

*Wheelchair Basketball Canada - Domestic Report 2014-2015
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With Thanks to Ryan Lauzon, Program Coordinator*

Every year this report is written and every year it contains a snap shot of the year that was. I keep thinking about the many points to mention in this report, ever conscious that I need to make sure I convey the multiple celebrations and be honest about the challenges. No one would argue that this past basketball season had both.

In the winter I had the honour of being present at the Canada Games, held in Prince George, British Columbia. What an amazing event. I have since been told that our sport and our juniors were the jewel of the Games. What a comment from a community that embraced the Games and captured the nation. From where I sat the atmosphere was electric. Provincial athletes from multiple sports travelled to the venue to watch our sport and their athletes. I will never forget the gold medal game between Saskatchewan and Quebec. I sat and watched something incredible happen in the gym. The athletes were amazing enough but it was the crowd of athletes and parents from near and far that were spell bound by that game, those athletes and the sport. Congratulations to all provinces at the games. Well done!

The spring proved somewhat frustrating as the staff at Wheelchair Basketball Canada realized they would be hosting the CWBL Finals. The work began and everyone rolled their sleeves up. I am so proud of how our head office team pulled together for the event. Well done everyone. All teams involved were very appreciative of the work done to organize this event considering the many challenges WBC faced. Great competition occurred that weekend and I am confident moving forward we will be led by the upcoming competition review to ensure that such a challenge is planned for in a more strategic manner. For example, in the Canada Games year does the organization take the lead on the CWBL Finals? Something to think about.

With spring comes hope and the Calgary Rocky Mountain Rollers and the Calgary Grizzlies gave us just that. Again without a host the organization looked to Calgary to take the lead and these prairie clubs did not disappoint. In addition to the competition the event was complete with an alumni game and celebration of the lives of two pioneers in the women's game – Diane Earl and Elaine Ell. A huge honour for me to lead this having played with both and owing them much for the support I received early in my involvement in the sport.

I look forward to the Competition Review Phase 2 in conjunction with our AGM weekend as I know it will be an excellent collaboration of our community to move the work forward. Much work has gone into the gathering and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data for this process. I am confident we can address the many concerns while being able to grow from the successes – your successes.

I am acutely aware that Provinces are working hard in their communities to ensure that all participants in those communities experience multiple opportunities in a variety of activities and environments. Whether these opportunities take the shape as School programs, multi-sport demos and introductory clinics in various locations, this work is important work.

Our sport is vast in breadth and depth. Multiple levels of competition and league play are organized and run by the same organizations and individuals within them. I acknowledge

the critical importance of opportunities that produce confidence and positive health behaviours through participation in physical activities. Fun and fitness are key to ensuring participants are motivated to continue. Jamborees and festivals have been able to fulfill these requirements. Athletes of varying age and skill level have been able to join together in a larger jamboree style event. These events fully utilize the gym, coaches, officials and athletes alike. From coast to coast this work goes on daily. Well done everyone.

Congratulations to all the winners of our major leagues and Canada Games in 2014-2015

CWBL Women's National Championship

1st – Edmonton Inferno

2nd – Calgary Rollers

3rd – Saskatchewan

CWBL National Championship

1st – Bulldogs du Québec

2nd – Gladiateurs de Laval

3rd – Variety Village Rebels

Canada Games

1st – Québec

2nd – Saskatchewan

3rd – Alberta

4th – Prince Edward Island

5th – Ontario

6th – New Brunswick

7th – British Columbia

8th – Nova Scotia

9th – Manitoba

In closing, I wish to thank Wendy Gittens and our office staff for leading the work we all do. Your professionalism and guidance is outstanding. A special thank you to Jody Kingsbury, who is leaving WBC to work for CPC. We wish you much success and thank you for your devotion, guidance and leadership. Thank you to all of you - our member provinces, participants, parents, community volunteers, community organizations and funders for your tireless work to ensure wheelchair basketball is one of the "go to sports" in your communities. It is a privilege to serve you.