

# ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2020-21

APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2020  
TO MARCH 31<sup>TH</sup>, 2021



PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
ON JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2021  
ZOOM WEBINAR



CANADIAN DEAF SPORTS  
ASSOCIATION





## MISSION

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

## VISION

The CDSA is well known for providing leadership to Canadian Deaf and hard of hearing athletes by allowing them to develop their athletic skills, and boosting their physical and mental well-being while helping them reach the podium at international sport events.

## CHARITY ORGANIZATION

The Canadian Deaf Sports Association is a Canadian amateur athletic association registered with the Canada Revenue Agency.

**Registration Number R/N:** 127556306

**Charity Number:** 127556306RR0001

**Legal name registered with the Canada Revenue Agency:**

CANADIAN DEAF SPORTS ASSOCIATION, INC./L'ASSOCIATION  
DES SPORTS DES SOURDS DU CANADA, INC.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Partners,

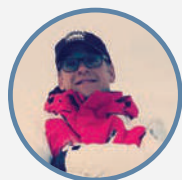
Without a doubt, a global pandemic is an extremely unusual context in which to launch one's tenure as the President of the Canadian Sports Deaf Association. As you know, the COVID-19 public-health crisis has had a great impact on all our daily activities, including, of course, deaf and hard-of-hearing sports.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has compelled us to cancel our national event, the Canada Deaf Games, which were to be held in Edmonton in May 2020. The Alberta Deaf Sports Association and the Games' Organizing Committee had worked tirelessly to ensure a successful event, and I would like to express my thanks to them for their dedication. Also, due to obvious public-safety concerns, the 2021 World Deaf Curling Championship has been postponed to March 2022 and the 2021 World Deaf Hockey Championship has been delayed to 2025. I am confident that once the global pandemic is past, these key events will meet with tremendous success.

Let me take this opportunity to highlight our funder's understanding and outstanding contribution—thank you Sport Canada! In response to financial losses due to the pandemic, the Government of Canada quickly created an emergency fund, which has been of great use to the CDSA. In fact, when you read our report on safe-sports and gender-equity initiatives and activities, you will see for yourself how valuable Sport Canada's financial support has been.

In closing, I would like to remind all our members, mission personnel, and athletes that the CDSA is embarking upon the final year of its five-year (2017–2022) strategic plan. We will need your full support in developing a new strategic plan at our Annual General Meeting in 2022 and in implementing it thereafter.

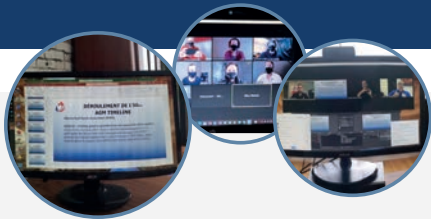
With sporting regards,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Prong'.

Donald Prong,  
President, Board of Directors

GOUVERNANCE



DIRECTORS

	Term ending in
Donald Prong, president (Pickering, ON)	2021-2022
David Joseph, treasurer (Gatineau, QC)	2020-2021
Nyla Kurylowich, director (St-Albert, AB)	2020-2022
Shawna Joynt, director (Winnipeg, MB)	2020-2021
Francis Roussel, director (Montréal, QC)	2020-2021

ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVES

Erin Ramsay (Calgary, AB)	2021-2022
John Gessner (Winnipeg, MB)	2020-2021

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—MEETINGS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors held all its meetings by videoconference:

May 30, 2020 | August 8, 2020 | November 7, 2020 | December 19, 2020 | February 27, 2021

STANDING COMMITTEES

The CDSA has three standing committees that ensure good governance practices and make recommendations to the Board of Directors with respect to some of the CDSA's operating practices.



**FINANCE**  
3 meetings



**HUMAN RESOURCES**  
1 meeting



**GOVERNANCE**  
2 meetings

Below are the standing committees' key achievements that have enabled the Board of Directors to make significant changes:

- Review and update of Policy Number 20 regarding finance
- Development and adoption of a new policy on gender equity
- Creation of a new non-voting position within the Board of Directors' structure
- Creation of an ad hoc committee to review Policy Number 50 on sports (in process)

## YEAR IN REVIEW 2020-2021

### LONG-TERM ATHLETE-DEVELOPMENT CLINICS

In 2020, the Alberta Deaf Sports Association (ADSA) and the CDSA signed an agreement designed to provide support to participating youths from across Canada in their sports practice. Over a period of ten years, the ADSA will provide a total of \$3,000 a year to the CDSA to fund its Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) projects.



