Cl a ry St u b b e r t	<a href="mailto:hwitty@eastlink.ca">h w i t t y @ e a s t l i n k . c a</a> <a href="mailto:Cher.Smith@cdhanshealth.ca">C h e r . S m i t h @ c d h a . n s h e a l t h . c a</a> <a href="mailto:clary.stubbert@hardingmedical.com">c l a r y . s t u b b e r t @ h a r d i n g m e d i c a l . c o m .</a>

## GOALS FOR NEXT SEASON:

### DOMESTIC LEVEL:

#### Education:

We would like to hold another classification clinic next season. Our numbers are dwindling down particularly when considering the need for classification of local athletes. As well, there is a need to enroll new player-classifiers in our crew. The dates and location of the clinic remains TBD. Anyone interested in learning about classification can contact Anne at any time to signify their interest.

Coaches and referees would also likely benefit from learning the basics of classification so we hope to be able to develop a curriculum for teaching such groups during the course of the coming year.

#### Chair Set-Up

We would like to develop a protocol by which an athlete's chair set-up is formally evaluated. Once the protocol is developed and tested, we would like to train coaches to be able to perform the main steps of this evaluation with their athletes. We feel this is a service that should be available to all athletes at some point in their career. Prevention of destructive postural tendencies as well as improved performance are but two goals that we feel can be addressed through this program.

### INTERNATIONAL LEVEL:

#### Classification Teaching Package

Anne is presently putting the final touches to the series of official PowerPoint presentations for the zonal and international IWBFC classification clinics. Also included in the package will be a series of videos of key players in action, the new classification DVD, various handouts and examination protocols. Once completed, the package will be forwarded to all IWBFC Classification Instructors. A shorter, simpler version will also be made available for NOWBs interested in training their own classifiers.

It has been a pleasure leading classification for WBC once again this year,

*Respectfully submitted,*

**Anne Lachance**

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*Anne Lachance, Director of Classification  
Wheelchair Basketball Canada*



## CLASSIFICATION PROCEDURES

UPDATED AUGUST 2010

### 1. Procedures for the Classification of Canadian Players:

- 1.1. The classification of Canadian Players can take place at any event where WBC's Classification Director has approved a Tournament Player Classification Panel composed of a minimum of 3 nationally certified classifiers.
- 1.2. Teams wishing to register new players must signify this on the Team Roster submitted for the tournament to the relevant local organizing committee. The form must contain the date of birth, gender and proposed classification for each new player.

### 2. Procedures for the Classification of New Players:

- 2.1. New players will meet the classification panel prior to warming up for their first game. They will be asked to complete a registration form and propose a class they feel best fits their capacities on the court. Temporary cards will be issued with the information obtained in these meetings.
- 2.2. New players will next be observed during a team observation practice scheduled prior to the commencement of competition. Where there are no scheduled team practices new players will be observed while warming up for their first game.
  - 2.2.1. All players will need to be present and wear their team jerseys during this period.
  - 2.2.2. At the end of the observation period the team will be informed of any change to their player's classification, effective for the first game of the tournament.
  - 2.2.3. At the end of all observation practices, each team will receive a tournament roster containing the official classes for all players.
- 2.3. Observation of the player's function will continue, as necessary, during the remainder of the preliminary rounds.
- 2.4. New players may have their classification confirmed or changed at the end of every game until the end of the preliminary round, or at the end of the tournament.
- 2.5. If a player presents with a challenging situation, the classification panel may ask to meet the player for a functional assessment on the side court.
- 2.6. Once final, explanations referring to the decision will be provided to the player and team coach/manager.
- 2.7. At the end of the preliminary rounds and prior to the commencement of the final rounds, each team will receive an official tournament roster. There will be no change in classification once the preliminary rounds are completed.
- 2.8. A permanent card documenting the player's official class will be issued at the end of the tournament. Players who have not played sufficiently for the classifiers to reach a decision will not obtain a card.

*\* Players classified by IWBF will play with their IWBF classification unless they appeal their class with WBC. The only exception to this rule is for players of class 0.5 who will retain their Canadian 0.5 class while competing under the jurisdiction of WBC.*

*\*\* Players initially classified while eligible for the mini division will be reviewed once they are no longer eligible to compete in this division.*

### **3. Procedures For the Review of a Player's Classification:**

- 3.1. Teams requesting a review of one of their player's classification must:
  - 3.1.1. Complete an application form justifying their request and submit it to the Head of Tournament Classification panel prior to the commencement of competition. The form is available at [www.wheelchairbasketball.ca](http://www.wheelchairbasketball.ca).
  - 3.1.2. A \$50 fee payable to WBC must accompany the form. This fee will be reimbursed should the request be successful. The fee is not applicable if a change in medical condition directly leads to the request.
  - 3.1.3. Requests for reviews will be considered at the same time and using the same procedure as for new players i.e.:
    - 3.1.3.1. The player will be observed in observation practice where one is available or while warming up for his/her first game.
    - 3.1.3.2. The player will start the tournament with his/her previous classification.
    - 3.1.3.3. Observation of the player's function will continue, as necessary, during the remainder of the preliminary rounds.
    - 3.1.3.4. The player under review may have his/her classification confirmed or changed at the end of every game until the end of the preliminary round, or at the end of the tournament.
    - 3.1.3.5. If a player presents with a challenging situation, the classification panel may ask to meet the player for a functional assessment on the side court.
    - 3.1.3.6. Once final, explanations referring to the decision will be provided in writing to the player and team coach/manager.
    - 3.1.3.7. Should the request lead to a change in classification, the player will have his new classification confirmed on his permanent classification card.
- 3.2. Teams requesting a review of another team's player's classification must:
  - 3.2.1. Complete an application form justifying their request and submit it at any time during the competition to the Head of Tournament Classification panel. The form is available at [www.wheelchairbasketball.ca](http://www.wheelchairbasketball.ca).
  - 3.2.2. A \$50 fee payable to WBC must accompany the form. This fee is non-refundable.
  - 3.2.3. A copy of the request for review notice will be given to the team of the player under review.
  - 3.2.4. The player under review will be considered at the same time and using the same procedure as for new players with the exception that his/her class may not be changed until the end of the tournament.
  - 3.2.5. Once final, explanations referring to the decision will be provided in writing to the player under review and team coach/manager. Only the decision will be communicated to the team requesting the review. There will be no explanations referring to the decision as such decisions may include confidential information.
  - 3.2.6. Should the request lead to a change in classification, the player will have his new classification confirmed on his permanent classification card.
  - 3.2.7. If a player does not play a sufficient amount of time during the tournament for a decision to be made the fee is returned to the appealing team and the player's original classification stands.

3.3. Teams requesting a review of a decision of one of their player's classification taken during a tournament must:

- 3.3.1. Complete an application form justifying their request and submit it to the Head of the Classification Panel at any point during the tournament. The form is available at [www.wheelchairbasketball.ca](http://www.wheelchairbasketball.ca).
- 3.3.2. A \$50 fee payable to WBC must accompany the request. Should the appeal be successful the fee will be reimbursed.
- 3.3.3. The player under review will initially continue the tournament with his/her recently awarded class.
- 3.3.4. The player under review will be considered at the same time and using the same procedures as for new players with the exception that this observation will now be carried out by a neutral classification panel, one not involved with the initial decision.
- 3.3.5. Once final, explanations referring to the decision will be provided in writing to the player under review and team coach/manager.
- 3.3.6. Should the request lead to a change in classification, the player will have his new classification confirmed on his permanent classification card.
- 3.3.7. If a player does not play a sufficient amount of time during the tournament for a decision to be made the fee is returned and the player's original classification stands.

