



BC wheelchair
basketball

Let's
PLAY
www.letsplaybc.ca

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

**WE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE
THAT THE BC WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL
OFFICE, WHERE WE LIVE AND WORK, IS ON
THE UNCEDED TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES
OF THE MUSQUEM, TSLEIL-WAUTUTH,
SKWXWÚ7MESH ÚXWUMIXW, S'ÓLH
TÉMÉXW AND STZ'UMINUS NATIONS.**

MISSION

TO PROVIDE EXPERIENCES THAT
INSPIRE INCLUSION, PARTICIPATION
AND EXCELLENCE THROUGH
WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL.



VISION

**EVERYONE HAS THE
OPPORTUNITY TO BE INCLUDED
IN WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL.**

**PROUD MEMBER OF THE BC SCI
COMMUNITY SERVICES NETWORK**



**BC WHEELCHAIR
SPORTS**



Spinal Cord Injury BC



**DISABILITY
FOUNDATION**



Neil Squire

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Hello to all members,

I hope you are all doing well and excited at the prospect of being back on court to play some basketball this winter! I want to thank all our members, clubs, and staff on all your efforts over the past year to ensure a safe environment for our community. Everyone's flexibility, understanding and ability to roll with the ever-changing landscape has been truly remarkable. I am very proud to be part of this organization.

At the Board of Directors level, we have been busy working through updating our policies, discussing our return to play principles, and putting the final touches into our new strategic plan. Our pillar names have changed slightly to Growth, Engagement, Play and Performance. Although, our underlying definition of these has not changed. Where we have made our adjustments is in the framework of what needs to be achieved over the next four years and how BCWBS will work towards accomplishing these goals.

You can find out more information on our new strategic plan by clicking this link.

<https://bcwbs.ca/about/about-wheelchair-basketball>

Additionally, you will notice that we recently put out a call for another Board member to be elected at the 2021 AGM. Fortunately, we are not losing anyone from our current fantastic group. Within our by-laws though, we are allowed to have an eight person Board and we felt that at this time it would be a great opportunity to add an additional member to the BCWBS Board.

Do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any concerns or want to chat about anything.

I hope that you are all able to get back on court soon feeling confident and safe in your environments.

Best of luck in the coming season.

Sincerely,



Bo Hedges

Chair, BCWBS Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS LIST

Bo Hedges	Chair		
Bryan Shore	Vice Chair	Bryna Kopelow	Director at Large
Brad Hagkull	Secretary	Manu Nellutla	Director at Large
Amanda Pinheiro	Treasurer	Mark Starkey	Director at Large

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I wish to start with an expression of huge gratitude to all of our partners, funders and supporters who helped us over this last year to keep our programs running and stay relevant to our membership – all during this unprecedented year – when most of what we did was ‘virtual’!!

Being able to collaborate with our program partners, such as BC Wheelchair Sports Association and the other members of the BC SCI Network meant that we were able to give ongoing support, share resources and ensure our membership stayed active, healthy and safe.

In a world when everything moved to a virtual world, our weekly online newsletter: The NETwork was an essential part of our communication and weekly reached 340 readers by the end of the year. Thank you to Michelle Comeau our Communications Manager for this great initiative and all she does to keep us connected!

It was a loss not to be able to run our annual fundraising event Hoopfest and see all of our community teams and partners, but we persevered and collaborated on a new way to fundraise and ran two online cooking classes, aptly named the Culinary Lay-Up!!

It was a fun collaboration with the nationally renowned chef, Trevor Bird and Fable Kitchen. The 2 events included participants from the Lower Mainland, as well as a few guests from throughout the province. We are grateful to our partners Blasted Church, Steamworks and Victory Creative for helping make these virtual fundraising events a success!

All of us were proud to see BC athletes Tara Llanes, Kady Dandeneau, Bo Hedges and Deion Green centralized in Toronto as they prepared for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Summer Games after a full year of waiting!

Thank you again to the incredible BCWBS team of staff!

Firstly, a huge thank you to Simon Cass who had been our Provincial coach for 4 years who left this position in December 2020 to pursue his masters degree and take on the assistant coach role with the Women’s national team headed to 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo. We are so grateful for all that Simon has contributed to BCWBS over the years, and the athletes he has developed and inspired. Luckily, he has agreed to stay on in a part-time role as the Team BC Canada Winter Games coach and we are excited to see how our team performs at the 2023 at the Canada Winter Games in PEI.

