



Annual Report 2014 - 2015



A Message from the Executive Director

From the great achievements of our athletes at the Canada Winter Games in Prince George to the growth of our women's programming to the incredible success of Let's Play, it was a great season for everyone at BC Wheelchair Basketball Society.

Thanks to increased resources and planning time, the Let's Play program has taken huge leaps forwards this year. BCWBS is so grateful for the generous donations from Variety – The Children's Charity, Canada Post, the Telus Vancouver Community Board and the Edith Lando Foundation. With this funding we were able to increase our sport wheelchair inventory significantly! These new chairs are light, easily adjusted and easy to transport from homes to schools, enabling more kids with a physical disability to be active with their friends and families.

In May we debuted a new look for Hoopfest, which is our largest annual fundraiser and has been running since 1994! Ten teams from corporations, local media, community organizations and service groups took part and raised nearly \$15,000. Thank you to all our amazing sponsors and partners and to everyone who came out to try wheelchair basketball. Congratulations to the Burnaby Firefighters, who once again won Hoopfest for the tenth time!

BCWBS's success is a direct result of our hard-working staff, volunteer leaders, coaches, athletes and dedicated partners. Thank-you to the BCWBS staff, Board of Directors and volunteer regional representatives who make it all happen!

Partner Spotlight

Variety - The Children's Charity believes children who have special needs are champions and, with support, are capable of facing their challenges and achieving remarkable little victories. Variety provides direct funding to families to access out-of-community medical care, specialized equipment and therapies, and bursaries to special schools and summer camps. These costs are often beyond what is covered by private and public health plans, so Variety steps in where health care ends. Since 1966 Variety's support has reached communities throughout British Columbia, helping children who have special needs reach their unique and full potential.

Overall Highlights

In the 2014-2015 season:

- 334 active individual members participated in wheelchair basketball regular league play, workshops, & tournaments, up 24 from last year.
- 5 established teams played across the province.
- 25 people rented wheelchairs from our successful wheelchair loan program.
- BCWBS purchased two new wheelchairs and now has 126 chairs in circulation across BC in programs and clubs.
- 38 active kids were involved with Lets Play and have their own Lets Play chair.
- BCWBS reached over 30 people in total through community Have a Go days
- 4 BC athletes were included on national teams, including Robert “Bo” Hedges (Wonowon, BC), Deion Green (Victoria, BC), Amanda Yan (Vancouver, BC), and Janet McLachlan (Vancouver, BC).

Highlights – Officials

Officials Program:

BCWBS continued to focus on recruiting and educating officials. We presented clinics at many BCWBS events, including the BC-CWBL tournaments and Have a Go Days. A special thanks to Dean MacKinnon and Kevin Bowie for their continued efforts in educating new officials.

Highlights – Development Programs

New Westminster program:

The New Westminster development program began in June of 2014 and welcomed a consistent group of 10 – 12 players. The program allowed new players, especially those who came through the Bridging the Gap program, to try the sport in a safe environment along with local development athletes. The group was coached by Nadine Barbisan and Jason Costa, who is a long-time athlete who recently was recruited into coaching. During the final session, the New Westminster program had a fun final game day scrimmage against the new women's team, which is now run out of Steveston.

Steveston Program:

The Steveston program continued from last year into the Fall, but was cancelled due to low numbers.

Highlights – Junior Athletes

The 2015 Canada Winter Games:

Prince George and the Province of BC did an amazing job of hosting the 2015 Canada Winter Games. The wheelchair basketball venue was filled to capacity every day with fans cheering on the teams and enjoying outstanding performances by all the athletes. Under the leadership of Head Coach Marni Abbott-Peter, Assistant Coach Simon Cass and Team Manager Nadine Barbisan, Team BC had a very successful tournament and finished in seventh place against tough competition. Several quality training camps and competitions allowed the team to prepare well in the months leading up to Canada Games. Along with the physical and tactical preparations, athletes were also educated on nutrition, doping **control and mental training, which allowed each athlete to achieve his or her personal and team goals.** The pool of athletes eligible for the 2019 Canada Winter Games is very young, talented and committed and BCWBS is looking forward to working towards the future with this group.

Regular junior-focused weekly programming was offered again in Chilliwack, Nanaimo, Surrey, Langley, Prince George and Victoria.

2015 Junior Challenge Festival:

January marked the 15th annual Junior Challenge. This year, we moved to a new venue: Fortius Sport & Health Centre in Burnaby. Junior athletes from all over BC came out to develop and showcase their skills. We tried a new format this year, which involved an evening team-building session, on-site accommodation, two tiered groups (advanced and developmental), LTAD sessions and cross-training sessions. This new format was widely appreciated by the participants and their parents. A special thank you to all our partners and sponsors, including Wheelchair Basketball Canada, Fortius Sport & Health Centre, Sport Burnaby and BC Wheelchair Sports Association.