*\*A request of a decision taken during a tournament may only be considered during the course of the same tournament if there are six classifiers present; enough to form two independent panels. If this is not the case, the request for review of a decision taken during a tournament will be accepted but forwarded to WBC office for consideration at the next possible tournament.*

#### **4. Procedures for Adjusting a Player's Classification at the end of a tournament:**

- 4.1. If, during a tournament the player classification panel identifies that there is a significant alteration in any player's functional capacity they may re-evaluate the classification of the player.
- 4.2. If the panel is unanimous that the player's classification should change, the panel may take this action at the end of the tournament.





# Memorandum

**To:** Wheelchair Basketball Canada Active Members  
**From:** Wendy Gittens, Executive Director  
**Date:** October 15, 2010  
**Subject:** Nominations Committee Report

Please accept this as the 2010 Nominations Committee Report for Wheelchair Basketball Canada.

A call for nominations went out in August 19, 2010. The following provisions are outlined in article III of the current By-Law Document:

## **Election and Appointment of Directors**

3.7 Eligibility -- Any individual who is 18 years of age or older and who has the power under law to contract may be nominated for election as a Director.

3.8 Nomination -- Any nomination of an individual for election as a Director shall:

- a) be signed by an Active Member Association or any two Active Members;
- b) include the written consent of the nominee;
- c) be submitted to the Corporation at least 30 days (**Sept 30**) prior to the Annual General Meeting; and
- d) where a current Director wishes to run for re-election, the Director shall indicate this intention in writing not less than twenty-one (21) days (**Oct 8**) prior to the Annual General Meeting.

3.9 Circulation of Nominations - Valid nominations shall be circulated to Members at least 21 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

3.10 Election - The election of Directors shall take place at the Annual General Meeting by those Members present and eligible to vote.

3.11 Decision – Elections shall be decided by majority vote of the Members in accordance with the following:

- a) One Valid Nomination – Winner declared by acclamation.

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- b) Two Valid Nominations – Winner is the nominee receiving the greater number of votes.
- c) Three or More Valid Nominations – Winner is the nominee receiving more than 50 percent of the votes cast. Should no nominee receive more than 50 percent of the votes cast, then the two nominees receiving the most votes shall stand in a second ballot as follows:
  - 1. if there is a tie among nominees receiving the most votes, further elections will occur until a nominee receives more than 50 percent of the votes cast;
  - 2. if there is a tie among nominees receiving the second highest number of votes, an election will occur to determine who will stand in the second ballot against the nominee who received the highest number of votes, but less than 50 percent.

3.12 Terms - Elected Directors shall serve terms of two years and shall hold office until their successors have been duly elected in accordance with these Bylaws, unless they resign, are removed from or vacate their office. Elected Directors shall be eligible for re-election as Directors.

3.13 Staggered Terms - The terms of elected Directors shall be staggered by electing half of the Directors at each Annual General Meeting. The following Directors shall be elected in the following years:

Even Years

- a) President
- b) Vice-President High Performance
- c) Vice-President Marketing and Communications
- d) Vice-President Athlete Representative

Odd Years

- a) Vice-President Finance
- b) Vice-President Domestic
- c) Vice-President Technical

The following names have been submitted for election:

- 1. **President** (2 year term)  
**Steve Bach**
- 2. **VP High Performance** (2 year term)  
**Sharron St Croix**
- 3. **VP Marketing and Communications** (2 year term)  
**Kathy Newman**

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CANADA

Wheelchair Basketball Canada



The National Team Program Athletes elect the VP Athlete Representative as outlined in section 3.14 – 3.17 in the By-Law document.

It is my pleasure to announce that **Ross Norton** has been elected as VP Athlete Rep. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Board and staff to thank Jennifer Krempien for all her hard work and dedication over the last 2 years in this position. We know that Jen will remain involved and active in many other capacities with our sport. Thank you Jennifer!!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Gittens".

Wendy Gittens  
Executive Director

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL SPORT

Wheelchair Basketball Canada



## Vice President – Athlete Representative Report 2010

Congratulations to both teams for their achievements at the 2010 World Championships. The women's team improved on their performance from the 2008 Paralympics reaching the podium at Worlds, while the men's team finished in 7<sup>th</sup>. I know both teams were not fully satisfied with the results and the athletes and coaches are dedicated to making the necessary changes to be atop the podium in London.

I have valued and appreciated the commitment of the athlete reps (David Eng, Bo Hedges, Tara Feser and Janet McLachlan). Your time, thoughtfulness, commitment to the process and leadership within your teams has strengthened the communication channels between the National Programs and WBC. We ask a lot from all of our athletes and we appreciate your willingness to take on more responsibility.

It is with regret that I must step down at the end of my term. It has been a tremendous honour to be your voice at the board and I am confident your voice will continue to be heard.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Krempien

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CANADA



**Subject:** Wheelchair Basketball Report  
**Submitted to:** Wheelchair Basketball Canada  
**Prepared by:** ParaSport and Recreation PEI

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Over the past five years, ParaSport and Recreation PEI has offered a Wheelchair Basketball School Program. Island schools book ten wheelchairs for two weeks at a time. The chairs are given to the Phys Ed. Program so the students can try out wheelchair basketball. At the beginning of the two week period, ParaSport and Recreation PEI offers the choice for schools to hold a Have-A-Go-Day demonstration at the school, so students have a better understanding of how the sport is played. Athletes from the PEI Mustangs come up and lead the interactive demonstrations.

Parasport and Recreation PEI introduced an afterschool program this past spring at Summerside Intermediate School. The program was offered to all students ranging from ages 12 to 17 on western PEI. The sessions ran for six weeks and were designed to recruit new participants to wheelchair basketball in a comfortable atmosphere. ParaSport and Recreation PEI recognizes that there is much room for growth in western PEI and has set it as a target to recruit new participants

2009/2010 was a busy season for the PEI Mustangs. From September to March the island team competed in the Edney Division of the Maritime Wheelchair Basketball Association, where it posted a 5-7 record before losing in the quarter-finals of the league's playoff tournament.

In April, the provincial junior team competed at the junior nationals in Montreal, Quebec, where it went 3-3 en-route to a seventh place finish, which is where the team will be seeded for the upcoming Canada Games in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The team then wrapped up the season by attending a developmental training camp in Truro, Nova Scotia, which featured both current Men's National Team Head Coach Jerry Tonello, and former Head Coach Mike Frogley.

All in all, it was a season of tremendous growth for the young Island squad, and will hopefully serve as a building block as the program heads into the future.

## OWSA Report to WBC AGM – October 2010

OWSA is pleased to announce the hiring of a **Provincial Coach for Wheelchair Basketball**. We are very excited to have **Michael Broughton** back in Ontario as our Provincial Coach thanks to a funding partnership with WBC and Coaches Association of Ontario – Quest for Gold Wage Subsidy Program. Michael started with OWSA on March 1, 2010 – here is his report:

This season we have 12 clubs/teams competing in the Great Lakes Conference (open division basketball) or the D-League (Development league) that's over 200 athletes, coaches, volunteers and officials involved this past season. Something that we are looking to grow on for next year with 3 new clubs looking to develop in the Barrie, Cambridge and Whitby regions.

We had one team qualify for Open Championships this past season with great results finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> with their only loss coming in the finals. This is truly a testament to how strong our division is here in Ontario and will be looking to its continued development for next season as well as sending another representative from the Great Lakes Conference.

Ontario had a very strong showing at the three Wheelchair Basketball Nationals (Men's, Women's, Jr's). Jr - With Canada Games around the corner, Ontario was looking very strong going into the Jr. Nationals. Ontario had a very young and energetic team. Ontario finished round robin play, undefeated and carried that into the semi-final cross over winning their semi-final match vs Manitoba. Heading into the finals it was a familiar match-up seeing Quebec and Ontario. It was a great game but Ontario's slow start at the beginning of the game really was something we couldn't recover from but getting Ontario's youth into the game and preparing them for the 2011 Canada Games. Overall was a great tournament for Ontario as we were able to go 12 players deep all the round robin games, this is something that no other team could do.

