

ONTARIO ATHLETES SHINE AT THE TORONTO 2015 PARAPAN AM GAMES



For Immediate Release

POWERING PODIUM PERFORMANCES
INSPIRER L'EXCELLENCE

TORONTO (August 19, 2015) – Canadian Sport Institute Ontario (CSIO) would like to congratulate the 74 athletes, numerous coaches and countless support staff from Ontario, as well as the entire Canadian Parapan American Team, for an outstanding performance at the 2015 Parapan American Games in Toronto. The Canadian Team delivered powerful and inspiring performances, they captivated the nation and showed us all what it means to be PARATOUGH.

Canada finished second in both the overall medal count and in the gold medal count, behind Brazil, with a best-ever medal performance for Canada at the Games. Team Canada won a total of 168 medals (50 Gold, 63 Silver, 55 Bronze), exceeding its goal, as set out by the Canadian Paralympic Committee to be in the top-three nation in terms of overall medals won.

The Games saw 55 Ontario athletes reach the podium a total of 83 times, contributing to 61 medals (15 Gold, 21 Silver, 25 Bronze). That is a remarkable 36% of all medals won by Team Canada.

“Congratulations to Team Canada on a successful and best-ever Parapan Am Games. CSIO is extremely proud of our Ontario athletes, their inspiring performances and their success on the podium,” said Debbie Low, CEO of Canadian Sport Institute Ontario. “To all of the athletes and coaches, you have represented Canada with pride. Your performances have inspired not only the next generation of high performance para athletes, but also aspiring athletes to give para sports a try. These Games truly ignited Canadians’ interest and awareness of the Paralympic Movement. Thank you to the Government of Canada and Sport Canada; the Province of Ontario and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport; the City of Toronto; the TO2015 organizing committee; and the incredible volunteers. The success of the Pan and Parapan Am Games were definitely a shining example of 2015 being the Year of Sport in Canada.”

Parapan Am Games Medallists Supported By CSIO:

- **Wheelchair Rugby – GOLD**
 - Zak Madell from Okotoks, Alberta trained with the Canadian Wheelchair Basketball Academy at Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre & CSIO in preparation for the Games.
- **Men’s Wheelchair Basketball – SILVER**
 - Ontario athletes included: Abdi Dini, Deion Green, Bo Hedges, Adam Lancia, Tyler Miller, and Jonathan Vermette.
 - By reaching the Finals, the Men’s Team qualified for the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games
- **Women’s Wheelchair Basketball – SILVER**
 - Ontario athletes included: Tracey Ferguson, Katie Harnock, Melanie Hawtin, and Darda Sales.
- **Benoit Huot – GOLD, Men’s 400m Freestyle S10; SILVER, Men’s 200m IM SM10; SILVER, Men’s 100m Backstroke S10(S9-10); SILVER Men’s 4x100m Medley Relay 34pts**
 - Although Benoit is from Montreal, he has trained with Swimming Canada’s High Performance Centre Ontario at the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre and CSIO for the past year leading into the Games, making him an honorary Ontarian.

About Canadian Sport Institute Ontario

Located at the new Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre, a legacy facility of the Toronto 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games, Canadian Sport Institute Ontario (CSIO) is a non-profit organization committed to the pursuit of excellence by providing world-class programs, services, and leadership to high performance athletes and coaches to enhance their ability to achieve international podium performances. CSIO offers athletes a range of sport science and sport medicine services including nutrition, physiology, biomechanics, strength & conditioning, mental performance, sport therapy and life services. CSIO also delivers

programming and services to National and Provincial Sport Organizations and coaches to work towards building a stronger sport system in Ontario and Canada.

CSIO services approximately 700 high performance athletes and 250 coaches, at its main facility at the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre, its satellite location at the Mattamy National Cycling Centre in Milton, and in daily training environments across Ontario. CSIO is part of a larger network of 4 institutes and 3 multi-sport centres across the country known as the Canadian Olympic and Paralympic Sport Institute Network, working in partnership with the Canadian Olympic Committee and Canadian Paralympic Committee. CSIO is further supported by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Sport Canada, Own the Podium, and the Coaching Association of Canada, along with the National and Provincial Sport Organizations within the sector.

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