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The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development
Report: #2025-INFO-94
Date: December 5, 2025

Subject:

Wheelchair Basketball Canada National Championships

Recommendation:

Receive for Information

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an overview of the Wheelchair Basketball Canada National Championships.

2. Background

2.1 Each spring, competitive teams from across Canada compete for the title of national champion at the Wheelchair Basketball Canada National Championships.

2.2 In summer 2023, Economic Development and Tourism Division staff (Sport Durham) collaborated with Ontario Para Network (ONPARA) to submit a successful bid to host the Wheelchair Basketball Canada National Championships at the Durham College/Ontario Tech University Campus Recreation and Wellness Centre (CRWC).

2.3 Bringing this national event to Durham Region built on the legacy of hosting the 2019 and 2023 Ontario Parasport Games and provided the opportunity to highlight the high performance, inclusivity and excellence of elite level wheelchair basketball.

- 2.4 ONPARA entered into a Host Agreement with Wheelchair Basketball Canada and a Host Organizing Committee (HOC) was formed, comprising representatives from Sport Durham and ONPARA, Co-Chairs (Don Terry and Anthony Lue) and community volunteers, to plan the event.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 [#2024-EDT-5](#) – Durham Region 2023 Ontario Parasport Games Final Report and Legacy Fund
- 3.2 [#2023-EDT-7](#) – Durham Region 2023 Ontario Parasport Games
- 3.3 [#2019-EDT-17](#) – Durham Region 2019 Ontario Parasport Games Final Report and Legacy Fund

4. Wheelchair Basketball Canada National Championships

- 4.1 The HOC hosted a Wheelchair Basketball try-it session at the CRWC on September 26, 2024, to celebrate national Wheelchair Basketball Week and to promote the upcoming Wheelchair Basketball Canada National Championships.
- 4.2 Over 100 athletes and coaches participated in the Wheelchair Basketball Canada National Championships, held from May 23 to 25, 2025. The event showcased competition by four Women's Division teams, six Men's Division teams and four 3x3 Division teams.
- 4.3 Special events and program elements offered during the Wheelchair Basketball Canada National Championships weekend included:
- a. Research session hosted by Wheelchair Basketball Canada in partnership with the University of Ottawa and Western University to better understand wheelchair basketball awareness and participation, and to discuss recruitment and retention strategies and tools
 - b. Girls Enabled And Ready (G.E.A.R.) to Play wheelchair basketball program invited women and girls of all ages, physical abilities and experience to play in an inclusive and social environment
 - c. VIP Reception with local elected officials, sponsors, and Wheelchair Basketball Canada representatives
 - d. Opening Ceremony with Indigenous blessing and ceremonial opening tip-off conducted by Mike Frogley (a local resident and former Paralympian wheelchair basketball player and coach)

- e. Two local youth wheelchair basketball players delivered the game ball and participated in the ceremonial tip-off for the championship games
- f. Live coverage of the championships with a reporter in attendance on CP24
- g. Athlete's Banquet

4.4 More than 30 volunteers helped to deliver the event.

5. Financial and Economic Impact Results

5.1 Host partners contributed \$10,000 toward the event (Region of Durham Economic Development and Tourism – \$5,000, Wheelchair Basketball Canada – \$3,000, Ontario Para Network – \$2,000). Grants, partnerships and sponsorship activities totaled \$42,635 (Ontario Sport Hosting Grant – \$10,000, cash sponsorships – \$23,935, in-kind sponsorships – \$8,700, which included \$7,700 from Durham College/Ontario Tech University to offset facility costs).

5.2 According to the economic impact assessment completed using the Canada Sport Tourism Economic Impact Assessment Model (STEAM2.0), the event generated an estimated \$177,663 in economic activity across the Province, \$157,571 of which occurred in Durham Region.

5.3 The Wheelchair Basketball Canada National Championships resulted in a legacy of nearly \$25,500 which is being directed to the [Durham Region Para Sport & Recreation Opportunities Fund](#). As a legacy of hosting the Durham Region 2023 Ontario Parasport Games, the Region of Durham partnered with Durham Community Foundation to launch two funds in September 2024 to support parasport activities, programs, equipment and events offered within the Region of Durham, to grow para sport and recreation opportunities and participation.

6. Relationship to Strategic Plan

6.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following Strategic Direction(s) and Pathway(s) in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

- a. Connected and Vibrant Communities
 - C7. Create accessible, lively, and culturally welcoming public spaces, including opportunities to access nature.
- b. Healthy People, Caring Communities
 - H4. Support the development of healthy children and youth, including access to affordable and quality childcare.

c. Resilient Local Economies

- R5. Cultivate and promote local arts, culture, quality of place, and tourism that embrace urban excitement and country charm.

d. Strong Relationships

- S1. Enhance inclusive opportunities for community engagement and meaningful collaboration.
- S3. Collaborate across local area municipalities, with agencies, non-profits, and community partners to deliver co-ordinated and efficient services.

6.2 This report aligns with/addresses the following Foundation(s) in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

- a. People: Making the Region of Durham a great place to work, attracting, and retaining talent.

7. Conclusion

7.1 The Wheelchair Basketball Canada National Championships were a highly successful event, providing a positive experience for participants, spectators and partners. Hosting this event contributed to the ongoing momentum in parasport development in Durham Region. The legacy funds generated from the event will support the continued growth of parasport opportunities and participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Sandra Austin
Commissioner of Community Growth and
Economic Development