



WHEELCHAIR SPORTS ALBERTA

Annual Report

2024

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JUNE 18, 2025





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 Parasport

Our Values

Opportunity
Support
Empowerment
Excellence



A Message From Our President

2024 was another exciting year for WSA! We had some staff turnover and added some new members to our staff, saw our provincial teams win medals, and thanks to our hard working Executive Director we were able gain a lot of new grant money. We are also seeing an increase in our athlete numbers and clubs. All in all a busy and successful year with many thanks to our staff team for their efforts and along with the Board we are looking forward to an exciting 2025.

Andy Wigston

And Our Executive Director

2024 was wild! At the start of the year, we welcomed both Branden Troutman and Zak Madell onto our staff team. They were both on federal grants that were sent to us through Wheelchair Basketball Canada and Wheelchair Rugby Canada. We officially started the iSHOW (indigenous shooting hoops on wheels) with some really good funding behind it. We sent our Year 1 Canada Games team to Sask for Jr West. We hosted Wheelchair Rugby Nationals the same weekend that we sent our Para Hockey Team to Nationals without any staff support at all. We had a lot of staff turnover this year, we lost Aspen in Feb and Graeme and Branden both in the summer. We've welcomed Brayden as our High Performance Director and Ben as our Marketing and Program Coordinator. Jason did 5 weeks of iSHOW programming for us in the interim, before we were able to hire Landon as our iSHOW Program Manager. We secured federal and provincial funding for the iSHOW and have expanded to Treaty 7 this year, so we are covering the entire province now. We ran a coaching clinic for wheelchair basketball in the fall along with a wheelchair rugby officials clinic in November. We were excited to announce Ross Norton as our Head Coach for Team Alberta, Men's Wheelchair Basketball, and welcomed assistant coach Mike Evjen. We also have a turnover of our Canada Games coaches and have welcomed Bradon Doll and Kaitilin Laurisden onto our coaching team for this quad! Finally, we had some transition in our Team Alberta Para Hockey coach, Shawn made the decision to compete as an athlete this year and Tanner Fandrey graciously took over for Team Alberta Head Coach in the fall!

Jen Sales, Executive Director



Funding Program Overview

Government of Alberta

WSA continues to receive it's annual funding from the Government of Alberta. We received \$40k in hosting funds to help us put on Rugby Nationals. We were also recipients of the Every Kid Can Play Funding that will support the iSHOW program until the summer of 2026. Finally, we were also able to secure provincial funding for our Canada Games program. We received \$2000 less than previous cycles which is disappointing.

Fundraising

Telemarketing was strong again this year and we welcomed the start up of our door to door campaign in the fall. We are hopeful to see a large increase in door to door funds for 2025 in comparison to the last few years. Once this team gets going at full capacity we could see similar funding amount that's we earned over the covid years that allowed us to put on our grant program so successfully.

Grants

We had another banner year for grants! We had the iSHOW and a Rugby Recruitment Coordinator position funded through the Federal funding. To keep iSHOW going we were able to secure funding through Jumpstart and MAKADIFF until further funding was confirmed through the federal (TANSI Society was granted these funds) and the Every Kid Can Play Provincial grant. iSHOW now has confirmed funding until summer of 2026. We recieved Wheelchair Rugby Canada's Podium Club funding again which allowed us to put on an officials course at the Red Deer tournament in the fall.

AGLC

We ran a successful casino in August 2024 and found out before the end of the year that our share came back over \$80,000 for the next 2 years. This is the largest payout WSA has received in the last decade, so we are thrilled about that.



iSHOW

Jason Bishop and Jen met in 2023 at Glenrose and connected over a love of wheelchair sports and spreading the word. A passion of Jason's was to bring this message to the indigenous communities in Alberta. He came up with the name iSHOW and the basis of the program, which is essentially a travelling wheelchair basketball program that goes from reservation to reservation in Treaty 6 and 8 in Alberta. This program has the potential to receive strong funding to hopefully one day become a national program. We found out about federal funding received through Wheelchair Basketball Canada to fund the start up of this program (trailer, chairs, and salaries), the salaries support helped us to purchase a new truck as well. In 2024 we saw 12 communities and had a tremendous impact in some of them. Between Branden's first trip to see Hinton in winter of 2024 and by the end of 2024, they had funding to purchase a fleet of chairs and start up a wheelchair basketball program. A school in Fort McMurray also purchased 6 bball chairs in 2024, all because of the iSHOW and Branden's good work.



