



For Immediate Release:

CHARLOTTETOWN TO HOST 2012 CANADIAN WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL LEAGUE FINALS

(OTTAWA – May 30, 2011) - Wheelchair Basketball Canada is pleased to announce that after a twenty-year hiatus the Canadian Wheelchair Basketball League (CWBL) Open Finals will return to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island in 2012.

Competition will take place April 6-8, 2012 and will be co-hosted by ParaSport and Recreation PEI and the City of Charlottetown. The tournament will feature elite players from across Canada and brings together the top competitive wheelchair basketball club teams in the country to compete for the national title. Charlottetown last hosted the tournament in 1992.

"We are excited and humbled to have been awarded the right to host the 2012 Canadian Wheelchair Basketball League Open Finals and look forward to welcoming the many participants and fans from across Canada," said Charlottetown Mayor Clifford Lee.

"Our city truly values its relationships with Wheelchair Basketball Canada and ParaSport and Recreation PEI. Charlottetown has benefited immensely from our event hosting successes, having hosted numerous sport events over the years. The attraction of so many participants, fans, visitors and media has transformed our community - economically, socially and culturally - while driving tourism and adding value to the lives of our residents."

Past, present and future members of the Canadian National Team Program will showcase the skill and athleticism that make the sport one of the premium draws at the Summer Paralympic Games.

"ParaSport and Recreation PEI is delighted to be hosting the 2012 CWBL Open Finals. We are very fortunate to be working with the City of Charlottetown to ensure that this national event is a success. Through this opportunity, we hope to raise awareness of para sports and for the athletes to inspire individuals with physical disabilities to keep active," said ParaSport and Recreation PEI Interim Executive Director Cathleen MacKinnon.

High-resolution photos from the 2011 CWBL Open Finals are available for download (please credit Wheelchair Basketball Canada/Gerry Kripps):

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/wheelchairbasketball/sets/72157626842814914/>

Past Results: <http://www.wheelchairbasketball.ca/en/full.aspx?id=1425>

2011 Video Highlights: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3N2bmcj7B6U>

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About Wheelchair Basketball Canada

Wheelchair Basketball Canada is the national sports governing body responsible for the organization of wheelchair basketball in Canada. It is a non-profit, charitable organization that is the Canadian member to the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF).

Wheelchair basketball is a fast paced, hard-hitting, competitive sport that has emerged as one of the most competitive and athletic sports played at the Paralympic Games. Our senior national teams are held in high esteem around the world for the elite skill and control that placed them on the podium with a combined five gold and one silver medal in the last four Paralympic Games. Visit: www.wheelchairbasketball.ca for more information.

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