



WHEELCHAIR SPORTS ALBERTA

Annual Report

2022

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MARCH 26, 2023**





Our Mission

To facilitate sporting opportunities to Albertans from the development level to high performance level of participation in athletic competitions, technical development, leadership and integration

Our Vision

To achieve excellence through Paraport

Our Values

Opportunity
Support
Empowerment
Excellence





A Message From Our President

2022 saw WSA return to full operation! We increased our staff, added some new clubs in new areas, saw our provincial teams win medals and celebrated 5 of our members winning Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medals. All in all a busy and successful year with many thanks to our Executive Director and staff for their efforts and along with the Board we are looking forward to an exciting 2023.

Andy Wigston

And Our Executive Director

2022 was a rollercoaster for WSA, we had a lot of highs and lows. All of our teams performed well at nationals and Canada Summer Games. We were able to restart the schools program and add an additional staff member, Aspen. We were awarded some really strong grants to help support WSA and our clubs. We had an Executive Director transition for several months at the start of the year, and we are so grateful for Kim taking over this responsibility and leading WSA. We lost a member of our Team Alberta family this year, Zach Savage, and it had been extremely difficult on our team. We also brought home some hardware this year: Rugby brought home gold, athletics brought home gold, silver, and bronze, and sledge brought home silver. We had our long time head coach Steve Arsenault step down this year, and we have welcomed Head Coach Kevin Ushko to Team Alberta! One of our rugby athletes was classed out in the summer and it is effecting our team with such a great loss, however we continue to advocate for him to participate and we are doing everything we can to ensure he can continue to participate in rugby at the domestic level. We have a new wheelchair rugby club in Red Deer, a new sledge program started up in Lethbridge, and Hinton has joined up with Paralympic Sports Association to move their missions forward. We were able to award 5 individuals in our community with the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal. We hosted an incredible para ice hockey nationals. We will continue to stay hopeful heading into 2023. Let's Go Team AB!

Jen Sales, Executive Director



Funding Program Overview

Government of Alberta

Wheelchair Sports Alberta continues to receive critical provincial sport funding through the Ministry of Culture, Multiculturalism, and Status of Women. After occurring budget cuts as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Ministry has continued to stay at that level since. We are hopeful in the future we may see that number come back to where it previously was. We have also received our funding for the Canada Games program which has allowed us to run more camps and competitions in preparation for CWG 2023 in PEI

Grants

This year was exceptional for grant revenues. We received a CIP and a City of Leduc grant to support the 2022 Para Ice Hockey Championship in Leduc, AB. We received 2 jumpstart grants. The first was to support our Calgary Schools program as well as a grant to support our Calgary Wheelchair Basketball and Wheelchair Rugby clubs. We received a Hockey Alberta grant to run a development camp that we partnered with PSA on. We received a \$15,000 Government of Alberta grant to support the new Wheelchair Rugby club in Red Deer. We received an InMotion Grant that will help us develop and implement Safe Sport Policies. We received a CSI grant to support our provincial Wheelchair Basketball team travel to BC to compete in a prep tournament. We have received a Podium Club grant from WRC. We have applied for several other grants that we are waiting to hear from.

Fundraising

Our telemarketing and door to door campaigns continue to be successful and offer WSA some extra revenue to help cover the costs of our sports. As a result of the pandemic as well as the current economic situation, our donations are much lower than they were pre-pandemic but we are hopeful in time that we can generate an increase in revenues to help offset the cost of our growing programs. We were also able to attain sponsorship from several companies to support the 2022 Para Ice Hockey Championship.

AGLC

As our teams travelled for the first time since Covid-19 we were able to finally spend the remainder of our Casino funds in 2022. We also had a very successful casino in November. We would like to thank all of our volunteers who made this possible. We have not heard the results yet of our funding, however we are hopeful to have a similar amount or more to our previous casino.



WSA Grant Program

We are extremely grateful to be able to have our teams competing in competition finally since the pandemic, however it was an adjustment to old times for our grant program. In the last couple of years our budget for grants exceeded \$120,000-\$140,000/year. In 2022, we were able to budget for \$19,500. Some of these grants went to high performance, specific athletic/tennis grants, club grants, as well as financial aid grants.

High Performance Grants

We were able to support 5 high performance grants. Some of these grants were put towards new equipment purchases, transportation to competitions and camps, personal training expenses, as well as training fees.

Athletic/Tennis Grants

We gave out our first specialty grant to one of our seated racers this year. We supported this individual to help her purchase a new racing chair before she competed in the 2022 Canada Summer Games.

Financial Aid Grants

WSA was able to give out 5 grants that went to support new equipment purchases, training fees, commuting for practices, registration fees, as well as travel for tournaments.

Club Grants

We were able to assist one club this year and this grant went towards purchasing new equipment for one of their athletes.