Sr. Mens – This Men's team was very unique as we had a very good mix of veterans and youth on the team. We headed into Nationals with a goal of making it to the gold medal games, and this goal was met in a very convincing manner, not only did we make it to the finals but also like the Jrs. we were about to go 12 deep all tournament, again showing the strength of Ontario depth. We reached the finals with a very impressive undefended record in the round robin and a very hard fought game vs Quebec coming out on top and then heading into the finals vs BC. Again a very tough game, going 12 deep and being able to use all the athletes in effect roles throughout the game, utilizing their unique skills. We just came up a little short finishing 2<sup>nd</sup>, in one of the most entertaining finals in a long time.

Sr. Womens – This was a first for Ontario, we had a women's team. Back in March when I first came on I was asked if we could get a women's program started, my response was "I'm not really sure" but all it took was one training date and we had twenty one women show up. It was really amazing, so then how could I not? It was truly amazing! The team performed great and turned a few heads in the process, with tons of room to grow and the women wanting to grow the program, I can't wait to see what this season brings for 2010-2011.

Over all the combined record for Ontario Wheelchair Basketball at all major events was a very impressive 15-6 with 3 silver medals, overall a great year for Wheelchair Basketball in Ontario.

This past year being a World Championships year we had 10 Ontarians represented at the Championships – 6 athletes, 2 coaches, 1 official and 1 medical staff, the most of any province in Canada.



2009/2010

Submitted by Mandy Johnson

2009/2010 was a year of transition in Manitoba. With some veteran athletes retiring we saw a slight decline in numbers at the senior level. The junior wheelchair basketball program continued to see development with the addition of a few new recruits as well as some athletes return after a brief hiatus.

Many attempts were made to compete in the CWBL Prairie League however after two blizzards and some scheduling conflicts this wasn't able to take place. As in past years we held a league within the province which allowed the athletes, coaches and officials to gain valuable playing experience.

Junior Wheelchair basketball continues to grow and the hard work of the athletes involved became very evident as with a team of seven the Manitoba Provincial Junior team was able to take home third place at Junior Nationals. With this tournament serving as the ranking tournament heading into the Canada Winter games, this will be the highest ranking a team from Manitoba has ever had going into the games.

This past May the Manitoba Men's provincial team represented with a young team made up of mostly junior athletes. These athletes did an outstanding job finishing with a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish behind a strong team from Quebec. As we go through a changing of the guards at this level, we are excited at what the future holds for these young athletes.

MWSA would like to congratulate Bill Johnson, head coach of the Women's national wheelchair basketball team on an outstanding third place finish at the world Championships. As well as Joey Johnson on a hard fought tournament with the Men's National Wheelchair Basketball team who finished in seventh.

MWSA has severed all ties with the telemarketing firm of Manitoba 4655525 LTD. This relation ended as of June 30 and we have now begun the search for ideas to replace this revenue with other forms of fundraising. Understanding that the programs and opportunities we provide to current and future athletes depends on MWSA finding a replacement funding we will be starting a direct mail campaign in the early winter months.

The staff and board of directors at the Manitoba Wheelchair Sport Association would like to thank the staff at Wheelchair Basketball Canada for their ongoing hard work and commitment to the sport of wheelchair basketball. We couldn't provide the opportunities that we do without them, their hard work and commitment to the sport does not go unappreciated or unnoticed.





## **Saskatchewan Wheelchair Basketball Report**

The past year has been an exciting and busy year of basketball within Saskatchewan.

The year started off with Saskatchewan saying goodbye to Michael Broughton as he moved back to coach in Ontario. Saskatchewan Wheelchair Sports Association was excited to welcome Stewart McKeown as our new Canada Games Coach in March. Stewart brings a wealth of wheelchair basketball knowledge as he was previously a national team athlete, Head Coach at the 1995 Canada Winter Games, and Assistant Coach at the 1999 Canada Winter Games.

In April, the junior provincial team traveled to Montreal for the 2010 Junior National Championships. Saskatchewan finished 5<sup>th</sup>.

In 2010, Saskatchewan was able to split into four teams and the clubs played in the Saskatchewan CWBL League throughout the year. The Paratroopers team used their skill and commitment to the game to win the division. Due to a variety of reasons, the Paratroopers could not attend CWBL Open Finals. Therefore, Club 99 travelled to Vancouver to compete in CWBL Open Finals where they finished in 7<sup>th</sup> place. This was another opportunity for Club 99 to develop and get more experience competing against other competitive teams from across Canada.

Our mini teams in Saskatchewan had the opportunity to compete more this year. The Saskatoon NRG and Regina Paratroopers each hosted mini tournaments in the province. Saskatoon played host to the 2010 Prairie Mini Regional Championships which saw teams from Edmonton, Saskatoon, and Regina compete.

In August, we held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Provincial Wheelchair Basketball summer camp in Saskatoon. This was a great opportunity for all of our athletes to come together and enjoy the sport. We were happy to have Pat Anderson and Joe Higgins as special guests attend this camp and lend their expertise to our Saskatchewan junior athletes.

After a 15 year hiatus, Saskatchewan was fortunate to play host to the 2010 Men's National Wheelchair Basketball Championship and the 2010 Women's CWBL National Championships. The advantage of hosting Nationals is that Saskatchewan was able to have a team in the Men's Division and the Women's Division. It was a great championship and a great chance for some of our local supporters to see the talents of our own Saskatchewan athletes. There will be a long lasting legacy left in Saskatchewan and we are looking forward to hosting again in 2025.

Sask Sport and the Canadian Sport Centre Saskatchewan have once again committed to provide SWSA with funding for a wheelchair basketball training group within the province. This will be a great opportunity for use to develop our athletes to get them to the next level of competition.

Submitted by,  
Andrea Muir  
Executive Director

Looking ahead we are looking at developing the women's program with more training opportunities. Really looking at building and expanding a solid wheelchair basketball mentorship program, as this past year we introduced it with the men's and women's program and truly had a great buy-in from the men's program. Will also be looking to develop club coaches and their programs working on their year plans and athlete development, making these coaches stronger will make the clubs stronger, in return making athlete development stronger and pushing the level of Ontario Wheelchair Basketball.

Also with Canada Games around the corner, we will be looking forward to bringing home a 4<sup>th</sup> straight medal for Ontario at the Canada Games in Halifax, in February 2011.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Michael Broughton  
ON Provincial Coach

WHEELCHAIR SPORTS



## **Wheelchair Basketball Canada Annual General Meeting**

### **Alberta – Provincial Report**

Submitted – October 30, 2010

The province of Alberta has completed another successful year in all areas related to wheelchair sports. Our club base continues to thrive and we are very fortunate to have a wide variety of membership representation from across the province with an astounding array of talent on every level. All regions within the province are represented including: Lethbridge, Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie and Red Deer.

Some challenges presented themselves to our Basketball community during the later part of the 2008 – 09 season. Our Men's, Women's and Junior Provincial Programs all suffered program regression due to the lack of players and grass root support to help foster proper regenerating growth. Strong steps were implemented throughout 2009 – 10 to address this issue and reinvigorate our programs. The Wheelchair Basketball Alberta Leadership Committee revisited the 3 year Basketball strategic plan by holding a review and update session on September 18, 2010. This session brought together key representation from within our entire basketball community. The session was once again facilitated by a strategic planning specialist from the Community Development branch of the Alberta Government. Identified within the planning session was the need to continue with our efforts to develop a standalone Wheelchair Basketball Alberta Leadership Team. The leadership team is comprised of club reps, coaches and key individuals.

Alberta continues to be very fortunate in the areas of fundraising and sponsorship. WSA received an unprecedented level of support both in resource and financial from the Alberta Sport Recreation Parks & Wildlife Foundation (ASRPWF), Alberta Gaming, Alberta Community Spirit Foundation and others.

