



Canadian Deaf Sports Association

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**PRESS RELEASE
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A New President for the Canadian Deaf Sports Association

Donald Prong succeeds Mark Kusiak, who leaves after 10 years

Montreal, September 21st, 2020 — The Canadian Deaf Sports Association (CDSA) held its Annual General Meeting on Sep. 19 via Zoom, and a new Board of Directors was elected for 2020-21. After 12 years on the Board of Directors, including 10 years as a President Mark Kusiak (Alberta) leaves to pursue new endeavours.

Fortunately for the CDSA, Mr. Kusiak will remain involved as he is the Canadian representative on the Pan American Committee of Sports for the Deaf and a member of the Reform Committee of the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf.

Donald Prong (Ontario) succeeds Mr. Kusiak as the new President for a 2-year mandate. Treasurer David Joseph (Quebec) continues his mandate while Nyla Kurylowich (Alberta) and Shawna Joynt (Manitoba) were elected Directors. Francis Roussel (Quebec) continues his mandate. John Gessner continues as the Male Athlete Representative, and Erin Ramsay was selected as the Female Athlete Representative succeeding Ms. Kurylowich.

Before becoming the new President, Mr. Prong was a Director on the CDSA Board of Directors since 2016. He possesses a solid expertise in sane governance practices and human resources management. Mr. Prong is a recognized leader in the Deaf and hard of hearing Canadian community, and he is currently the Executive Director of the Ontario Association of the Deaf.

“I am truly honoured to be in the leadership role for the team of excellent leaders — the CDSA Board of Directors. I will ensure that we stay on track where our athletes are our top priority at the provincial, national and international levels,” said Mr. Prong.

As the new Female Athlete Representative, Ms. Ramsay brings a solid international experience as a member of Team Canada Women’s volleyball since 2012. She competed for Canada in six international events, including two editions of the Summer Deaflympics (2013 in Bulgaria and 2017 in Turkey) and of the Pan American Games for the Deaf (2012 in Brazil and 2016 in the USA).

About CDSA: The CDSA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of high-performance Deaf and hard of hearing athletes. Through direct financial support, the CDSA helps athletes participate in international sport events sanctioned by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf and the Pan American Sports Committee for the Deaf.

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