Bridging the Gap Program

In all BTG activities: Rehab Sports Program, Have-A-Go Days, Multi-Sport Events, Developmental Sessions, and School

Presentations/Demonstrations. We tried to get a few dates set up for have a go days with the Lights program in northwest AB, unfortunately we could not get dates and times locked down. Peace Region Adaptive as well as Edmonton Adaptive Sports Association both hosted HAG days in 2022. We hosted a development sledge camp with PSA this year that was extremely successful. We also ran a HAG with AAFS and Lacrossing Barriers in Red Deer.

Weekly Sports Programs

Glenrose WC Sports Nights- Unfortunately, due to AHS protocols we were unable to return to Glenrose for our weekly programming but we have worked closely with their Recreation Therapists and we have started back weekly in early January, 2023. Due to not having any programming we did do a lot more wheelchair rentals in 2022 and supported athletes who wanted to practice individually.

WinSport Multisport Programming- WSA and WinSport ran 2 successful 8 week multi-sport programs that offered a variety of different sports. We also helped out WinSport and U of C with their multi-week sport day camps.

WSA Schools Program

We were so grateful to finally hire a Marketing and Program Coordinator to run our schools program in Calgary. Aspen is new to our team since Sept, 2022 and already finding a ton of success. WSA ran one schools program in fall of 2022 however we have 12 schools booked now in 2023 and we are hopeful to fill over the summer with day camps as well. We have re-evaluated our fee structure for the schools program as well to assist us in better offsetting the costs of this program.



Wheelchair Basketball

Team Alberta Head Coach, Darrell Nordell

The year 2022 saw Alberta wheelchair basketball program continue to move through the COVID 19 pandemic and into a spot where there was after a 2 year hiatus a National Championships. In late fall 2021 Team Alberta was selected for the 2022 year that included the Canadian National Championships and the ranking tournament for the 2023 Canada Winter Games (CWG). Alberta selected a roster of 11 athletes with 3 being from Calgary and 8 from Edmonton. February 2022 Team Alberta hosted a Provincial Prep Tournament with teams from Manitoba, British Columbia and Saskatchewan. The Alberta team went 2 wins and 2 losses through the tournament and learned a lot about their style of play as a team along the way.

June 4-5 Team Alberta held a training camp and played in the Alberta Basketball Association 3x3 tournament. This is an excellent opportunity to expose other stand up athletes and spectators to wheelchair basketball. June 9-12 Team Alberta attended the Canadian National Championships in Charlottetown, PEI. The site for the tournament is the same site for Canada Winter Games at University of Prince Edward Island. Team Alberta's record at the tournament was 2 wins and 3 losses with a 4th place finish going into CWG 2023. Alberta is placed in Pool B at CWG with Team British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario.

Fall 2022 Team Alberta held 2 / two day training camps and selected the team for the 2023 Canada Winter Games. Over 17 athletes showed interest in trying out for the team with the roster finalized at 12 athletes. December 9-11 Team Alberta attends the BC Santa Slam tournament with Team British Columbia and Team Quebec. Alberta although going through the tournament with 4 losses improved each game. The entire Alberta team has not been together as a complete team and will have this opportunity at CWG 2023. Coaches are confident the team will find the success they had in 2019 and are looking for a podium finish. I am proud of our accomplishments to date and the work and attitude of the athletes remains positive.





Team Alberta CWG 2023 Roster

Saheed Alwawiye

Katie Bajema

Sam Villeneuve

Anikka Cassidy

Sydney Poapst

Ceilidh Nordell

Parker Cooke

Anika Guillaume

Jayna Doll

Jalen Shannon

Hayes Cooke

Reed De'Aeth

Coaches

Karla Tritten

Ross Norton

Darrell Nordell



Para Athletics

The biggest event in athletics for 2022 was Canada Summer Games, held in August in Niagara Falls. Four athletes competed in wheelchair racing events for Team Alberta at the games, and collectively earned four medals. There were seven para athletes in total on the track team, which was the biggest group in Team Alberta history.

Three wheelchair racers train throughout the year for track as part of the Steadward Bears track and field team, and they competed in a variety of indoor and outdoor meets in Alberta throughout 2022. Britney Volkman also competed at the Canadian National Track and Field Championships in June, held in Langley, BC, where she earned a new personal best, and silver medal, in the 200m event. Britney was also a recipient of a WSA grant, which helped in the purchase of a new, custom made racing chair.

Team Alberta Head Coach, Maegan Ciesielski



Wheelchair Tennis

The past year in Alberta wheelchair tennis was a great one full of new beginnings, after pandemic there was noticeable excitement about getting back on court to play this thrilling sport. This past season saw our group of 4 players grow into a united team with regular weekend practices on Sundays at the Osten&Victor Alberta Tennis Centre in preparation for year end nationals held in Montréal.

Our small but very proud and effective team consisted of Kyle George Thompson, Souheil Saab and Colton Ribbling. Kyle with his good friend from Ontario Gary Luker impressed everyone as they made it all the way to the doubles semi-finals. Colton and Souheil teamed up to play doubles and won a hard fought first round match 6-4,7-5 before loosing in the second round. Souheil won a long and tough 3 set match 4-6,6-2,6-2 in the first round and ran out energy before loosing in the second round.