WSA continued with coordination of the new Bridging the Gap program that was launched in 2008. Efforts towards initiating ongoing programming associated with the Bridging the Gap program was undertaken throughout 2010. Regional have-a-go days along with supporting weekly sessions have been setup in all regions of the province. WSA has been working closely with rehabilitation centers throughout Alberta to help bring the BTG program to fruition.

WSA continues to maintain strong support and partnership with several organizations and facilities located throughout the province. These include the Steadward Centre (Calgary & Edmonton), Canadian Paraplegic Association, Paralympic Sport Association, MS Society, U of A, U of C, Sait, MRC and Grande Prairie Regional College. Strong efforts have been made to re-ignite relationships with all special needs organizations throughout the province by initiating a strong presence at interagency meetings and special interest events.

In roads towards a strong awareness / promotional presence have been established with committee representation at the board level with the following organizations: Edmonton Sport Council, City of Edmonton, Community Services Advisory Board, SCI Alliance and Active Living – Physical Activity For All.

## **2009 - 2010 CWBL Alberta Division**

This past season our conference/division included five teams comprised of: Lethbridge Steamers, Calgary Grizzlies, Calgary Rocky Mountain Rollers, Edmonton Inferno and the Grande Prairie Wolverines. Teams participated in 5 tournaments hosted throughout Alberta between October and December 2009.

The Edmonton Inferno and Calgary Rollers were successful in gaining a spot to play at the CWBL women's final held in Saskatoon May 21 – 23 with the Inferno capturing the Silver and the Rollers placing 4<sup>th</sup>. Tournament All Stars included Tara Feser – Edmonton Inferno, Kendra Ohama – Calgary Rollers and Lori Radke – Calgary Rollers

Congratulations to all teams on a successful season.

### **Alberta Provincial Wheelchair Basketball Programs**

New developments from within the wheelchair basketball community across the country have come to fruition throughout the year bringing with them several challenges. Most notable has been the developments within our provincial team programs, national championships and CWBA (Now Wheelchair Basketball Canada). A new structure (WBA – Leadership Team) with proper program support was established and put into motion in order to foster new growth and address the developmental needs required to build a more sustainable grass root program that will feed our provincial and national teams. Alberta has set a path under the guidance of the Alberta Basketball Leadership Team which came about from the Basketball strategic planning session that was held initially in late 2008 with a review and update in September 2010. Jamie Peers in consultation with the Alberta Basketball Leadership Team and through financial support provided by Wheelchair Basketball Canada; was hired as the WBA Program Coordinator and has taken positive steps to develop a year round program that will be tied into the existing CWBL structure. Provision will also be made to include summer leagues in both Edmonton and Calgary. The concept is to have regional camps approximately every 6 weeks tied into CWBL League Tournaments. There is a strong need to combine efforts with all provincial and club programming emphasizing the priority to combine leagues, camps, developmental training opportunities into one aligned effort and schedule. These efforts will hopefully help bring Alberta back to the power it once was within the sport of wheelchair basketball. Attached is a more detailed presentation of the proposed concept for our CWBL league and other aspects of the overall program.

#### **Men's Provincial Program –**

The Provincial Men's program gained some strong momentum leading up to a solid performance at the National Championships held May 21 – 23 in Saskatoon. A solid team of experienced players that included Ross Norton, John Farmer, Curtiss Matson, Robbie Cameron, Martin Hoare, Chad Jassman, Adam Gongos, Greg Sadler and John Banman. Jamie Peers provided coaching expertise. The team placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall with solid performances throughout the tournament. Chad Jassman was selected as a Tournament All Star.

#### **Junior Provincial Program –**

Our Junior Program was re-vamped throughout 2010 and tied into the existing CWBL structure and the existing club programs running independently in both Edmonton and Calgary. Jamie Peers, Karla Tritten, Lori Radke, Lorna Shannon, Chad Jassman and Daniel Peers all contributed significant effort and time in streamlining this program and were instrumental in setting a solid direction with the ongoing development of our Junior programs. Several developmental / selection style camps were held throughout the year leading up to Alberta participating in the Junior National Championships which were held in Montreal April 16 – 18, 2010. A solid team of new and some experienced players were identified and had an encouraging showing at the National Championships. The Alberta Team was comprised of: Andrew Curtis, Caleb Cyr, Helaina Cyr, David Emmerzael, Allarisa Haak, Rebecca MacMillan, Zak Madell, Ben Moronchuck and Adam Reid. Karle Tritten and Jamie Peers provided co-coaching expertise. Jamie & Karla both feel very positive regarding our teams participation in the upcoming Canada Winter Games in February 2011

## 2010 - 2011 CWBL Alberta Division (Tentative)

Declared Teams:	Tournament Dates:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Edmonton</li><li>2. Grande Prairie</li><li>3. Saskatoon</li><li>4. Calgary Grizzlies</li><li>5. Lethbridge</li><li>6. Calgary Rollers</li></ol>	Edmonton - November 6 - 7, 2010 Grande Prairie - November 20 - 21, 2010 Saskatoon - January 15 - 16, 2011 Calgary - January 29 - 30, 2011 Lethbridge - February 26 - 27, 2011 March 12 – 13, 2011 (Tentative)

### Provincial Programs

New developments from within the wheelchair basketball community across the country have come to fruition throughout the year bringing with them several challenges. Most notable has been the developments within WBC, Alberta's provincial team programs and the national championships. The Wheelchair Basketball National Championships saw a restructuring take place late into the season with the cancellation of the Women's Tournament. Alberta has had some struggles finding low point female players to round out our team and program which has made for uncertain times when trying to structure a proper team. On the Men's side we had four key players drop out of the Provincial team/program late in the season causing us to not be able to field a suitable team to represent at National Championships. A new structure with proper program support needs to be established in order to foster new growth and developmental needs required to build a more sustainable grass root program that will feed our provincial and national teams. Alberta has set a path under the guidance of the Alberta Basketball Leadership Team which came about from the Basketball strategic planning session that was held in October of 2008. Jamie Peers in consultation with the Alberta Basketball Leadership Team has graciously offered to develop a year round program that will run October through May and be tied into the existing CWBL structure. Provision will also be made to include summer leagues in both Edmonton and Calgary. The concept is to have regional camps approximately every 4 weeks. There is a strong need to combine efforts with all provincial and club programming emphasizing the priority to combine leagues, camps, developmental training opportunities into one aligned effort and schedule. These efforts will hopefully help bring Alberta back to the power it once was within the sport of wheelchair basketball.

### Future Initiatives

WSA will continue to coordinate and organize wheelchair basketball programs for the provincial men's, women's and junior teams under the guidance of the Wheelchair Basketball Alberta Leadership Team. WSA's focus for the up coming years will be on initiating a more integrated approach to provincial programs aligning the men, women and junior teams.

WSA will work closely with the revised Wheelchair Basketball Canada strategic plan incorporating many of it's initiatives by integrating those ideas into our own overall big picture direction(s).

Coach and official development have been identified as a much neglected area of training in Alberta. It is WSA's hopes to initiate more opportunity to host developmental clinics for both coaches and officials.

Additional strategies will include developing partnerships in fund raising and sponsorship, the development and recruitment from grassroots to high performance athletes. BTG will remain an integral part of our overall recruitment strategy allowing for a more widespread approach to grass root development.

## Conclusion

I have know been with WSA for 3 years and have been enjoying the experience greatly. I have had the opportunity to meet several hard working, dedicated individuals from within the WBC family throughout Canada and Alberta. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all those involved in the wheelchair basketball community at large and all those who have provided me with guidance and/or assistance in solidifying my transition into my current position as Executive Director with WSA. The future looks bright for wheelchair basketball in Alberta and I look forward to continuing to help shape the direction and vision of this great sport.

