



ALUMNI COMMUNIQUE

Issue 8 - October 2020

WIN AN ALL INCLUSIVE VIP TRIP FOR TWO TO THE 2022 COMMONWEALTH GAMES IN BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND!



VIP access to the best events, the best seats, behind the scene tours, dining with Canadian athletes, participate in medal presentations, tours of local attractions and more.....the ultimate Commonwealth Games experience! Exclusively for Commonwealth Sport Canada Alumni Program Members.

All Alumni Program members on record as of July 26, 2021, are automatically entered. We currently have just over 400 registered members and need to reach 850 registered members to do the draw. To become a CSC Alumni Program member, simply email to: "alumni@commonwealthsport.ca" with the subject line "Count Me In". The winner will be announced on the CSC website (www.commonwealthsport.ca) on July 28, 2021, one-year-to-go to the opening ceremonies of the 2022 Commonwealth Games

Please forward this offer to any CGC Alumni who may be interested.

2020 COMMONWEALTH SPORT CANADA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



commonwealth
sport
CANADA
2020
Annual General Meeting
Assemblée générale annuelle

NEW CSC BOARD AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS ELECTED

The 2020 Commonwealth Sport Canada Annual General was held on Sunday, September 20th - CSC's first ever virtual AGM! During the meeting, elections were held to appoint a Treasurer, three Directors, and eight Individual Members.

After presentations from a number of strong candidates, Keith Gillam was re-elected as Treasurer. David Bedford, Trevino Betty, and Karen Hacker were elected as Directors. All will serve a four-year term. CSC's new Board of Directors is as follows:

Richard Powers (President)

Keith Gillam (Treasurer)

Trevino Betty

David Bedford

Claire Carver-Dias

Karen Hacker

Graham Smith

Riley McCormick (Athlete Representative)

Linda Cuthbert (Ex-Officio)

Nicole Forrester (Ex-Officio)

Bruce Robertson (Ex-Officio)

Pradeep Sood (Commonwealth Games Foundation of Canada)

CSC would like to acknowledge departing Board Members Martha Deacon and Simon Farbrother for their outstanding contributions to the organization and to the Commonwealth Sport Movement in Canada. Thank you for your dedication and hard work!

CSC also welcomes, Monique Allain, Andrew Haley, Marc Durand, Meaghan Howat, David Legg, and Thomas Volk who were elected as Individual Members. Holly Abraham and René Leblanc were also re-elected. The full list of CSC Individual Members is as follows:

Holly Abraham

Monique Allain

Laura Deyell

Marc Durand

Andrew Haley

Tanya Heimlich-Ng Yuen

Meaghan Howat

Robert J. Johnston

René Leblanc

David Legg

Mikaela Martin

Chad Murray

Janet Nutter

Samantha Rogers

Myles Spencer

Thomas Volk

CSC is very grateful for the contributions of departing Individual Members Bill Dowbiggin, Ralph Hutton, Sabrina Razack, Alicia Renoirte, Greg Maychak and Wayne Parro. Thank you for all your hard work.

2020 CANADIAN COMMONWEALTH SPORT AWARD WINNERS



Bruce Robertson



Jenny Wong

In addition to the membership elections, two Canadian Commonwealth Sport Award winners were honoured at the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

Bruce Robertson was recognised as the recipient of Commonwealth Sport Canada's Award of Merit for his contribution to CSC and the Commonwealth Sport movement in general.

Jennifer Wong was selected as this year's winner of the SportWORKS Award in the Sport Development Excellence category.

CSC has commissioned video profiles of each winner to recognise their accomplishments. You can view those videos here:

[Bruce Robertson - Award of Merit](#)

[Jenny Wong - SportWORKS Award](#)

HAMILTON SWITCH FROM 2030 TO 2026 COMMONWEALTH GAMES BID

Hamilton will now look to bring the 2026 Games to Canada



Following Hamilton's selection by CSC as the preferred candidate city for a Commonwealth Games bid, the Hamilton Bid Committee met with representatives from the Commonwealth Games Federation to discuss the possibility of moving its bid from the 2030 Games to the 2026 Games. The Bid Committee has agreed to the switch and are currently working with Hamilton City Council to gain their support for a 2026 bid.

The Hamilton Bid Group and Commonwealth Sport Canada are not asking the Government of Canada for money at this point in time but are requesting the Government's support-in-principle to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games. This support-in-principle is contingent upon the signing of a Multi-party Agreement by all order of governments.

More information on the story behind the Hamilton 1930 Commonwealth Games can be found here:

<https://thecgf.com/stories/history-behind-hamilton-1930>

Stay tuned for further updates!

