



Press Release

For Immediate Release:

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WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CANADA CONGRATULATES WENDY GITTENS ON BEING NAMED TO CAAWS' MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN

(Ottawa, ON) Wheelchair Basketball Canada extends its warmest congratulations to executive director Wendy Gittens, on being named to the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity's (CAAWS) most influential women's list for 2011.

The list identifies women who are leaders and role models that make a difference on the Canadian or international scene and who contributed in a significant way to sport and physical activity in 2011.

"Wendy has always been a remarkable leader who stresses the importance of gender equity as she guides the development of our relatively young sport. She is certainly a tremendous champion for women's involvement in wheelchair basketball as evidenced by her strong dedication to increasing opportunity and growth in the women's game across the country" said Steve Bach, Wheelchair Basketball Canada President.

"Through her skillful efforts the organization was able to realize our vision of bringing the inaugural Women's Under 25 World Championships to Canada, and it is with a great deal of excitement that we continue to prepare to host the 2014 Senior Women's World Championships."

Gittens led change in 2011 with the highly successful first ever [U25 Women's World Wheelchair Basketball Championships](#). This International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) event, in partnership with Brock University, was a landmark competition for the sport of wheelchair basketball and female athletes. It united elite competition for female wheelchair-basketball athletes in the under-25 age category for the first time in the world. The seven-day Championship was highly successful, not only in terms of organization but also sponsorship, and featured leadership development opportunities for younger athletes.

In the backdrop of the inaugural Championship, the Futures Program was a landmark initiative designed to encourage young female wheelchair basketball players to continue to learn and grow within the sport as an athlete, coach or administrator. Gittens can be credited with leading a team that ensured that participating athletes

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from five continents would be delivered the highest standard. Because this tournament has set the standard—also because of her leadership in ensuring all athletes are provided with optimum development opportunities—Gittens is included in the [CAAWS Most Influential Women List](#) for the first time.

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 five Paralympic Games.

For more information, visit: www.wheelchairbasketball.ca

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