Respectfully Submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Sandomirsky". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Sandomirsky  
Executive Director

BCWBS would like to acknowledge Lou Rene Legge who assumed the role of Acting Managing Director while Carrie Linegar was on maternity leave. During this time the BCWBS staff Makiko Harada, Cheryl Corrigan and Joe Higgins as well as the BCWBS Board of Directors provided valuable insight and hard work to assist Lou in continuing the great work of BCWBS for our membership this past season. Below is a summary of activities BCWBS supported in 2009-10. Highlights include hosting the 2009 Americas Cup Qualifier for Men, hosting the 2010 CWBL Finals where Douglas College was crowned champions 3 years running, BC Men and Women winning their respective National Championship Titles, and undertaking new initiatives such as the intramural programs at Trinity Western and Douglas College and other developmental initiatives. After another great year we look forward to the year ahead of serving our membership!!

### **PROGRAMMING**

**City League** - BCWBS was pleased to continue the Tim Frick City League, with fall and winter sessions in 2009-10 in the lower mainland at Douglas College lead by Coach Joe. The city league is an 8–10 week recreational league, where new players, juniors, and some seasoned retirees can develop their game skills and have some competitive fun. In total there were 23 individuals participated in the fall session and 18 in the New Year which included 10 first time city league participants. Thank-you to the BCWSA Bridging the Gap Program, the Hamber Foundation and the Wheels in Motion Quality of Life Grant for supporting this great program.

### **BC-CWBL**

Ten teams competed in the 2009-2010 BC-CWBL season in 2 divisions which included a total of 7 tournaments.

Division 1: Douglas College Lions, Dingos & Royals

Division 2: Mid-Island Tsunami, Victoria, Kamloops Bull-dawgs, BC Breakers, Okanagan Thunder, Vintage Cable Cars & Vancouver Hooligans.

A successful division 1 draft took place for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 2009-10 where 3 teams were created to participate in a 15 game league this season. The Douglas College Lions took top place in the BC conference, while all 3 teams earned berths for the 2011 CWBL Finals. In division 2, the competition was close all season where tournaments took place in Kamloops, Kelowna and the Lower Mainland. The Victoria Capitals were victorious at the BC-CWBL Finals claiming their 2<sup>nd</sup> D2 Championship.

Once again, teams paid a registration fee and BCWBS offered a travel subsidy and covered the major costs associated with hosting these tournaments and the provincial finals banquet and awards. Thank you to Douglas College, Wheelchair Basketball Canada for a special project grant, Advanced Mobility, MEDiChair, Subway and Panago Pizza for your the support of the BC-CWBL Finals.

**High Performance Camps** – BCWBS hosted 2 Elite Camps in November 2009 and January 2010 with higher performance players from around the Province. Highlights of the high performance camps included sessions with Strength and Conditioning Guru Steve Ramsbottom, Nutritionist Cristina Sutter and BC Athlete's Voice's Joe Hitchcock.

**Men' Provincial Team** – BC won their 4th straight wheelchair basketball National Championships in 2010 by defeating Ontario 68 - 56. Richard Peter was named to the All-Star Team. In preparation for the Nationals, the BC men participated in Defi Sportif taking home the silver medal. The 2010 B.C. Men's Team consisted of Richard Peter, Bo Hedges, Ross MacDonald, Jaimie Borisoff, Roberto Molina, Kevin Bowie, Bryan Shore, Avril Harris, Anthony Purcell and Erik Hagreen. The team was coached by Peter Taylor and Joe Higgins.

**Women's Provincial Team** – BCWBS sent a women's team to compete in the Calgary women's tournament in March and hosted a tournament in May in preparation for the 2010 Women's CWBL Finals. BCWBS was thrilled to see the women win gold at this year's national championships with a win over Edmonton. BC's seven point win prevented the Inferno's seventh championship, and will go down in the history books as the Breakers first CWBL Women's Club National Championship! Congratulations to both teams on a great game, and to All Star Jessica Vliegenthart and MVP Janet McLachlan. Our talented team comprised of the following BC athletes: Marni Abbott-Peter, Shira Standfield, Stephanie Park, Janet McLachlan, Wendy Jansen, Makiko Harada, Jessica Vliegenthart, Elisha Williams and Nancy LaFleche and was coached by Cheryl Corrigan.

**Junior Wheelchair Basketball Challenge** - Juniors came from across BC to demonstrate their skills and enthusiasm for wheelchair basketball.

Through the years, we've seen great growth in the development of our junior players, and their abilities were on display November 14th & 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009. We would also like to thank the volunteers, especially Trish Nicholson and her leadership class for their hard work, as well as our generous sponsors: the Province of BC, Rick Hansen Foundation, McRoberts Secondary School, Save on Foods, Holiday Inn, & Panago Pizza.

### **BC-CWBL Finals Tournament Awards**

#### **Division 1:**

**MVP** – Patrick Anderson, Lions

#### **All-Stars:**

Erik Hagreen, Dingos

Ross MacDonald, Royals

Jamie Borisoff, Lions

Bo Hedges, Royals

Jessica Vliegenthart, Royals

#### **Division 2:**

**MVP** – Tony Golston, Victoria

#### **All-Stars:**

Matt Ficocelli, Okanagan

Chad Palmer, Hooligans

Avril Harris, Kamloops

Peter Colistor, Cable Cars

Derek Lundie, Cable Cars

### **BC-CWBL League Awards**

#### **Fairplay Award:**

Div 1 – Tyler Tingle, Dingos

Div 2 – Jean Luc Lagan, Victoria

#### **Most Improved Player:**

Div 1 – Derek Lundie, Lions

Div 2 – Chad Palmer, Hooligans

#### **Leadership Award:**

Div 1 – Bo Hedges, Royals

#### **Rookie of the Year:**

Div 2 – Loren Pearson, Victoria



**Mini-Basket Festival** - Juniors came from all over the coast to demonstrate their skills and enthusiasm for the sport of wheelchair basketball at the 2010 Mini Basketball Festival. Through the years, we've seen great growth in the development of our mini-fest participants, and their abilities were on display the May 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> weekend at Alex Hope Elementary School in Langley. Special thanks go out to all the parents and sponsors including Panago Pizza and Wheelchair Basketball Canada. We would also like to thank Karen Kosterman and Kelly Paddock, Vice Principal at Alex Hope for their help on the weekend.

**Jr Provincial Team Program** - September 19/20 found many junior athletes from around the province at Douglas College, New Westminster for a Canada Games stream junior camp. The participants benefitted from sessions with Provincial Coach Cheryl Corrigan, as well as guest coaches Bo Hedges, Ross MacDonald and Anthony Purcell. Regional Coach Joe Higgins ran a coaches clinic in concert with the junior camp. The junior athletes also benefitted from Sport BC Nutritionist Cristina Sutter. A second junior camp was also held in March 2010 for the selection of athletes to attend the Junior National Championships. Congratulations to all the team members that were part of BC's fourth place finish: Konrad Kelz, Natalie Imbeau, Nathan Bragg, Stephanie Park, Erin Higgins, Matthew Ficocelli, Derek Lundie, Erik Vliegenthart and Avril Harris. A special thanks to Assistant Coach Greg Park and Holly Tawse for helping make the weekend go smoothly.

## **REGIONAL / ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT**

Growth and development of wheelchair basketball programs continues around BC. BCWBS assists in the development of BCWBS clubs through our regional grant program, through administration support for projects and initiatives, as well as coaching support with our provincial and regional representatives through the IPS Coaching System.

**Let's Play** - The BCWBS Let's Play Project, lead by Mike Prescott, is a joint collaboration with The Rick Hansen Foundation and the Ministry of Education which has resulted in the BCWBS developing a unique approach designed to enhance the lives of British Columbian children aged 0-8 years old as identified in the Canadian Sport for Life (CS4L) stages of Active Start and Fundamentals.