Hammer Injury Law Sponsorship

It was great to explore our partnership with Hammer Injury Law over 2024. Christine and Rick came out and volunteered at Rugby Nationals for the weekend. They got to know a lot of our athletes and hop in a chair! Christine made it out to Glenrose a few times and connected with some of the inpatients there. We are so grateful for their continuous support and for the partnership we have formed throughout the year.



Bridging the Gap Program

With the staff turnover this year, we were not able to dedicate a lot of staffing to bridging the gap, however we did visit a lot of new communities due to the success of the iSHOW program. We also explored a new relationship with the City of Edmonton that will bring a new weekly program to Booster Juice Recreation Centre (formally know as Terwillegar Recreation Centre) at the beginning of 2025.

Weekly Sports Programs

Glenrose WC Sports- This might have been my favorite season with Glenrose ever. With Branden coming out and Jason, it has been so competitive and a really good experience for us personally but also for the in and out patients. Sometimes the Glenrose can seem a bit fluffy and that the participants get a more recreational style of experience, even if they are craving something more competitive. With having the guys join in, we can tailor the practice to the “vibe” of the group we have.

Terwillegar Rec Centre- Glenrose and WSA worked together to put through a grant application that would allow us to run a community style event at a City of Edmonton facility. Part of the challenge with this was going to be moving equipment around, and the City of Edmonton agreed to purchase sport chairs specifically for this program. The chairs for the program did not arrive until January of 2025, and the program started shortly after that, however it was a year in the making.

WSA Schools Program

The beginning 2024 was a bit creative. Aspen left us in Feb and instead of hiring for the rest of the season, we made the decision to work with what we had, to survive until we could hire in the summer. This helped us to save some much needed dollars, especially with the uncertainty of our hosting dollars at the time. So with the support of Graeme and Branden, they both ran the schools program for us until we were able to hire Ben. Once Ben started, the program took off again and has been in great hands.



Wheelchair Basketball

Team Alberta Head Coach, Darrell Nordell

Team Alberta 2024 Wheelchair Basketball season was the start of the next 4 year cycle (quad) for Canada Winter Games 2027. Team Alberta returned 4 athletes from the past group of Canada Games athletes and a new group of up and coming wheelchair basketball athletes would get their turn to train and compete for Team Alberta. Coaches from previous Canada Games returned both Karla Tritten and Darrell Nordell. Ross Norton stepped down and past 2019 CWG Alberta athlete Bradon Doll has stepped in to be a coach.

Building on the success of the past Alberta teams that have been put together, 3 weekend training camps were organized and spread out for Alberta athletes to attend. Athlete numbers were down being the first year of a new quad and that was as expected. A surprise though was the increase in lower class athletes Alberta would have to build this next quad around. New athletes included from Spruce Grove Class 1.0 Judah Websdale and from Innisfree, Ab Class 1.5 Dylan Cannan. Both of these athletes have really good potential to represent their province but also to be seen and train for future Team Canada U23 opportunities. Alberta returned Calgary Class 1.0 athlete Saheed Alawiye and Morinville, Class 1.0 Katie Bajema. Katie has been continuing to develop her skills and was selected to the Canada U25 Women's Team for the U25 World Championships that happened in fall of 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand.

In March of 2024 Team Alberta sent two teams to Canada West Jr Regional which was a 3x3 event. Alberta entered a team in the Competitive (Team Alberta Blue) and Non Competitive (Team Alberta White) competition. Teams rosters are below.

Both Teams played in the Bronze medal game with Team Alberta capturing Bronze in both divisions. Congratulations to Team Alberta CWG program and looking forward to another successful season in 2025.