Additionally, to the BCWBS staff, Marni, Nadine, Orion, Elizabeth and Michelle, a huge thank you for navigating this last year, continuing to strive to have an impact and support all of our members, athletes, and families.

Thanks to Coach Joe Higgins for his brilliant work with some of the best online coaching sessions – who knew training on rollers in your living room, basement, or garage, could make you feel like you were pushing hard on the court!!!

Thanks to all of the coaches, regions and club leaders, for their work in staying connected and ready to get back on the court.

I am very proud of the entire BCWBS family!!

Sincerely



Sian Blyth

CLASS OF 2021 HALL OF FAME

PAT HARRIS

As a player, builder and coach, Pat Harris has been a driving force behind wheelchair basketball in British Columbia for more than 40 years. He has also worked tirelessly to change attitudes toward disability and has helped make northern B.C. communities more accessible for people with mobility challenges.

When Harris reached high school, P.E. teacher Doug Everett introduced him to wheelchair sports and trained him in wheelchair racing. Everett changed Harris's life.

Harris played for the Vancouver Cable Cars wheelchair basketball team from 1971 to 1974 and was a member of a Canadian championship team. He is also a two-time Paralympian in athletics. When Harris and his wife, Nancy, moved to Prince George in 1980, he found there were no wheelchair sports in the region and that general day to day accessibility for people in wheelchairs was limited. He knew it was up to him to begin building the foundations for wheelchair sports and accessibility infrastructure, including founding the Prince George Titans wheelchair basketball program, which is still going strong today, as the Prince George Lumberjacks.

His involvement as a player and/or coach with the Titans stretched almost 30 years. During that time, he has organized countless wheelchair basketball demonstrations in Prince George and has travelled to numerous northern communities to encourage people with disabilities to stay physically active and to get involved in wheelchair sports. As a coach, he has played a significant role in helping many wheelchair basketball players advance to provincial, national and international levels of competition.

Harris also coached at several editions of the B.C. Winter Games, as well as the 2003 and 2007 Canada Winter Games. Continuing to stay involved in the sport, he was the sport chair for wheelchair basketball at the 2015 Canada Winter Games hosted in Prince George.

As a rehabilitation consultant and information services manager for Spinal Cord Injury B.C., Harris has shown a passion for enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities. He was instrumental in the formation of Accessibility Advisory Committees in Prince George, Quesnel and Fort St. John. He also spearheaded the Measuring Up the North Project, a partnership between Spinal Cord Injury B.C. and more than 40 northern B.C. communities. The program seeks to make northern towns more age-friendly, disability-friendly and inclusive for all citizens and visitors. For all he has done, Harris has been recognized with numerous awards.

We acknowledge Pat Harris in the Builder category with BC Wheelchair Basketball Society, creating a legacy to the sport and community.



Photo credit: SCI BC

CLASS OF 2021 HALL OF FAME

JOE HIGGINS

Joe Higgins has been a leader and contributor within the wheelchair basketball community for over 35 years. During his outstanding career with Team Canada, he has been an assistant coach with the Senior Women's National Team and the Junior Men's National Team, and a head coach for the Senior Men's National Team. He helped coach the senior women to a gold medal finish in the 1992 Paralympic Games in Barcelona, Spain, and led the senior men to a bronze medal finish at the 1994 World Championship on home soil in Edmonton, Alta.

Alongside his distinguished career with Wheelchair Basketball Canada, Higgins has been an athlete, coach, mentor and volunteer within the B.C. community. He continues to influence the development of new programs, contribute to the success of individual athletes and teams, and helps to increase participation in the sport within the province. Along with his involvement and development with athletes in B.C., Higgins is also involved with the Canadian Red Cross where he has taken his passion for wheelchair basketball and adapted sport to many international countries. He is always striving to show the best of the sport and bring out the best potential any person has inside of them.

"In wheelchair basketball we're all one family. When you break your back or your neck, or you have cerebral palsy, polio, or spina bifida, the fact that you have to figure out a different way to do things makes a big difference to how important it is whether you won or lost a game," Higgins said. "It doesn't mean you don't want to win. It doesn't mean you're not super competitive. It means after the game you recognize that there's a life balance that's more important."