The BCWBS Let's Play Project intends to accomplish the following objectives;

1. Identify children aged 0-8 in BC communities.
2. Identify and upgrade facilities in the identified communities (community centres, playgrounds, schools) that could become accessible and inclusive of children with physical disabilities including the features necessary to accommodate children ages 0-6 years.
3. Provide the identified communities with age appropriate sport wheelchair equipment for the child with the disability and their able bodied peers who choose to become involved in physical-knowledge activities.
4. Ensure the ongoing sustainability of the project through the legacies of sport chairs, equipment and a Best Practices Model.

This Project will make a considerable difference in the lives of children with disabilities aged 0-8 years by way of emphasis on physical literacy and social development which are critical to the overall health of our society.

**BCWBS Regional Grants** – BCWBS distributed 5 grants this past season for a number of successful projects: Okanagan Thunder, Kelowna Jamboree; Powell River Ravens, wheelchair trailer; Mid-Island Wheelchair Sports, Travel; Victoria Wheelchair Sports – Wheelchair trailer; Comox Valley Wheelchair Sports, wheelchair transport, maintenance, and storage.

**Comox Valley** – Wheelchair Basketball is now alive and well at the Comox Recreation Centre on Friday nights. BCWBS has supported this program with an initial loan of 10 sport chairs and support from our Regional Coach Joe. We look forward to the continued growth and success of this new program – thank you Karin for all your hard work!

**Powell River** – The Powell River Ravens Wheelchair Basketball Team is up and running as a legacy from the BC Disability Games. The program offers a weekly wheelchair basketball session that has seen up to 29 new participants – congratulations on your success!

**Victoria Tournament and Camp Day** – In addition to the weekly program offering in Victoria, VWASA & BCWBS hosted a one-day game and camp in January with Coach Joe. The Tsunami, from Mid-island, took on the host Victoria team to kick off the day. It was a great game by these two friendly rivals and saw the development of a new referee from Victoria, Rob, learning about the sport.

**Trinity Western University** - Trinity Western University in Langley and BCWBS initiated a pilot project where over 40 students and staff participated in an intramural wheelchair basketball program lead by Patrick Anderson and Joe Higgins. TWU also hosted two of our BC-CWBL league tournaments – thank you TWU!

**Langley Game Night** – BCWBS hosted a game night in August 2009 with the tremendous support of Jack and Mitch Kosterman. Over 15 participants attended the event at the Langley Events Centre, with many trying the sport for the 1<sup>st</sup> time.

**Kelowna Wheelchair Basketball Jamboree** – The Okanagan Thunder took the reigns to ensure the successful offering of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kelowna Jamboree in April 2010. The Jamboree saw over 30 players arrive from Alberta and BC who participated in a variety of themed games where the players were divided into two levels, each group having the opportunity to have new team mates and opponents. Some of the highlights of the weekend included the “old vs. young” game where the old fogies triumphed over the young whipper-snappers, and a rousing game of Ultimate Frisbee. The Jamboree was a resounding success, in no small part because of the enthusiasm and effort of many partners working together: the City of Kelowna, BC Wheelchair Basketball, local Kelowna players and high school student volunteers, Calgary Grizzlies and Rollers, our officials, and all our participants.

**Prince George** – With the great support of the Kinsmen Club, the Prince George Titans offered a mini-hoops program, adult recreational program and a large number of school demonstrations with the leadership of Coach Avril Harris & Elisha Williams.

**Chilliwack & Surrey Junior Programs** – BCWBS was pleased to offer weekly junior programs – the Chilliwack Cheetahs at the Cheam Centre lead by Coach Brad Hagkull and at the Tong Louie Family YMCA in Surrey lead by Coach Makiko Harada.

**School Programs** – The BCWBS Schools Program was been very busy this past season with the influence of the 2010 Winter Paralympics. Provincial Coach Cheryl Corrigan and Regional Coaches Joe Higgins and Avril Harris have been doing demonstrations at schools all over the Lower Mainland and Prince George (well over 35 schools visited!). The Schools Program entails a full one day of physical education classes taught by one of the BCWBS coaches followed by a week of chair loan.



## **COACHING DEVELOPMENT**

### ***Provincial and Regional Coach Positions - Integrated Performance System***

The Integrated Performance System which is a vertically integrated system of paid coaches and program support at the regional, provincial and national team level continued in BC this past season. Through this program BCWBS employed Cheryl Corrigan as a full-time Provincial Coach and also supported regional coaches Avril Harris in the North and Joe Higgins for the remainder of the province. These coaches benefited from a series of professional development opportunities and engaged in program development initiatives in each of their respective regions as described above.



**Chilliwack Cheetahs**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

BCWBS continues to produce the 'Net'Work Newsletter in print and on-line 3x per year for our membership and community supporters as well as support our website at [www.bcwbs](http://www.bcwbs).

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

**America's Cup Qualifier** - Wheelchair Basketball Canada, BC Wheelchair Sports and BC Wheelchair Basketball Society were pleased to host the Americas Cup from August 24 – 29, 2009 at the Richmond Olympic Oval. The America's Cup was a Men's America Zone qualification tournament for World Championships in 2010 (Birmingham, England.) The countries competing were; Canada, the United States, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Jamaica, Mexico and Venezuela. British Columbia athletes Bo Hedges, Ross MacDonald, Pat Anderson and Richard Peter represented Canada at this event where they placed 2nd. BCWBS would like to thank all the participants including teams, sponsors, volunteers, and spectators for their great support to this successful event.



**2010 CWBL Finals** – BCWBS was pleased to host the 2010 CWBL Finals and see Douglas College successfully defended their CWBL Open Title by defeating Variety Village April 2-4 at Douglas College. Patrick Anderson of the Lions was named MVP, while Jaimie Borisoff from the Lions and Bo Hedges from the Royals were selected to the All-Star Team. Many thanks to Douglas College, the Province of BC, 49 BeSpoke, Medi-Chair, and Wheelchair Basketball Canada for your support in hosting this great event.

**BCWBS Members Celebrate 2010 Paralympics and Olympics** - As Canada welcomed athletes from around the world to Vancouver for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the BC Wheelchair Basketball Society is so proud to highlight the involvement of members from our wheelchair basketball community. Rick Hansen was an honorary mayor of the Olympic Athlete's Village while Marni Abbott-Peter and Patrick Anderson were named honorary co-mayors of the Paralympic Athletes Village in Whistler. Jack Kosterman, Natalie Imbeau, Chad Palmer, Roberto Molina, John Lundie, Robert Hedges, Nathan Bragg, and Chris Wong were all participants in the Paralympic Games Opening Ceremony. Torch bearers included Joe Higgins, Jaimie Borisoff, Michelle Stilwell, Ross MacDonald, Jennifer Krempien, Shira Standfield, Jeff Standfield, Dean MacKinnon, Patrick Anderson and of course Marni Abbott-Peter who had the distinct pleasure of being one of the final torch bearers at the Opening Ceremony.

**Hoopfest 2010** - Hoopfest 2010 was held on Saturday April 24th at Cambie Secondary School in Richmond and was a great success, raising over \$7,000 to support wheelchair basketball programs across BC. Firefighters from municipalities across the Lower Mainland once again were the primary participants and the first police officers team joined in Hoopfest as well. Teams representing Burnaby Firefighters, Vancouver Firefighters, Surrey Firefighters, Delta Firefighters, Coquitlam Firefighters, Vancouver Police, Team 8, and the host school Cambie Secondary battled throughout the day. Thank you to all of our athlete volunteers and many supporters of this year's event.

