

# ***ONTARIO PARASPORT & ADAPTED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY SUMMIT***

PRESENTED BY OPC



**BLIND HOCKEY**

# The WHY behind the Ontario Parasport Collective

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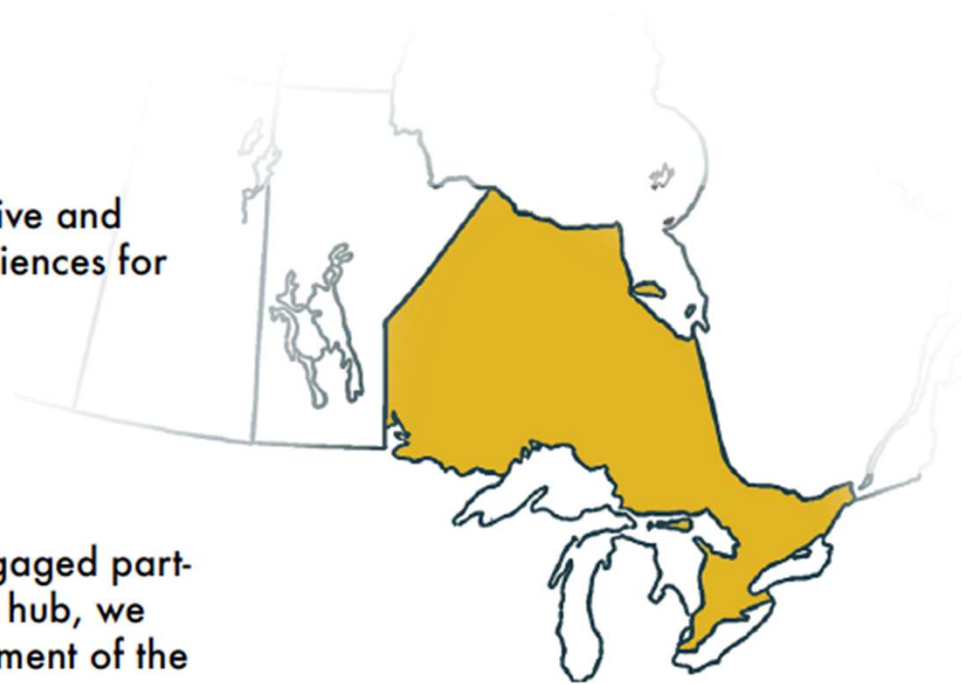
# ONTARIO PARASPORT COLLECTIVE

## OUR VISION:

To create and promote equitable, inclusive and quality physical activity and sport experiences for **Ontarians** with a disability.

## OUR MISSION:

As a united group of committed and engaged partners and individuals, acting as a central hub, we will lead, connect and support the alignment of the parasport system in Ontario.



# Pillars

**Education:** To increase child & youth participation in parasport and awareness of opportunities through leveraging partnerships with the education sector across all levels

**Leadership:** To develop the current and future capacity of sport leaders, including the coaches, officials, classifiers and administrators who lead parasport in Ontario.

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# Pillars Continued

**Pathways:** To promote effective entry and quality participation through asset mapping, first involvement and transitioning, and align and integrate the parasport pathway for Ontarians

1: Pathways into Sport/Participation

2: Pathways to 'Next Steps'

**\*\*Hosting & Competitions:** To develop appropriate competition structures and a hosting strategy for parasport in Ontario

# Thank you!

Jennifer Bruce, Kylie Wasser, Johnny Byrne

*But Why?*

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# How do athletes get some the pond/playground to the podium?



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# First Step into Sport or Physical Activity?

- Engagement with parents/guardians?
  - Municipal programming?
  - Private physical activity or sport organizations?
  - SCHOOL?
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# *Education Pillar*

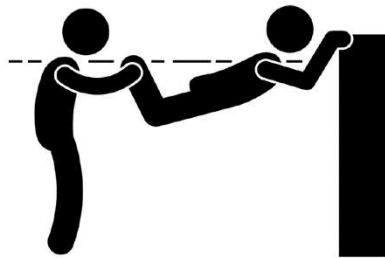
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# Dissertation Study #1

Contract by the OPC in 2017-2018

## Learn to Swim

"...when I had the one on one opportunity to work with someone who understood disability and I was able to learn how to swim pretty quickly after that."



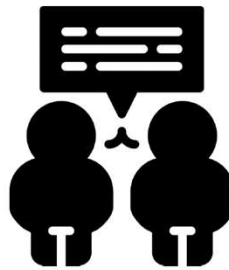
"The kids that teach swimming lessons are young and they didn't know how to adapt it for her."