As a coach, the ultimate reward is to see your players improve. To see the joy on their faces as they master a new technique or to fight through the frustration of not yet being able to make their bodies do what they want to them to do. "I'm hoping that sport can be that little bit of a kick for people to see it's not what you can't do, it's what you can do. Sport has been that for me in my life and I think it can be even more for people around the world who aren't seen as the same or equal or employable," Joe said. "They're more than employable. They're great human beings. They have great skills. They're very good problem solvers because if they weren't, they wouldn't be able to do what they do."

Joe is the founder of the wheelchair basketball "Breakfast Club," and virtual training site to help better coaches and athletes alike with skills, drills and virtual challenges. Work Hard. Work Smart. Work Together.

We acknowledge Joe Higgins in the Builder category with BC Wheelchair Basketball Society, creating a legacy to the sport and community.



Photo credit: BCWBS

ANNUAL AWARDS & RECOGNITION

With the cancellation of the 2020 BC-CWBL finals, the 2020 BCWBS annual awards were presented virtually, at the end of the season. We want to recognize and thank all of our athletes, coaches, volunteers and program supporters for a great year.

NEW FOR 2020 IS THE PUSH THE GAME (™) AWARD.

In this category, we will be accepting nominations from our membership for stories that showcase an individual, a family, or a corporation/foundation, who has shown resilience, dedication to their community, has been creative in their quest to be and do better this past year, and has inspired others in an impactful manner.

This new award was voted on, by our members and viewers during the Awards LIVE show.

PUSH THE GAME™

2020 BCWBS AWARDS

Athletes of the Year: Ben Hagkull & Megan Smith

Coach of the Year: Joe Higgins

Outstanding Community Supporter: Canadian Tire
Jumpstart Charities

Let's Play Spirit Award: Charlotte Chan

Push The Game (™) Award: Keaton MacEachern

Our 2020-21 Education Bursary recipients:

Lannette Boland (Pender Island)

Matthew Norris (Maple Ridge)

Megan Smith (Vancouver).

Thank you to one of our generous donors for making this grant possible for our recipients to train full-time and attend post secondary classes.



[Link to Youtube recording of the 2020 Annual Awards](#)

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

WITH ALL OF OUR IN PERSON PROGRAMS COMING TO AN ABRUPT HALT IN MARCH 2020, WE HAD TO IMMEDIATELY THINK DIFFERENTLY ON HOW WE COULD CONTINUE TO RUN PROGRAMS FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP.

Thank you to the Jumpstart Sport Relief Fund, we have been able to adapt our programming to run weekly virtual sessions for our Canada Games targeted athletes, fun and active monthly sessions for our Let's Play families, and GO Time program, and even support our junior national team athletes and national team athletes with targeted programs and coaching allowing them to train close to home.

Check out #WhySportMatters on our [Facebook](#) page.

