

# Education Pillar

Ontario Parasport Collective

Kirsten Bobbie & Christina Swett - November 7, 2023

# Education Pillar Co-Chairs



Kirsten Bobbie  
Director, Games & Competitions  
Special Olympics Canada

- Started in the role in 2019 while working with Special Olympics Ontario
- Presently working with Special Olympics Canada
- Favourite sport: golf



Christina Swett  
Occupational Therapist, para-athlete & coach

- Started in the role in 2018 while working with Abilities Centre Durham
- Presently working as an Occupational Therapist in Seating & Mobility and School Therapy Services
- Favourite sport: Dragon Boat

# Education Pillar Contributors


(2015 – present inclusive)



And many more inter-pillar contributors as well!


# History & Pillar Origins

## Education Pillar

- The Education Pillar was included in the first iterations of the Ontario Parasport Collective, and was then led by Stuart McReynolds
  - The Education System was recognized as a key point of contact for both Ontarians with disabilities as well as leaders and influencers in their lives
  - The aims and approaches to projects within the Pillar changed with learning, environments, Covid interference and new partnerships
  - What started with a direct delivery, formal approach to resources has blossomed into robust partnerships that allows flexibility, progression and resource access for teachers and staff working with students with disabilities
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# Lessons from the Start

## Inception through Pilot 2.0

- Although direct delivery felt impactful, our ambitions were much greater than our capacity to deliver at the start.
  - We capitalized on our strengths, and infused the system in Durham Region with equipment and human resources – teachers who were connected with Abilities Centre had a person to call when they had questions or new experiences.
  - What we realized after two iterations of the program was that we were re-inventing the wheel...
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# Moving forward from Pilots

## Pilot 2.0 to pandemic

- We identified that our current Pilot strategy was similar to what has worked well in small areas for a lot of projects over the years, but which wasn't conducive to growth at the magnitude we were looking for.
  - We started looking to our OPC member partners to figure out the best way to capitalize on and strengthen the fractured way para sport was included in schools in different ways across Ontario
  - We pitched a few different ideas to ensure individual parasport-in-schools programs maintained or increased their presence, while also increasing the messaging of the Ontario Parasport Collective within those programs.
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# Reimagining Everything

Coming out of the initial phases of Covid-19 and moving forward

- We were able to bring together and deliver educational content via social media and virtual platforms in Spring 2021, but the reality was this sector was extremely slow to bounce back when it came to engagement in “extras” – which unfortunately as we all know often includes not only sport, but students with disabilities’ activities.
- Lucky for us, the timing was now right and Ophea joined us as a partner in the project formally. We were off to the races towards our goals again!
- Throughout this time there continues to be evolution, adaptation to better align with education sector language and curriculum, and our partners have come up with new and better ways of engaging with the education system as well.

# Project Highlight Summary

## Education Pillar

- Initial projects took a direct delivery approach, including providing training to physical educators on inclusive physical literacy and the CPC FUNdamentals Resource.
  - Projects evolved with the embracing of virtual resources – OPC Virtual Schools Month allowed more people from greater geography to be involved, including many para athletes sharing their sports and experiences.
  - Partnership with Ophea allowed even further expansion, and has set the stage for inclusive physical education resources to continue to grow and evolve.
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# Legacy

- Learnings and evolution of original projects remain alive and well – you can hear more about these from Abilities Centre staff here at the Summit
- Ophea-led Resources targeting both education staff and sport organizations to help bridge the gap and align goals of curriculum and participation
  - Disability-Centre Movement: Supporting Inclusive Physical Activity
    - E-learning module, virtual workshops, resource document
  - “Working with Schools 101” panel mini-series
  - Inclusive Physical Education Activity Cards

# Education Sessions at the Summit

1. Inclusive Physical Activity in Schools – Hosted by Ophea

*Tuesday morning breakout – 11am-12pm*

2. Community Based School Collaboration – Hosted by Abilities Centre  
Durham & Ottawa

*Tuesday afternoon breakout – 1:40pm-2:40pm room 104*

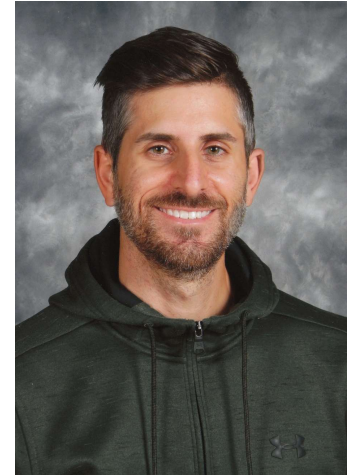
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# Direct Impact Testimony

Dan Angelosante – OCT and Ophea Ambassador

After graduating from the Kinesiology and Health Science program at York University, Dan started his professional career in the field of Sport Business Management. He is very passionate about youth development in sports and the importance of daily physical activity for all.

Now, as an Ophea Ambassador and a Health and Physical Education Teacher in the elementary panel, Dan strives to create welcoming and inclusive learning environments where students of all ability can be active and have fun together. Dan is currently teaching Health & Physical Education at the Toronto Catholic District School Board.



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

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