## **AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

- The BCWBS Annual Awards were presented at the BC-CWBL Finals in March 2010 with the support of Advanced Mobility Products. The awards, in recognition of contributions made to wheelchair basketball in BC, were as follows: Junior Athlete of the Year – Avril Harris, Prince George; Female Athlete of the Year – Janet McLachlan, West Vancouver; Male Athlete of the Year – Bo Hedges, Burnaby; Coach of the Year – Peter Taylor, Surrey; Volunteer of the Year – Tyler Tingle, Kamloops; Official of the Year – Dean MacKinnon, Port Coquitlam; and Outstanding Community Support Award – Pat Harris, Prince George.
- Former Canadian Sr. Women's and BCWBS Provincial Wheelchair Basketball Coach Tim Frick received the 2009 Geoff Gowan Lifetime Achievement Award through the Coaching Association of Canada.
- BCWBS Athlete Bo Hedges was named WBC Male Athlete of the Year, Avril Harris was named Junior Athlete of the Year and Patrick Harris received the Leadership Excellence award from Wheelchair Basketball Canada. The Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association (CWSA) named BC Provincial Coach Peter Taylor the winner of the 2009 Stephan Dubuc Memorial Award as Coach of the year & Makiko Harada the recipient of the Judith Zelman Memorial Award for Rookie of the Year.
- Congratulations to Deion Green and Matthew Ficocelli who represented Canada at the Jr World Championships in 2009 and of course Head Coach of this team, BCWBS coach Cheryl Corrigan.
- National Team Programs - Congratulations to the following BCWBS athletes for their selection to the National Team in 2010; Women – Janet McLachlan, Nancy Lafleche, Jessica DesMazes, Elisha Williams, Marni Abbott-Peter and for the Men – Bo Hedges, Richard Peter, Ross MacDonald. These athletes travelled to the 2010 World Championships in England this past summer.

## **EQUIPMENT**

BCWBS continues to manage a wheelchair loan program for BCWBS members and continues to access funds for the purchase of additional sport wheelchairs.

## **FUNDING & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

**The Province of BC** – BCWBS gratefully acknowledges the support of the Province of British Columbia through the Hosting BC Grants and Direct Access Gaming grants in support of BCWBS programming!

**BC Wheelchair Sports Association** – BCWBS is a member of BCWSA and receives many services including financial grant support, access to the provincial Athlete Assistance Program, the Bridging the Gap Program, and more.

**Douglas College** – continues to provide incredible support to wheelchair basketball in their athletic program with access to practice facilities, hosting of tournaments and camps and so much more.

**Canadian Sport Centre Pacific** – wheelchair basketball continued as a targeted sport partner of CSC-Pacific through the Integrated Performance System and sport services for our provincial and nationally targeted athletes and support of IPS Coaches.

**Basketball BC** – BCWBS is a liaison member of the Basketball BC (BBC) Board of Directors. Basketball BC is a great supporter of wheelchair basketball in our province.

**Panago Pizza** – is the official pizza of BCWBS providing pizza and prizing to many of our programs and special events.

**Xentel DM** – BCWBS engages in a donations program to support its programs and activities. We are very thankful for the continued support of our many individual and organizational donors.

**Board of Directors:** Chris Samis, President; Ross MacDonald, Vice-President; Aaron Wilson, Treasurer; Lindsay Thom, Director at Large; Ken Wind, Director at Large; Robert Hedges, Director at Large

**BCWBS Staff:** Carrie Llnegar, Managing Director; Makiko Harada, Program Coordinator; Cheryl Corrigan, Provincial Coach and Joe Higgins, Regional Coach



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# **Women's Wheelchair Basketball - National Program Head Coaches Report - 2010**

## Women's Program Head Coach's Report

2010 was a difficult and rewarding year for the Women's Program. The difficulties stemmed mostly from serious injuries as the World Championships team lost 2 starters in the months leading up to the tournament. The rewards came ultimately in the form of a return to the podium and a Bronze Medal finish at the World Championships in July.

In addition to on-court achievements we managed to address several areas we felt were lacking in our Program. Among those were the growth of the Espoir Program and the establishment of an Under-25 team for Women to compete at World Championships in 2011. Michael Broughton was named Espoir/U-25 Coach. With the growth of the Espoir Program we have managed to have a most-ever amount of invited athletes for Selection Camp in January, with 28 athletes confirmed to attend at this point.

The IST Program has been further entrenched in the Women's Program with an ongoing Strength/Fitness Training program, Sport Psychology consultations, Nutrition Planning, comprehensive Physiological testing, as well as full medical support (Physiotherapy, Massage Therapy and Team Physician). With the field narrowing on the International scene, and 7 or 8 countries capable of winning on any given day, we are confident our added supports and training will be the difference in London and beyond.

One other area that we felt needed to be addressed was the quality of daily training accessible to our athletes. We currently have 3 athletes in US College programs and 2 athletes playing professionally in Europe. These athletes are training on a very high level every day. With the establishment of our Regional Training Centres we plan to have the same quality of training available to athletes program-wide.

We are on the right track for a return to the top of the world in 2012, as well as experiencing the growth to make that return sustainable.

### Senior and Espoir Camps, Competitions and Events

U of Alabama Invitational and Training Camp (Dec 2010) (Espoir)

Pioneer Classic Tournament (Jan 2011) (Senior and Espoir)

Selection Camp (Jan 2011)

Osaka Cup Friendship Games (Feb 2011) (Senior and Espoir)

Illinois Training camp/Exhibition Play (March 2011)

Post Nationals Training OR BT Paralympic Cup (pending possible invitation) (May 2011)

3 Nation Test Series and training camp (Germany and Great Britain) (June 2011)

World Championships for Women Under Age 25 (St. Catherine's) (July 2011)

## **Women's Wheelchair Basketball - National Program Head Coaches Report - 2010**

Paralympic Qualifiers (Guadalajara) (November 2011)

Spitfire Challenge (August 2010)

### Summary

We continue to be able to provide AAP carding for Senior and development (Espoir) athletes. We were able to provide the Espoir players with a number of international competitive opportunities.

Own the Podium has provided additional funds for Senior and Espoir athletes allowing us to provide unprecedented opportunities for our athletes.

The Regional Training Centres should be up and running this fall. These will be coordinated with our Men's Program to facilitate quality daily training opportunities for our Program athletes.

## **Canadian Men's National Wheelchair Basketball Team**

### **Annual Report 2010**

#### **1. Training and Competition**

- a. Americas Zone Qualifier in Vancouver, September 2009. We finished second in this qualifier coming second to the USA. This result meant that we qualified for the upcoming 2010 World Championships in England. These were the first major games after Beijing and the retirement of Patrick Anderson and we acquitted ourselves well. The loss to the USA late in the game indicated our conditioning was not up to world standard just yet. This was an area that was identified for improvement to keep us at the top of our game. The coaching staff was also together for the first time at a major competition and worked on establishing our different roles and responsibilities. The players all felt that the need for this level of competition was to be foremost in WBC's planning for the future.
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# **Women's Wheelchair Basketball - National Program Head Coaches Report - 2010**

## Women's Program Head Coach's Report

2010 was a difficult and rewarding year for the Women's Program. The difficulties stemmed mostly from serious injuries as the World Championships team lost 2 starters in the months leading up to the tournament. The rewards came ultimately in the form of a return to the podium and a Bronze Medal finish at the World Championships in July.

In addition to on-court achievements we managed to address several areas we felt were lacking in our Program. Among those were the growth of the Espoir Program and the establishment of an Under-25 team for Women to compete at World Championships in 2011. Michael Broughton was named Espoir/U-25 Coach. With the growth of the Espoir Program we have managed to have a most-ever amount of invited athletes for Selection Camp in January, with 28 athletes confirmed to attend at this point.

The IST Program has been further entrenched in the Women's Program with an ongoing Strength/Fitness Training program, Sport Psychology consultations, Nutrition Planning, comprehensive Physiological testing, as well as full medical support (Physiotherapy, Massage Therapy and Team Physician). With the field narrowing on the International scene, and 7 or 8 countries capable of winning on any given day, we are confident our added supports and training will be the difference in London and beyond.