In summer 2020, Association sportive des Sourds du Québec (the Quebec deaf sports association or ASSQ) in collaboration with Association du Québec pour Enfants avec Problèmes Auditifs Montréal Régional (the Greater Montreal chapter of the Quebec association for children with hearing disabilities) benefited in part from the CDSA's LTAD budget. They funded two activities for beginners in the sports of golf and bowling. No fewer than 20 Quebec youths aged from 12 to 17 years took part in these activities provided by the ASSQ.

### NATIONAL TEAMS

As a result of the global pandemic and the public-health restrictions in effect in each province, it has been challenging for the CDSA to plan its numerous sports activities.

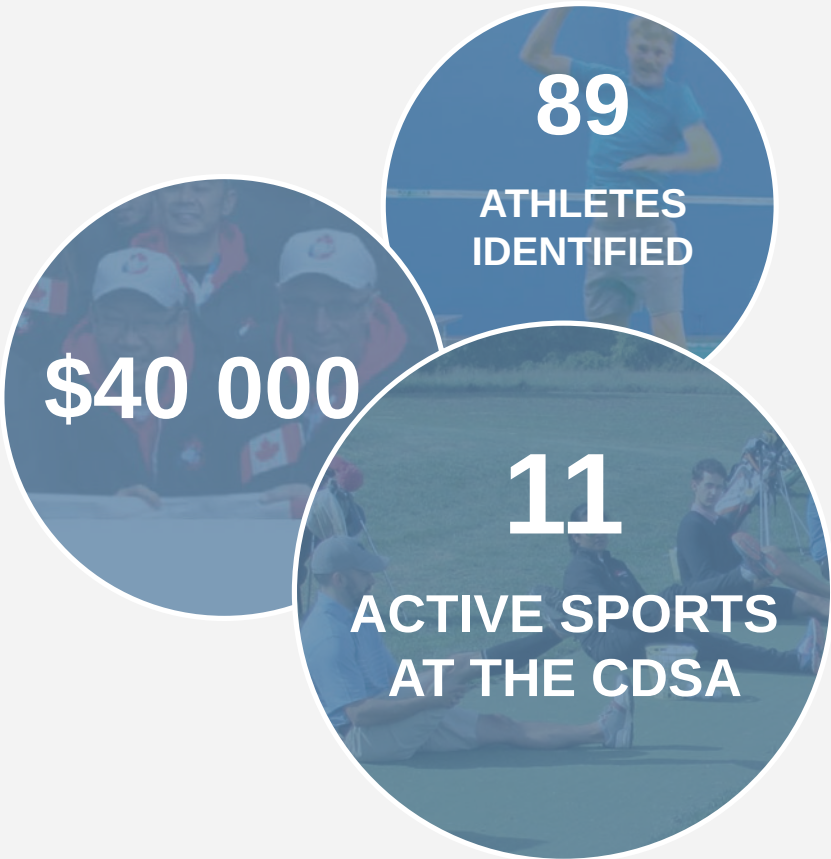
In accordance with its safety plan and stringent safety rules, the CDSA organized three golf camps rather than a single camp so as to enable trainers to follow golfers' development in small groups. The training sessions were held in Milton, ON, LaSalle, MB, and Bromont, QC. We were able to select the four best golfers who will compete for Team Canada at the next Summer Deaflympics, which will be held in Brazil in 2022.

In addition, thanks to funding support and less stringent public-health restrictions in Alberta, four badminton players were able to train three times a week with a local trainer during all of autumn 2020 and part of winter 2021. These badminton players have been selected to join Team Canada for the Brazil Games.

## CANADIAN ATHLETES SELECTED FOR SPECIAL FUNDING SUPPORT

In this unusual past year, the CDSA has relied on its creativity to find ways of motivating its high-level athletes. We began by identifying 89 athletes in 11 active sports at the CDSA who were eligible for financial support.

Our goal was to motivate them and encourage them to stay in optimal physical condition in preparation for the post-pandemic period. As many as a third of the athletes benefited from support totalling **\$40,000**. Eligible assistance will be extended to September 30, 2021 for all 89 athletes.