Steve Nash Youth Basketball Challenge:

The Steve Nash Youth Challenge was held at the Langley Events Centre on April 4th, 2015. It was a bit smaller than last year's event, but was a fun-filled day of three-on-three and four-on-four games played during the finals of the stand-up basketball tournament. Seven of the nine participants had never experienced a refereed game and had a positive experience. Coaches Jason and Nadine were impressed by the athletes! Congratulations to Jason's team, which won the event.



High Performance Programming and Development:

A highlight of the season was hosting the second annual CWBL Western Conference tournament. BC's team also attended two other Western Conference tournaments. BC, along with Saskatchewan and Alberta, formed the CWBL Western Conference to give our high performance and Canada Winter Games athletes more opportunities for high-level competition. The league was very successful and planning is underway to continue this for the 2015-16 season.

Wheelchair Basketball Canada Academy Athlete Identification Camp:

Three athletes from BC attended the U30 Late Entry Camp at the Wheelchair Basketball Canada Academy. These athletes had a great experience learning and improving their skills under the guidance of Academy Director Mike Frogley. Several junior players from BC who have been identified for the U23 men's national pool have also commenced training at the academy.

2015 BC CWBL Finals:

The BC CWBL Finals were held from March 7th – 8th at Douglas College in New Westminster and Trinity Western University in Langley. Seven teams participated. The Classics took on the defending champions, The Vancouver Cable Cars, in the final. The game was close and intense, but the Cable Cars came out on top to win the provincial title once again.

2015 CWBL Open Finals:

After some very close games, the BC Royals ended up in fifth place at the 2015 CWBL Open Finals. The tournament was held in the brand new Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre.

2015 Women's CWBL Finals:

The BC Breakers attended the 2015 Women's CWBL Finals in Calgary. Though the BC Breakers were defending national champions, they were unable to hold on to their title. The absence of key veteran players made it a challenging tournament for the Breakers, but it was a positive learning experience for some of our up-and-coming athletes. We hope that the skills that our young players developed during this tournament will pay off next year, when the Breakers will hopefully regain a spot on the podium.

Breakers Women's Festival and Tournament:

BCWBS hosted the Women's Wheelchair Basketball Festival and Tournament at Douglas College in New Westminster. The BC Breakers competed against the Calgary Rollers and the Edmonton Inferno. Expert coach Tim Frick helped out by working with new players and coaches.

Highlights – Tournaments

Seventh Annual Kelowna Jamboree:

Over 45 participants came from Seattle, Tacoma, Vancouver, Chilliwack, Kamloops, Vernon, Calgary, Prince George and Kelowna to play in the 7th Annual Kelowna Jamboree. Teams were shuffled for each game, which allowed athletes to get to know each other and play on different lineups. We had players of all skill levels, including national team alumni, and everyone enjoyed the mix of athletes and the fun environment.

Island Game Days:

Clubs in Victoria, Nanaimo and Comox hosted successful game days with skill sessions. Coaches Simon Cass and Tim Frick led the popular skill sessions, which were attended by athletes from around the province. Both Comox and Nanaimo do not currently participate in our provincial league and many Victoria athletes only participate in the sport locally, so these events were an excellent opportunity for players to get to know athletes from outside their own club and improve their skills. We are planning to support this initiative next season.

Highlights – Awards

BCWBS celebrated the achievements of our members at our annual awards night, which took place at the Executive Plaza Hotel in Coquitlam.

Congratulations to:

Official of the Year: Kevin Bowie

Coach of the Year: Simon Cass

Outstanding Community Support: Nancy Harris

Volunteer of the Year; Karin Kratz

Junior Athlete of the Year: Ben Hagkull

Female Athlete of the Year: Shira Standfield

Male Athlete of the Year: Avril Harris

MJ Boudreault True Sport Award: Ross MacDonald

Kenny Hall Spirit Award: Paula Higgins

BCWBS also congratulates members of the BCWBS community who were honored at the 2014

Canadian Wheelchair Sport Association Annual Awards:

CWSA Female Athlete of the Year: Janet McLachlan

CWSA Barb Montemurro Award: Kathy Newman

Dr. Robert W. Jackson Memorial Award: Pat Harris



Social Media Stats

Facebook

- Reached up to 2,000 people a day
- Increased likes from 338 to 472
- Our HOOPFEST photos reached 3,500 people
- Canada Winter Games content was popular, especially the trading cards.
- The announcement of Canada Winter Games athletes reached 4,700 people.
- We currently have 952 Twitter followers

Website:

- We had 15,962 sessions (27% increase from last year)
- We welcomed 11,865 users (61% increase from last year)
- We had 29,666 pageviews (13% increase from last year)



Let's Play

The Let's Play staff has worked hard to provide many different Let's Play events throughout the year. Our successful partnership with the City of Surrey has allowed kids and families time to play together and work on their physical literacy skills. Partnerships such as this help to provide affordable, regular weekly programming for the Let's Play children in the Surrey and Fraser Valley areas.

