



President's Report – 2016 Annual General Meeting

September 25, 2016

The extinguishing of the Paralympic flame, little more than a week ago, marks a year in the life of Wheelchair Basketball Canada, a year defined by great commitment, preparation and anticipation by our national men's and women's teams heading into Rio as reigning Paralympic and World Champions respectively.

The results of our teams at the 2016 Paralympics in Rio, while not what we are accustomed to, given our record of success over the last twenty plus years, reminds us that the worldwide game is growing, that a greater number of nations are committing ever-increasing resources to high performance programming, and that we are enjoying a certain parity among our world's best teams never before experienced.

We are incredibly proud of our athletes, coaches and support teams, not only for their all-consuming commitment and preparation to bettering their games, but for the way they have embraced program transitions this past couple of years, and for the way they have worked together to mentor a new generation of athletes onto the global stage. The staff and Board of WBC look forward to building on our youthful foundation, and to creating an environment that works to reestablish Canada's prominence in the international game.

Key to building our game and programs in Canada is extending our network of contributors in support of WBC's vision of being the world leader in our sport. WBC remains vigilant in its commitment to partnership and fund development initiatives, including new resources allocated to developing and securing effective grant, fundraising and sponsorship programs. We continue to pursue alignment and new synergies with like sport organizations including the IWBF, Toronto Raptors, NBA Canada, FIBA, Canada Basketball, and our provincial and territorial basketball counterparts. And we continue to nurture our important funding relationships with the Government of Canada, the Canadian Paralympic Committee, the Government of Ontario, the Canadian Sport Institute of Ontario, and the University of Toronto Scarborough among others. WBC will continue to work with all its partners, together with a creative and robust communications and marketing team, to grow our brand, to extend our reach, and to drive sport excellence in all our wheelchair basketball programs in Canada.

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No one can deny the role Canada and WBC have played in promoting and building the international game of wheelchair basketball as evidenced by their longstanding strategy to host major international championships including, most recently, the 2009 America's Cup, the 2011 Women's U25 World Championship, and the 2014 Women's World Championship. And today we continue preparations to host the 2017 Men's U23 World Championship in Toronto. We are proud of our international hosting tradition and of our recognition as a leader in the international game, and not just because of the World Championships that we host, but because of the Canadian feet we put on the ground to drive the international game, including the roles played by following notable individuals:

- Steve Bach Vice President, IWBF
Chairperson, IWBF Development Committee
Competition Officer, America's Zone IWBF
- Maureen Orchard Secretary General, IWBF
- Anne Lachance Classification Officer, America's Zone IWBF
IWBF Classifier/Instructor
- Karen Ferguson IWBF Classifier
- Sergio Giordano IWBF Referee Supervisor/Instructor
- Sebastien Gautier IWBF Referee/Supervisor
- Alexandre Lapointe IWBF Referee

This past year is one that has been marked by our ever-present commitment to advancing program growth, to building on operational foundations, and to contributing our collective expertise in developing the international game. We are overwhelmed by the wonderful efforts of our staff, our Board, our Members, our athletes, our international representatives, and our ever growing base of partners in basketball. We are excited at both the direction we are moving, and at the prospect of what we have yet to accomplish together. We extend our many thanks and congratulations to all who have shared, and who continue to share, in our vision to be the world leader in the sport of wheelchair basketball.

Stephen Bach
President
Wheelchair Basketball Canada

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