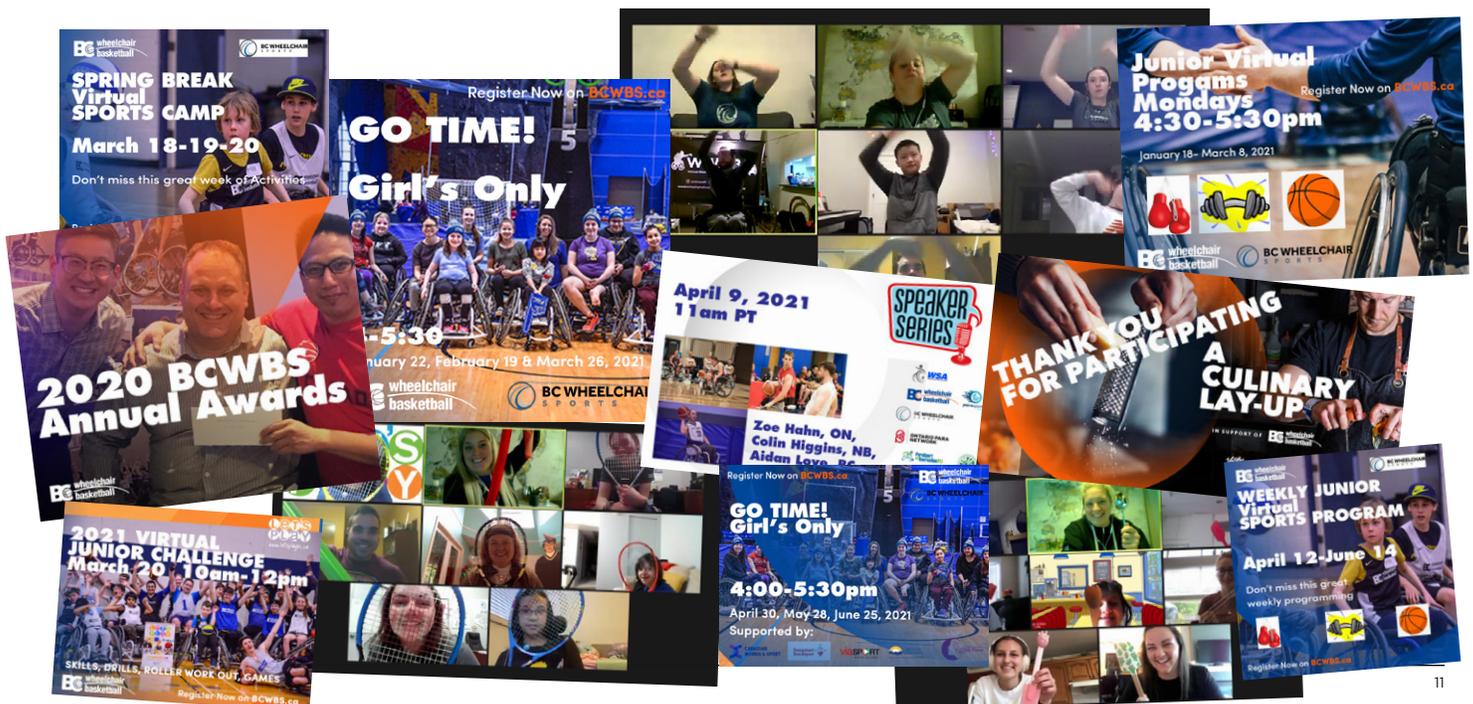
From our Go TIME program to Sports Camps to Roller sessions with our Canada Games targeted athletes we had a tremendous year of virtual FUN!

We hosted 8 Go Time sessions, with a collective impact of 52 participants. These sessions we ran in collaboration with BC Wheelchair Sports and featured various partners for the sessions including Ocean Rehab and Fitness, Team Canada Alumni, athletes from athletics and wheelchair rugby.

Our Let's Play program, focussed on members 4-12 years of age, hosted 32 sessions with a collective impact of 192 participants. These sessions hosted a variety of sports including wheelchair boxing, tennis, athletes, rugby and strength and conditioning. Each week focussed on a new skill that enabled us to reach a variety of kids across the province, keeping everyone active and healthy while staying at home.

As in past years, we were able to host Junior Sports Camps in collaboration with BC Wheelchair Sports. In total we hosted 4 of them with a total of 44 participants. These were partnered with the bi-weekly Junior Virtual programs. Altogether we were able to deliver 26 virtual junior sessions, impacting 141 participants. New for these sessions were the virtual roller sessions - which ended up being a huge hit and something we will continue in 2021/22.

Many of our virtual programs also included a special delivery of items to enhance the experience. From therabands, to water bottles, to roller set ups, craft supplies and basketballs, all of our participants were provided the tools they needed for a fun and healthy activity. Thank you to everyone who provided items to make these programs a success.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

ROLLER SESSIONS

Roller Sessions; Yes, these are a thing and something that grew exponentially in 2020/21. Not only did we run some sessions in our virtually bi-weekly junior programs, but Coach Joe hosted a weekly Roller session with the Fraser Valley Wheelchair Sports club that was attended by other athletes throughout the province. These roller sessions proved so popular that a second weekly session was added for the Canada Games targeted athletes to help with their ongoing training towards the Canada Winter Games in 2023.





LET'S PLAY

The Let's Play in My Community in the greater Victoria area was a huge success from September to December 2020 and from January through to April 2021. In terms of COVID, the impact was relatively minimal for the work being done in schools. Time was set aside at the end of each PE block in order to wipe down the sport wheelchairs quickly, with the understanding that all children were sanitizing their hands before the class. PISE staff wore masks for the entirety of the program, and instructed from a distance of 3 metres when possible. Each class that participated stayed in their divisions, with no mixing of students from other classes or cohorts. Gymnasium doors were propped open for ventilation. At the end of the day before being loaded back in to the trailer, the chairs were given a more thorough cleaning and then stored for at least a week before going to another school.