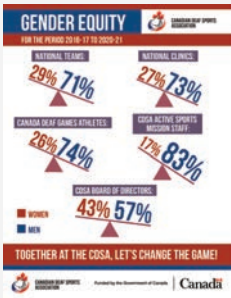
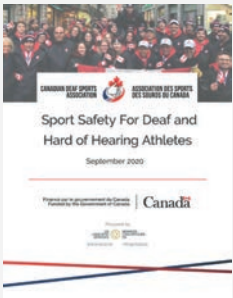


SAFE SPORTS AND GENDER EQUITY

Both gender equity and safety in sports are important issues for Sport Canada. Accordingly, new funding will be allocated to Canada's sports community to foster awareness and progress in the years ahead with regard to harassment, discrimination and abuse, concussion, and anti-doping measures. Naturally, the CDSA is a stakeholder in these efforts and will work to raise awareness in the deaf and hard-of-hearing sports community across Canada.

The CDSA received funding totalling **\$48,500** from Sport Canada. Five (5) activities/initiatives were targeted over the course of the past year by the funding recipient and its community as a whole:

- Production of a research report on **safety in sports** and sharing of six video capsules designed to raise awareness of this issue. Presentation of a webinar for CDSA Board members, all mission teams, and national teams. In all, 36 people took part in the webinar.
- Data collection by the CDSA on **gender equity** covering the past five years. Development of a new policy on gender equity and production of an awareness-raising video.
- Creation of a task force to draft a policy dealing with **concussion**. Development of a new policy for national teams' mission staff. Testimonials from three CDSA athletes designed to sensitize the community to the dangers of concussion.
- Establishment and update of a **universal code of conduct to banish all forms of maltreatment in sports** and inclusion of the code in the CDSA's policies and organizational procedures. Production of a video to explain the UCCMS.
- Initiative to provide members with an **independent third-party** system to promote the new policy orientation and follow up on harassment, discrimination or abuse allegations.



SPOTLIGHT ON ACHIEVEMENTS BY CDSA ATHLETES

TRIBUTE TO MODEL ATHLETES

We have paid tribute to model athletes from the provinces of British Columbia and Saskatchewan. A recognition event will be shown on Facebook Live for the sports community as a whole as part of the Association's Annual General Meeting.

NOTABLE  
ATHLETES

FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA

 **GOLF & CURLING**

**DALE PROCTOR**

He is an athlete, who spent almost his entire life being involved in golf and curling. At the elite level, over a period of 25 years, he competed in 11 World Championships and one edition of the Winter Deaflympics. He won a gold medal at the 2004 World Golf Curling Championship and a bronze medal at the 2002 World Deaf Golf Championship. He was nominated Athlete of the Year twice by the Canadian Deaf Sports Association in 2015 and 2018.

**GOLF**

2018 World Championship  
2014 World Championship  
2014 World Championship  
2012 World Championship  
2010 World Championship  
2008 World Championship  
2006 World Championship  
2002 World Championship  
1998 World Championship  
1995 World Championship

Maynooth, Ireland  
Copenhagen, Denmark  
Michigan, USA  
Tsai, Japan  
St. Andrews, Scotland  
Perth, Australia  
Edmonton, Canada  
Dulstin, Ireland  
Allentown, USA  
Forest of Arden, England

**CURLING**

2019 Winter Deaflympics  
2009 World Championship

Valtellina - Valchiavenna, Italy  
Winnipeg, Canada

 **WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL**

**MARI KLASSEN**

She took part in eight international competitions, including two Summer Deaflympics, two World Championships, and four Pan American Games. She helped Team Canada win three medals.

2019 Pan American Games  
2017 Summer Deaflympics  
2016 World Championship  
2016 Pan American Games  
2013 Summer Deaflympics  
2012 Pan American Games  
2008 World Championship  
2007 Pan American Games

Brazilia, Brazil  
Samsun, Turkey  
Washington, USA  
Washington, USA  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
Praha Grande, Brazil  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Valencia, Venezuela





NOTABLE  
ATHLETES

FROM SASKATCHEWAN

 **SPEED SKATING**

**FARLEY KELLETT**

He competed in four Winter Deaflympics over three decades and won an impressive number of 71 medals. He has an extraordinary ratio of 72% for participation in a total of 15 events.