The team has gathered much anticipated momentum for the upcoming season along with the JUMPSTART grant we received in December we are looking forward to the new challenges it will bring in hopes of growing our sport as well as preparing a bigger and stronger team for this years nationals held in Nova Scotia in November.

Team Alberta Head Coach, Luis Reyes

Para Ice Hockey

Team Alberta had a selection camp on October 22-24, 2021 and players were picked to take part in camps over the 2021-22 season to prepare for the 2022 Canadian Para Hockey Championship (CPHC) hosted by Alberta Sledge and WSA together.

At the end of these camps the Coaching Staff decided on the Final roster that will represent Team Alberta at the 2022 CSPC in Leduc, AB on May 20-22. It was announced on the Alberta Sledge website and Facebook page and the roster is attached to this report.

The players and staff went to defend our title in Leduc for the 5th straight year. Those camps got us in that mind set of winning another title but Team Alberta fell short and lost in the Final to Quebec in a shootout to bring back a Silver medal for Alberta and WSA. This solidified the province as a top team in Canada once again. Hosting this 2022 CPHC with WSA ended up being a great event for all teams involved. There were 5 teams at the 2022 CPHC; Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan.

Our Team Alberta program would like to say a huge thanks to our Head Coach Steve Arsenault for all his dedication in winning 4 Gold medals and 1 silver in his tenure as the skipper of the team as he is stepping down and moving on to new endeavors. Assistant Coach Chris Cederstrand is resigning as well after 2 years with the provincial program. We wish both of them the best in their next chapters of their lives.

Alberta Sledge would like to say thanks for its great partnership with WSA in the past 6 seasons. With WSA's support in our stand-alone group of Alberta Sledge and helping to control this elite Team Alberta Para hockey program in the province. WSA helped our team and coaching staff get to the 2022 CSHC and represent Alberta as a strong and powerful unit when we won the Silver in a hard fought Final game in overtime and a shootout.

Team Alberta Team Manager, Dean Krawec



Team Alberta Sledge 2021-22



**PARA
POWER**

2021-22 Team Alberta Sledge Program Roster

<u>Surname, First Name</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Jersey #</u>
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Goaltenders

Garrett, Mitchell	1994	Surrey, BC	32
Rietveld, Tyson	1999	Fort Saskatchewan, AB	33

Players

Bullchild, Jordan	1997	Sturgeon County, AB	20
Fandrey, Tanner	1996	Lacombe, AB	3
Griffin, Kevin	1996	Edmonton, AB	12
Halbert, Auren	2002	Calgary, AB	9
Ignjatic, Brandon	1994	Airdrie, AB	10
Kovacevich, Micah	1997	Edmonton, AB	97
Mah, Alanna	1999	Edmonton, AB	14
Pellizzari, Matteo	2007	Vancouver, BC	4
Ribling, Colton	1996	Fort Macleod	19
Savage, Zach	2000	Rochester, AB	21
Straschnitzki, Ryan	1999	Airdrie, AB	23
Tomc, Brayden	2003	Sherwood Park, AB	6

Coaching Staff

Head Coach	Steve Arsenault
Assistant Coach	Chris Cederstrand
Team Manager Director	Dean Krawec
Director of Operations	Andy Wigston
Head Trainer	Travers Roy
Trainer	Montanna Engelhardt
Media Coordinator	Brynnna Robinson



Wheelchair Rugby

2022 was a great year for the Alberta Provincial rugby program. Like most provinces, we were able to successfully return to a somewhat normal schedule after the COVID restrictions were lifted. Our provincial "A" reached our goal and repeated their success in May 2022 at the National Championships in Montreal Quebec. The Roughnecks went undefeated in round robin play and finished off a great tournament by beating the Ontario Thunder by five points in the Championship game.

Our provincial B team are in the rebuilding stages. With the loss of key members, the Bighorns did not experience the same success as previous years by finishing just short of a bronze medal. They showed spirit and success in their first event back from lock down.

The Alberta Wheelchair Rugby program were successful in reaching most of our goals set by our leadership program for 2022.

1. Establishing another club program within the province.
2. Having four Nationally Certified Referees with in the province
3. Identifying one potential coach to start on the coaching pathway set by WRC
4. Begin planning our inaugural Alberta Provincial Wheelchair Rugby League which should commence in the fall of 2023. This league which will provide great on court development for our coaches, athletes and referees.

We are excited with the current direction our sport is heading and the ongoing development of everyone involved.

Team Alberta Head Coach, Bruce Crosby





Alberta Roughnecks

Zak Madell
Branden Troutman
Rob MacLssac
BJ Engerdahl
Kurt Timmons

Bruce Crosby - Head Coach
Julia Roth - Equipment Manager



Alberta Bighorns

Lana Cicko
Kenny Hicks
Jeff Dow
Kasey Aiello
Dale Nording
Denolm Stephens
Kendall Winter
Andrew Chung



Cliff Wooden - Head Coach
Alexa Adams - Equipment Manager