One other area that we felt needed to be addressed was the quality of daily training accessible to our athletes. We currently have 3 athletes in US College programs and 2 athletes playing professionally in Europe. These athletes are training on a very high level every day. With the establishment of our Regional Training Centres we plan to have the same quality of training available to athletes program-wide.

We are on the right track for a return to the top of the world in 2012, as well as experiencing the growth to make that return sustainable.

### Senior and Espoir Camps, Competitions and Events

U of Alabama Invitational and Training Camp (Dec 2010) (Espoir)

Pioneer Classic Tournament (Jan 2011) (Senior and Espoir)

Selection Camp (Jan 2011)

Osaka Cup Friendship Games (Feb 2011) (Senior and Espoir)

Illinois Training camp/Exhibition Play (March 2011)

Post Nationals Training OR BT Paralympic Cup (pending possible invitation) (May 2011)

3 Nation Test Series and training camp (Germany and Great Britain) (June 2011)

World Championships for Women Under Age 25 (St. Catherine's) (July 2011)

## **Women's Wheelchair Basketball - National Program Head Coaches Report - 2010**

Paralympic Qualifiers (Guadalajara) (November 2011)

Spitfire Challenge (August 2010)

### Summary

We continue to be able to provide AAP carding for Senior and development (Espoir) athletes. We were able to provide the Espoir players with a number of international competitive opportunities.

Own the Podium has provided additional funds for Senior and Espoir athletes allowing us to provide unprecedented opportunities for our athletes.

The Regional Training Centres should be up and running this fall. These will be coordinated with our Men's Program to facilitate quality daily training opportunities for our Program athletes.

## **Canadian Men's National Wheelchair Basketball Team**

### **Annual Report 2010**

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Senior Men’s Coach

## **Team Canada Junior Report 2010**

Our primary objective in 2010 was to identify every junior athlete playing wheelchair basketball across the country. Currently we have identified 26 players between the ages of 15-18 years who will be eligible for selection to the 2013, under 23, Canadian Junior Team.

The next step in the process was to assess their current stage of development according to the Long Term Athlete Development plan. The Canada Games seeding tournament in Montreal hosted by the AQSFR in April 2010 was instrumental in allowing me the opportunity to evaluate many of these athletes in a formal competition. For those athletes too young for Canada Games selection we followed up with a Junior Camp at Brock University the first week of August. Twenty-one athletes attended this junior camp. The camp was a tremendous success. The coaches had the opportunity not only to assess individual athletic ability, but just as important, to assess the individual player's strength of character in a highly intense, competitive environment.

Moving towards the future, the scouting and player evaluations throughout the year have lead to the creation of three tiers of Canadian wheelchair basketball players. There is the 'Futures' group who number nine athletes. They are presently of junior age though not eligible for 2013. These players have been identified as possessing the skills to compete for the National Senior Team in the very near future. We have our 'Junior' tier which includes athletes eligible for the World Junior Championships in 2013. Although unofficial, the third tier I will call the 'Future Juniors', athletes under the age of 15 yrs who will be eligible for Junior Worlds' in 2017. You can never plan too far ahead.

The 2010-2011 season will be very exciting for our WBC Junior program. The first men's wheelchair basketball 'Festival' is scheduled in January. We follow up with the Canada Games in February, and continue with the CWBL season through April. We hope to host three major development camps throughout the summer with the Spitfire challenge scheduled as a major competition. The 2011 season is shaping up to be a very exciting one for all our Junior athletes.

Submitted by,  
Stephen Bialowas  
Head Coach  
Team Canada Juniors

## Women's Espoir – Under 25 program

This coming year will see the development of the international women's game with the first ever under 25 Championships, being held in St. Catharines at Brock University in July.

We have seen great things developing across Canada; being able to grow the women's only Jamborees in the west (in October) and expanding in the East (in April). These have been great chances to see what talent we have across Canada and being able to work with the future of the women's game.

Wheelchair Basketball Canada is committed to getting development started earlier with the athletes and coaches in the provincial programs. We have over 25 athletes IDed from coast to coast and having the chance to work and develop them within the Sr. systems has been instrumental in bringing the women's game to the next level.

With the under 25's World Championships fast approaching in July we will be holding selection camp in January 2011 in conjunction with the Senior Women. We will also be having training and competition opportunities every month until the Championships, while still having training/competition opportunities for our Espoir program athletes (who are not playing in the U25).

This is a great time in Women's wheelchair basketball in Canada and thanks to everyone that has helped in the development across our Nation and we hope to have your continued support and growth in the years to come.

Michael Broughton  
Under 25/Espoir Head Coach

# **2010 Annual Report**

## **Women's National Team Program**

Submitted by Tara Feser and Janet McLachlan

The Women's National Team Program would first like to thank the Board of Directors, WBC staff, and their family and friends for their continued support of the Women's National Program. This year was an important year for us, we are thankful for all the support we received to help us achieve our goals at the World Championships in Birmingham England.

Over the last year the team committed to be fitter, faster, and more technically sound and this commitment paid off in the end. The year packed full of preparation training and competition ensured we were ready for the World Championships in July.

The 2010 season started off with a training camp and a tournament in Tuscaloosa Alabama. This camp included current senior carded athletes as well as Espoir athletes. It was a good start to our year with warmer weather and some good competition against other women's teams.

As this year's carding cycle changed we saw ourselves in Vancouver for selection camp at the end of January. The new squad that would represent Canada at the World Championships was selected along with the Espoir squad.

This year was an important year with the World Championships in July therefore we brought in all the experts to help the athletes achieve their goals. A sport nutritionist met with each player to set up an individual meal plan; sport physiologists distributed heart rate monitors to the top 15 athletes to help monitor the intensity of the training while away from the core group; our sports trainer provided individual workout plans to coincide with our training phases; and our sport psychologist worked closely with each athlete to improve the mental toughness of our team.

The heavy year of competitions, preparations and training began with the Osaka Friendship Games in Japan. After defeating the Australian's and Japanese the round robin play saw the team in a three-way tie with the Australians and Americans. Due to point differential the team played for third and fourth against the Japanese, where they were successful in defeating the host team.

March saw the team gather at the University of Illinois for training camp and games against a few University Women's teams from the US. The camp and games were an excellent chance to get some training and playing time together. The beginning of May saw the team traveling to Warm Springs, Georgia for the Roosevelt Cup and Birmingham, Alabama for the Lakeshore Foundation tournament. At both these tournaments the team was able to play numerous games against International competition and continue preparations for the World Championships in July.

Immediately following the Canadian Women's Nationals in Saskatoon on the May long weekend, the senior team headed to Manchester England for the Paralympic World Cup, where they finished first in the four team tournament. This tournament was the first time the entire team that attended Worlds was able to play together. Due to some injuries there was a last minute switch that had to be made. The team really started to shine and show their potential at this tournament and they carried that energy into the next week of training in Manchester.

With the World Championships just around the corner the senior team decided that it was important to centralize as a group for a week before heading to Germany for pre Worlds staging. Centralization in Ottawa, during the month of June, was possible because of the help of WBC and the commitment of all the senior athletes and a few of the Espoir team.

As the team made its final preparations for the big competition they found themselves in Germany during the one of the hottest weeks of the year. The team trained in Cottbus and then went to Berlin for a four-team tournament before moving across to Birmingham. As the Women's team rolled into the World championships they felt confident, and prepared to achieve their goals. As you already know the Women were able to capture a bronze medal and improved their placement from the 2008 Paralympics.

In closing, we would just like to take this opportunity to welcome the new High Performance Director Paul Zachau and the High Performance Coordinator Christina Swett. The team continues to increase its working relationship with the office and feels confident that the new position and both new staff members will help bring the team closer to its goals in London 2012.