



Press release
For immediate release

Tokyo 2025: Thanks to a nationwide effort, Canadian Deaf athletes took part in the Deaflympics

Montréal, December 17, 2025 – As a result of a tremendous nationwide fundraising campaign, Team Canada’s 47 Deaf athletes were able to compete in the Deaflympics in Tokyo, which were held from November 15 to 26, 2025. The [Canadian Deaf Sports Association \(CDSA\)](#) is pleased to announce that its fundraising campaign exceeded its goal: it raised more than \$120,000.

An outstanding accomplishment

The “Let Canadian Talent Shine at the Tokyo Deaflympics” campaign, launched this past May, generated huge enthusiasm across the country. Hundreds of donors, including individuals and businesses, responded to the call, showing unprecedented support for Deaf sport and inclusion.

“We are deeply moved by this wave of support. Every donation, large and small, has contributed to this wonderful story. Thanks to this enormous effort, our athletes were able to represent us with great pride in Tokyo. In fact, this was one of Canada’s largest delegations ever at the Deaflympics,” says CDSA Executive Director **Alain Turpin**.

Brilliant delegation, brilliant achievements

Forty-seven athletes represented Canada in nine sports: athletics, badminton, basketball, golf, beach volleyball, women’s volleyball, tennis, bowling, and table tennis. This was one of the largest Canadian delegations since the country first participated in the Deaflympics in 1959.

Canadian athletes delivered excellent performances at the Tokyo Deaflympics, ranking six times among the world’s top ten and earning two medals. This was a great showing by Team Canada – one of its best in the past 30-plus years.

Erica Rivard won the bronze medal in women’s individual golf and a gold medal in mixed-team golf. This was her first time participating in an international competition.

Russell Bowie, also a golfer, shared the mixed-team gold medal with Erica Rivard. He has been taking part in high-level international competitions since 2022.

“I’m almost speechless with gratitude. I want to thank everyone who believed in us. We gave it our all and represented Canada with pride,” says Erica Rivard, gold medallist in golf at the 2025 Deaflympics.



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Heartfelt thanks

CDSA and all 47 participating athletes extend their heartfelt thanks to all donors across Canada for their generous contribution to the campaign. They also wish to express their gratitude to the businesses whose considerable donations played a decisive role in the campaign's success.

We invite you to [watch highlights](#) of Team Canada performing in Tokyo.

Donor businesses:

- Bob Rumball Foundation for the Deaf – Official Team Canada Supporter
- Fondation des Sourds du Québec
- Verval Ltée
- Brampton Golf Club
- WSP
- Scierie Générations Inc.
- Services Security Inc
- Lethbridge Pet Hospital Inc
- Patricia's Golden Hearts Companions Co Ltd
- C&C Packing LP
- Kirkyz Acoustix
- West Physio
- MCW Hemisphere Ltd
- LabX Media Group Canada Inc
- Hamilton Central Lions Club
- Brewery General & Professional
- Sonaris Ear Center
- Ace Volleyball Club
- Y FINANCIAL Inc
- GN Hearing Care
- The Royal Canadian Legion
- Elevate Hearing
- Olympic Industries ULC
- Tara Energy – Scott BISSELL
- Wink Strategies



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About CDSA

CDSA is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to developing high-level Deaf and Hard-of-hearing athletes. Thanks to direct financial support, they can take part in international sports events sanctioned by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf and the Pan American Sports Committee for the Deaf.

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