Team Alberta Jr West Rosters

Alberta White:
 Saheed Alawiye
 Katie Bajema
 Genesis Dyck
 Damon Novosad

Alberta Blue:
 Judah Websdale
 Dylan Cannan
 Ceilidh Nordell
 Hayes Cooke

Coaches:
 Kaitlin Laurisden
 Darrell Nordell
 Karla Tritten
 Bradon Doll



Para Ice Hockey

For Alberta Sledge, 2024 was very much a time of change. With a large number of new players on the roster and some veteran players returning from some time away a large focus for the season was re-establishing the basics of the program. Team camps in February and April focused on learning to be elite athletes and pushing the limits of our athlete's capabilities as we conditioned ourselves for the upcoming task at hand. We also had a very high tempo and positive camp May 4-5 that focused on dialing in our systems immediately prior to the tournament. Nationals 2024 took place in Port Colborne and consisted of two pools, an A pool (Alberta, Ontario, Quebec and BC) and a B pool (NB, Manitoba and Quebec Development.) This tournament saw our athletes staying at the residences at Brock University, which allowed for a unique experience for our group. Our tournament was preceded by a pre-tournament practice to allow us to acclimatize ourselves after travelling to Ontario. Our performance at Nationals did not meet the hope and expectations that preceded the season. Injuries and missed time from some of our top players resulted in some of our younger and more inexperienced athletes having to step into larger roles and despite our team playing with heart, we left Nationals with a 4th place performance and Alberta's first ever attendance at Nationals without a medal. As a Coach, this disappointing result on ice was entirely on my shoulders. After much reflection after this tournament, I accepted that I was not the best person to be leading this program behind the bench and I resigned my position as Coach of the program and was extremely happy and excited to see Tanner Fandrey named the new Head Coach. For our athletes to have someone with the level of background and respect in our sport that Tanner has is an amazing opportunity for this program to regain the level of performance needed to challenge for future National Championship titles.

2024 did not live up to expectations, but despite that, the future is bright.

Head Coach, Shawn Lucas



Players			
Jordan	Bullchild	Edmonton	Forward
Branden	Sison	Edmonton	Forward
Alanna	Mah	Edmonton	Forward
Matt	Veeneman	Edmonton	Forward
Devin	Nippard	Edmonton	Forward
Kevin	Griffin	Edmonton	Forward
Austin	Thorowsky	Edmonton	Forward
Hailey	King	Calgary	Forward
Wes	Adamkewicz	Edmonton	Defence
Micah	Kovacevich	Edmonton	Defence
Brayden	Tomc	Edmonton	Defence
Mackenzie	Sprong	Calgary	Defence
Kurt	Rose	Calgary	Defence
Alex	Skiffington	Calgary	Defence
Shawn	Odland	Medicine hat	Defence
Tyson	Rietveld	Edmonton	Goalie
Francis	Pitia	Edmonton	Goalie
Team Staff			
Shawn	Lucas		Head Coach
Kevin	Ushko		Assistant Coach
Leticia	Janzen		Assistant Coach
Katie	Mitchell		Athletic Therapist



Wheelchair Tennis



Not much happened with Tennis this year. We sent Kyle to Nationals in October and he represented Team AB well.

Hosting- 2024 Wheelchair Rugby Nationals

Hosting rugby nationals was an unbelievable success. The amount of support we had from our local Calgary club, WSA board, and the staff was amazing. We had our sponsors, Hammer Injury Law, there the whole week volunteering, along with some key volunteers like the Krebs family, Kyle Riva, and Dave and Maureen Horrocks. We received multiple points of feedback that said we had hosted the best Wheelchair Rugby Nationals ever and I truly believe we did.



Wheelchair Rugby

Provincial Program:

With us hosting Wheelchair Rugby Nationals, it was nice to have such a strong sense of community surrounding us there. It really felt like everyone's friends and family came out to cheer us on and to help us put on this great event. The rugby team trained together throughout the season at practices in Penhold. We had an older face return to us this season, Alan Chartrand. We had some new faces to wheelchair rugby participating at nationals for their first time including Kim Payzant, Sam Villeneuve, and Christian Zyp. We were able to send both Div 1 and Div 2 teams to Vancouver for the Invitational as well as to Nationals. We had a larger number of athletes receive a classification as well this year, which was made possible as we hosted. Our Div 1 team brought home a bronze medal, defeating BC in the final. Our Div 2 team came up short, but with there was a ton of experience gained and development, we are so grateful to be able to have sent 2 teams this year.

Club Program:

We were excited to have the Alberta league in full swing this year. We had 3 tournaments in the province hosted by clubs along with 2 officials clinics. Cam Broadhead is now Alberta's head official and is able to lead officials clinics independently. We had teams join us at our league competitions from BC, SK, and MB. Our programs are certainly growing in the right direction and we are so pleased to see such positive growth in our sport.

Team Alberta Head Coach, Bruce Crosby





Alberta Roughnecks

- Zak Madell
- Allan Chartrand
- Christian Zyp
- Andrew Chung
- Dave Guiry
- Ashley Munroe
- Rob MacIsaac
- Kurt Timmons

Bruce Crosby - Head Coach
 Alexa Adams - Equipment Manager

Alberta Bighorns

- Kim Payzant
- Sam Villeneuve
- Jeff Doe
- Kyle Riva
- Cody Krebs
- Ken Hicks
- Kasey Aiello
- BJ Engerdahl

Cliff Wooden - Head Coach
 Mike Costello - Equipment Manager