- 1 on 1
- Specialized programs
- Rehab

# Dissertation Study #1

Contract by the OPC in 2017-2018

## Word of Mouth



"...we have friends who were part of a swim team..."

"I had a friend who shared with me about the swim club..."

"A family friend of ours, who coaches Para Swimmers, recommend me to go to a swim team..."

"Actually, one of his friends was on the swim team..."

- Learning about programs from friends & family

# *Pathway 1 Pillar*

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# Dissertation Study #1 & #2

"...the coaches looked at me, looked at my mom being like "You're insane! How are we going to integrate this child into a competitive swim team?"

## Coaching



"It was customized and tailored to me so I would improve but it wasn't too challenging but there was enough challenge to make me be successful."

"I feel I was really lucky in that front but I feel like for other people who are like the only para swimmer on their team, I feel like like the coach knowing what to do if they have never dealt with a para swimmer before, is very difficult."

"...they sorta taught themselves because none of our coaches had had a visually impaired swimmer before. They were sort of all learning as they went."

- Gap in Experience/Education
- Adaptation/Individualization

# *Leadership Pillar*

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# Dissertation Study #1 & #2

“Classifications, in my opinion, really determines one’s future in the sport, in both positive and negative ways.”

“I was quite fortunate that I was able to maintain an S8 because that made the transition easy and it kept my goals the same because I knew what I was going for and they didn’t change because I got a new classification.”

“I felt like we went into that classification blind and didn’t really know what we were supposed to get out of it.”



## Classification

- Significant
- Lack of knowledge/ understanding

# Dissertation Study #2

- Lack of PSO recognized engagement
- NSOs seen to be involved early in development

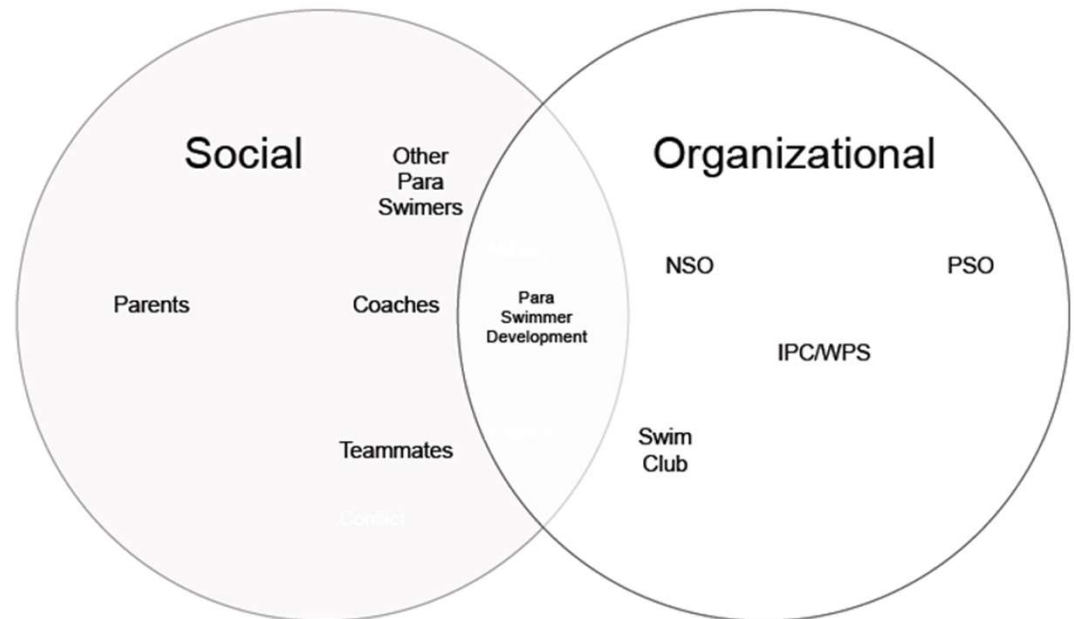


Figure 1. Contextual Factors of Para Swimmer Development

[National Sport Organizations (NSO), International Paralympic Committee (IPC), World Para Swimming (WPS), Provincial Sport Organization (PSO)]

# *Pathway 2 Pillar*

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*Systematic Collaboration,  
Dedication (& funding)*

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*“Never grow a wishbone, daughter, where a backbone ought to be.”*

Clementine Paddleford