With this generous funding, we allocated 10 Let's Play sport wheelchairs and our Fraser Valley Trailer, to Victoria at PISE for Fall 2020 programming. This 8 week program, with SD 62 and SD 61, PISE has been able to deliver quality physical literacy adapted programs through PHE classes from Kindergarten to Grade 5, in 4 different schools, impacting over 1980 students and school participants.

The goal for Winter 2021 will be to continue delivery of the program to 4 additional elementary schools with the potential to also increase to add 12 junior high schools.

Great work by Chris at PISE, the teachers in SD 62 and SD 61 for their continued commitment to increasing the physical activities of kids of all ages.

Photo Credit: PISE

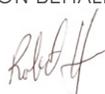
"A huge thank you for introducing our lucky class to wheelchair sports and reinforcing the ideals of inclusion, perseverance, empathy, and respect"
 – Kindergarten teacher

"Thanks so much for your work with the students – they (and I) loved it."
 – Grade 5 teacher

Thank you to Jumpstart Sport Relief Fund for helping support our Let's Play in my Community Victoria Program, with PISE.

FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (UNAUDITED) May 31, 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash (Note 2)	513,708	253,359
Investments (Notes 3, 5)	32,357	41,248
Accounts receivable	24,281	29,281
Government Assistance Receivable (Note 10)	38,211	-
Prepaid Expenses	8,010	12,226
	616,567	336,114
Equipment (Note 6)	198,991	153,103
Long Term Investments (Note 3, 5)	14,527	11,924
	830,085	501,141
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	119,521	23,727
Deferred Revenue (Note 7)	43,420	108,935
	161,941	132,662
CEBA LOAN (Note 12)	30,000	-
Deferred capital contributions (Note 6)	182,346	185,241
	375,287	317,903
FUND BALANCES		
Unrestricted	207,859	152,556
Internally Restricted	227,237	161,148
Invested in equipment	19,702	14,534
	454,798	183,238
	830,085	501,141
Commitments (Note 16)	ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD	
COVID-19 (Note 17)		
REVENUES		
Grants (Note 9)	539,696	469,053
Gaming	96,000	96,000
Donations, Sponsorship, and Fundraising	5,731	56,551
Membership, Registration, and Other	24,872	37,017
	666,299	658,621
EXPENDITURES		
Amortization of Equipment	60,688	45,871
General and administration (Notes 10, 11)	77,938	105,824
Fundraising (Notes 10, 11)	14,284	49,498
Program and Games (Notes 10, 11)	251,829	420,230
	404,739	621,423
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES FROM OPERATIONS	261,560	37,198
Gain on forgiveness of CEBA loan (Note 12)	10,000	-
	271,560	37,198



THE BCWBS COMMUNITY REALLY WORKED COLLABORATIVELY IN 2020/21.

With the help of our corporate and community partners, fundraising events and funders we were able to add over 29 sport wheelchairs to our Let's Play and general inventory. This means we are able to reach more kids, youth, and adults across the province with not only our programs, but also the equipment needed to live active healthy lives.



PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

Accent Inns

BC Spinal Cord Injury Community Services Network

BC Wheelchair Sports Association

Blasted Church

Bridging the Gap

Canadian Sport Institute Pacific

Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities

CIBC

Dockstader Subaru

GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre

Invacare Canada

National Seating & Mobility

PacificSport Fraser Valley

PacificSport Vancouver Island

Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence

ParticipAction

Province of British Columbia

Richmond Oval

Rick Hansen Foundation

Steamworks Brewing

Sunnyhill Health Centre for Children

Surrey School District

Trinity Western University

University of British Columbia

University of Victoria

viaSport BC

Victory Creative

West Jet

Wheelchair Basketball Canada

GRANTS & FOUNDATIONS

Andrew Mahon

BC Rehab Foundation

CIBC

Community Foundation NO

Disability Alliance of BC

Canadian Heritage

Government of Canada

Government of BC

Rick Hansen Foundation (in memory Of John Lund)

Stanley Stronge Wheelchair Basketball Fund



BC wheelchair
basketball

**LET'S
PLAY**
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