1975 Winter Deaflympics - Lake Placid, USA  
500m - 4th    1500m - Bronze    3000m - Bronze

1983 Winter Deaflympics - Madonna di Campiglio, Italy  
500m - Gold    1500m - Gold    3000m - Gold

1987 Winter Deaflympics - Oslo, Norway  
500m - Silver    1000m - Gold    1500m - Gold    3000m - Gold

1991 Winter Deaflympics - Banff, Canada  
1000m - Bronze    500m - 4th    3000m - Silver  
1500m - 4th    3000m - 5th

 **VOLLEYBALL, ATHLETICS & SNOWBOARDING**

**BIRLEY SISTERS**

It was the first time in the history of Team Canada that two sisters competed at the same Deaflympics. The Birley sisters took part in the 2001 Summer Deaflympics in Italy.

**DAWN JANI BIRLEY**

Women's Volleyball  
2001 Summer Deaflympics Rome, Italy

**Snowboarding**

2007 Winter Deaflympics - Salt Lake City, USA  
Parallel Giant Slalom - 7th  
Parallel Slalom - 5th

**JODI LYNN BIRLEY**

Athletics  
2001 Summer Deaflympics Rome, Italy  
Disc Throw  
Hammer Throw - 4th






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SPOTLIGHT ON ACHIEVEMENTS BY CDSA ATHLETES

NOTABLE  
ATHLETES  
FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA

 SWIMMING

JO-ANNE ROBINSON

She is one of the best swimmers in the Canadian Deaf sports history. She competed in two Summer Deaflympics and won nine medals by participating in 10 events. This amounts to six gold medals, two silver medals and one bronze medal.

Ms. Robinson was also the first woman to be President of the CDSA Board of Directors from 1984 to 1986.

1969 Summer Deaflympics - Belgrade, SERBIA

100m freestyle - GOLD

400m freestyle - GOLD

200m individual medley - BRONZE

4x100m freestyle relay - SILVER

4x100m medley relay - SILVER

1965 Summer Deaflympics - Washington, USA

100m backstroke - 4TH

400m freestyle - GOLD

100m freestyle - GOLD

4x100m freestyle relay - GOLD

4x100m medley relay - GOLD

 SWIMMING, CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING AND BOWLING

PATRICIA GAIL ZIMMER

Extraordinary athletic career spanned over six decades for this athlete, who competed in ten international competitions. She won a total of five medals, including two gold and three bronze.

2017 Summer Deaflympics - Samsun, Turkey

2009 Summer Deaflympics - Taipei, Taiwan

2007 Pan American Games - Valencia, Venezuela

2003 World Championships - Taipei, Taiwan

2001 Summer Deaflympics - Rome, Italy



1997 Summer Deaflympics - Copenhagen, Denmark

1993 Winter Deaflympics - Madonna di Campiglio, Italy


1973 Summer Deaflympics - Malmö, Sweden

1969 Summer Deaflympics - Belgrade, Serbia

1965 Summer Deaflympics - Washington, USA



NOTABLE  
ATHLETES  
FROM SASKATCHEWAN

 HOCKEY & GOLF

KENNETH HOFFMAN

He competed in eight World Championships and was the Champion in the senior category three times (2010, 2012 and 2016) on top of placing second in 2014. He also represented Team Canada in hockey at the 1991 Winter Deaflympics where the team won the bronze medal.

HOCKEY

1991 Winter Deaflympics - Banff, Canada

GOLF

2003 World Championship - Sun City, South Africa

2004 World Championship - Stockholm, Sweden

2006 World Championship - Edmonton, Canada


2008 World Championship - Perth, Australia

2010 World Championship - St. Andrews, Scotland

2012 World Championship - Tsu, Japan

2014 World Championship - Michigan, USA

2016 World Championship - Copenhagen, Denmark



HOCKEY

MICHAEL MERRIMAN

He was the captain of Team Canada and a respected hockey player. Team Canada competed in the finals at the Winter Deaflympics and World Championship bringing home two gold medals and three silver medals.

Mr. Merriman was the first Deaf and hard of hearing coach for Team Canada at the 2019 Winter Deaflympics in Valaisella - Ivachavena, Italy. He helped Team Canada in winning a silver medal.

1995 Winter Deaflympics - Vilas, Finland

1999 Winter Deaflympics - Davos, Switzerland

2003 Winter Deaflympics - Sundsvall, Sweden

2007 Winter Deaflympics - Salt Lake City, USA

2009 World Championship - Winnipeg, Canada

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WORLD DEAF CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022  
CHAMPIONNAT DU MONDE DE CURLING DES SOURDS 2022



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12-26 MARCH



2021 // CAXIAS DO SUL // BRAZIL  
24<sup>th</sup> SUMMER DEAFLYMPICS



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