

2015-2016 was another busy year for ParaSport and Recreation PEI. We had seven programs running this year at various locations across the Island. Those programs included, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair curling, sledge hockey, Aqua-Abilities (swimming lessons with kids), ParaFit (swimming lessons for adults), wheelchair sports afterschool program and target shooting. Target Shooting was a new initiative this year. Last summer, we invested in over \$5,000 in equipment to start this program in the fall of 2015. The program was offered at the Miscouche Recreation Center which created another opportunity for our members in the western end of the province. All of the other programs had a successful year however some of them seen a drop in participants. We are focusing significant time engaging with our Island schools to recruit younger participants to our existing programs and/or to create new programs for our Island youth with a disability.

### Wheelchair Basketball- Development

ParaSport and Recreation PEI did a lot of work at the grass roots level this year for wheelchair basketball and other Paralympic sports. The following were conducted this past year...

#### *ParaSport Festival*

For the second year in a row, we hosted a ParaSport Festival at the UPEI. The festival was for students with a disability, grades K to 12. The goal of the event was to showcase the various parasports (e.g. goalball, boccia, wheelchair basketball, sledge hockey, etc.) that are offered on PEI as well as to provide students, Teachers and Educational Assistants with the hands on experience with the various parasports. The event included a very special guest, Paralympic rower, Tony Theriault. The response we received from the schools was overwhelming with over 60 students registered within the first week. We had to cap the event at 80 students.

#### *Wheelchair Sports After School Program*

This spring we offered another wheelchair sports after school program at two elementary schools for 6 weeks. The program ran 1x a week for 90 minutes. We had good response, over 30 students participated and one of the schools had a few students with disabilities. One of those students has been identified for a mini program. The program was lead by a recent graduate from Holland College, Nicole Abriel. She is a former basketball player and has extensive experience working with children. She did a fabulous job and we hope that she will run the program again next year.

#### *Bridging the Gap- Have-A-Go Days/Awareness Sessions*

We recognize that we need to recruit new players to our wheelchair basketball program for the sustainability of our program. This summer we hosted 8 Have-A-Go/Awareness sessions across PEI. We targeted summer sport camps, day camps, community festivals, etc. From these sessions, we have identified 5 youth with a disability and a few AB youth. They all have expressed an interest in participating in a mini program this fall. Plans are underway to offer a mini program in November.



## Wheelchair Basketball- Competitive

The PEI Mustangs and the PEI Colts participated in the Maritime Wheelchair Basketball League Tournaments. There were 5 off Island tournaments. We hosted finals in April. The Mustangs finished 3rd and the Colts finished 2nd for the season.

In May, we hosted the 2016 Jr. East Regional Wheelchair Basketball Championships. The event was hosted at Holland College in Charlottetown. We had nine teams from five provinces participate in two divisions. Quebec Blue and Team NB were named event champions in their respective divisions. We would like to once again thank Nova Scotia for lending PEI a player, as we only had two players that were eligible to participate in the championships. It was a fun tournament and we enjoyed hosting!



As we turn to the fall, things are going to start to pick up for us. All of our programs are scheduled to begin over next couple of weeks. We are also in the middle of planning for the 2016 World Sledge Hockey Challenge that we are hosting from December 3-10, 2016 at the Bell Aliant Centre here in Charlottetown. There is still a lot of action to come in 2016!

Respectfully Submitted,

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