As in past years, we have been able to recycle some of the original Let's Play sport chairs back into the system and provide new appropriately sized chairs for the growing children in the program. Themed Let's Play dates provided great opportunities for kids and families to be active and to network with community service providers, health care professionals and school staff.

2015 was the second year that we partnered with BCWSA to host a junior wheelchair sports camp and had 12 Let's Play kids and family members join in. We played modified gym games and also sledge hockey.

Thank you to the Rick Hansen Foundation and our Let's Play Community Chair Champions for their ongoing support of BCWBS Let's Play initiatives.



Supporters, Funders and Community Partners

We are grateful for the support of our many funders and partners, including:

The Province of BC: BCWBS gratefully acknowledges the support of the Province of BC for Hosting BC grants, a community gaming grant and funding through the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development.

BC Wheelchair Sports Association: BCWBS is a member of BCWSA and they continue to support us in every way possible to help grow wheelchair basketball in BC. They provide many services, including financial support, access to the provincial Athlete Assistance Program as well as the Bridging the Gap program. We thank all of their staff for their incredible passion, hard work and the support they provide BCWBS.

Wheelchair Basketball Canada for their ongoing support of our many special projects and programs and for their leadership as our NSO.

Douglas College continues to provide incredible support to wheelchair basketball in their Athletic and Centre for Campus Life program. Their facilities allow us to host weekly practice sessions, tournaments and so much more.

Canadian Sport Centre Pacific. Wheelchair basketball continues to be a targeted sport partner of CSC-Pacific through the Integrated Performance System. This partnership provides support services for our targeted athletes.

The Rick Hansen Foundation & Rick Hansen Institute supports BCWBS programming and projects through the BC SCI Community Services Network and the Let's Play Program.

BC Spinal Cord Injury Community Services Network is comprised of BCWBS, BC Wheelchair Sports Association, Spinal Cord Injury BC, Disability Foundation and the Neil Squire Society. This collaboration has seen many great benefits this year.

The City of Surrey has partnered with BCWBS to provide different programs for wheelchair basketball and our Let's Play program. They run both programs weekly throughout the year, including junior wheelchair basketball, I AM Game-Adapted Sports and Let's Play. We are very thankful for the City of Surrey and how much they value inclusive and adapted sports opportunities for people living with disabilities.



Supporters, Funders and Community Partners

Basketball BC. BCWBS is a liaison member of the Basketball BC Board of Directors. Basketball BC is a great supporter of our sport as we work on joint program initiatives such as the Steve Nash Youth Festival and others.

Individual Donors. BCWBS engages in a donations program to support our programs and activities through Engage Interactive. We also reach out to other donors and supporters. We are very thankful for the continued support of the many individuals and organizations that have supported BCWBS this past season through their generous donations.

Panago Pizza – is the official pizza of BCWBS and has provided pizza and prizes for many of our programs and events.

COBBS Bread – who kindly donated hundreds of baked goods to fuel our athletes and volunteers this season !

Advanced Mobility –our longstanding and much appreciated equipment partner!

Canadian Paralympic Committee – for their ongoing support of our work and programs.

Other great supporters through donation of their products:

The Original Cakery, Tim Horton's, KIND, Save on Food, Pricesmart, Blasted Church winery.

Major grants:

Telus Vancouver Community Board

Variety -The Children's Charity

Vancouver Foundation

Hoopfest 2015 partners:

YVR

Fortius Sport and Health

TSN 1040/1410 Radio Vancouver

CHIMP

Vancouver Car Wraps

Blasted Church

Steamworks Brewery

ViaSport



The logo features a large blue 'BC' with an orange basketball icon integrated into the 'C'. To the right, the words 'wheelchair' and 'basketball' are stacked in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A thick orange swoosh underline is positioned beneath 'wheelchair'. The background consists of several light blue curved lines on the left side.

BC wheelchair basketball

Thank you to our 2014 – 2015 BCWBS Board of Directors

President: Fannie Smith
Vice President: Robert Hedges
Treasurer: Lynn Matson
Secretary: Brad Hagkull
Directors: Bryan Shore, Riley Martin, Kay Gumsley

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