



The Canadian Wheelchair Basketball Association Association Canadienne de Basketball en Fauteuil Roulant

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CWBA Proud to Announce “Bridging the Gap” Partnership

(Ottawa, ON) – The Canadian Wheelchair Basketball Association (CWBA) is thrilled to announce that they have partnered with the Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association (Wheelchair Rugby) and Tennis Canada (Wheelchair Tennis) to bring the success of the “Bridging the Gap – getting physically active” program to the National level.

The “Bridging the Gap – Getting Physically Active” program is an awareness, recruitment and development program that targets individuals with physical disabilities and encourages them to get active by introducing them to a variety of different wheelchair sports in a fun and informal atmosphere.

The program is an initiative of BC Wheelchair Sports that began in 1999 and expanded into Ontario in 2003. A national coordinator was hired by CWSA in 2006 to help expand the program across Canada.

Now with the help of Sport Canada, money has been granted through the Sport Participation Development Program and the Canadian Heritage Sport Program to greatly expand the “Bridging the Gap” program to make it more accessible for all Canadians.

It is fantastic that three separate National Sport Organizations can come together and share their resources to assist in implementing the Bridging the Gap – Getting Physically Active program. The program will definitely benefit all three organizations with more awareness, participants, and programming for their particular sports, but it will be accomplished in a much more efficient manor as a result of this partnership.

The “Bridging the Gap” program is designed to empower persons with a disability to get involved with sport by facilitating their passage through the first three stages, and the last stage of the Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) Model. The first three stages for Athletes with a Disability are Awareness, First Contact, and Learning to Train. The last stage is Active for Life.

Part of the Sport Canada funding will be used to hire additional support staff to ensure better efficiency in the delivery of services. They will work closely with the three partnering organizations (CWBA, CWSA, and Wheelchair Tennis) to expand and promote the ongoing success of the “Bridging the Gap” program.

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Bridging the Gap – Getting Physically Active provides a starting point for Canadians with a disability to obtain optimum health through physical activity and sport. It also helps to identify those Canadians with a disability that aspire to the highest levels of sport performance, assists them to reach their potential, achieve their goals, and contribute to Canada's outstanding international success in Paralympic sport.

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