BIRMINGHAM 2022 COMMONWEALTH GAMES UPDATE

ANNOUNCING CANADA'S CHEF DE MISSION FOR THE BIRMINGHAM 2022 COMMONWEALTH GAMES: BENOIT HUOT!



20 time Paralympic and 4 time Commonwealth swimming medallist was Canada's Assistant Chef de Mission at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games

Commonwealth Sport Canada (CSC) is pleased to announce that Paralympic and Commonwealth swimming champion Benoit Huot has been named Chef de Mission for Team Canada 2022.

Huot, from Longueuil, QC, is one of Canada's most accomplished Paralympians of all time, having won 20 medals at five Paralympic Games (2000 – 2016). He has also won a total of four medals at 3 Commonwealth Games (2002, 2006, 2010). A member of the Order of Canada and Knight of the Order of Quebec, he is the recipient of a number of awards and honours, such as the 2003 CGF Athlete Of The Year With A Disability, Para-swimmer Of The Year by Swimming World Magazine in 2005, 2012 Paralympic Games Closing Ceremony Flag Bearer and more.

“It was such a privilege for me to work with Team Canada at the Gold Coast Games in 2018”, said Huot. “Being named Chef for the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham is a huge honour, and I will do everything I can to ensure an inclusive and inspiring environment for our athletes. The Commonwealth Games have been a significant part of my high performance journey, and I believe that their focus on inclusivity and diversity is of even more importance in the world that we live in today. I look forward to being part of these amazing Games, and hope to inspire our athletes and para-athletes to achieve their objectives in Birmingham in 2022.”

The 22nd Commonwealth Games will take place July 28th to August 8th, 2022 in Birmingham, England, with up to 4,500 athletes taking part. The twelve-day sporting and cultural event will feature 19 sports and 8 para-sports as part of its programme. The Commonwealth Games are the only multi-sport event that feature equal standing for sport and para-sport events, and these 2022 Games will showcase the largest para-sport programme ever. In addition, for the first time in its history, the Games will feature more women's (135) than men's (133) medal events.

“Ben is an inspired choice as Team Canada’s 2022 Chef de Mission”, said Richard Powers, President of Commonwealth Sport Canada. “With his storied background as an athlete and his

incredible energy and passion for sport, he is the perfect person to lead our Team at the Birmingham Games. We look forward to working closely with him as we prepare our country’s team for 2022 and know that he will give his all to ensure success.”

BIRMINGHAM 2022 DATES CHANGED:

Due to a potential schedule conflict with the FIFA Women's World Cup which has been pushed back to summer 2022, the Birmingham Commonwealth Games will now begin on **28 July 2022**, and run through to **8 August 2022**. Less than 2 years to go!

2021 COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES POSTPONED



The Commonwealth Games Federation has announced that the Trinidad & Tobago 2021 Commonwealth Youth Games have been postponed.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global international sporting calendar means that the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics have now rescheduled to the summer of 2021 during the original dates of the Youth Games.

Following positive discussions, the CGF has agreed to consider the best alternative options and time frames for staging the event in the future, potentially in 2023.



Shalini Krishnan talks about her experience as a CGA Capacity Support Program Officer in Namibia and what she is doing now

My Experience

Within a week of arriving in Windhoek, Namibia, it was clear that even my mere presence in the office was a huge help since this NOC and CGA was (and still is) run by one full-time and one-part time staff. My presence in the office quickly became 'running the office' which allowed my colleagues to attend international trainings and conferences and the three international games in 2014. Alongside this, my main roles were: taking over the accreditation and sport entries process for these three games, helping launch the website and social media pages, and implementing an athlete data management system to assist the office in future events. I was also fortunate enough to have the opportunity to act as the assistant coach for the U15 Namibia Girls Soccer team that competed at the 2014 Youth Olympic Games.

Since the office was so small, I was able to be involved in all aspects of running an NOC, from audits to IT support to writing speeches for the Minister of Sport. I was thoroughly impressed by the grit and determination of the two ladies that were running such an important piece of the Namibian sport system.

The experience of moving alone on my 23rd birthday to spend a year in Namibia, along with everything I experienced and accomplished there, really broadened my horizons and paved the path for where I am today. I learned how to effectively communicate, how to handle unprecedented situations, and that adaptability and flexibility are really the keys to almost any situation. This knowledge has served me well as I have been working in sport events since leaving Namibia.

This programme really was an experience of a lifetime and I am ever grateful that CSC assigned me Namibia, which I now consider to be a second home, even returning there in 2018 to be in a friend's wedding.



Where am I now?

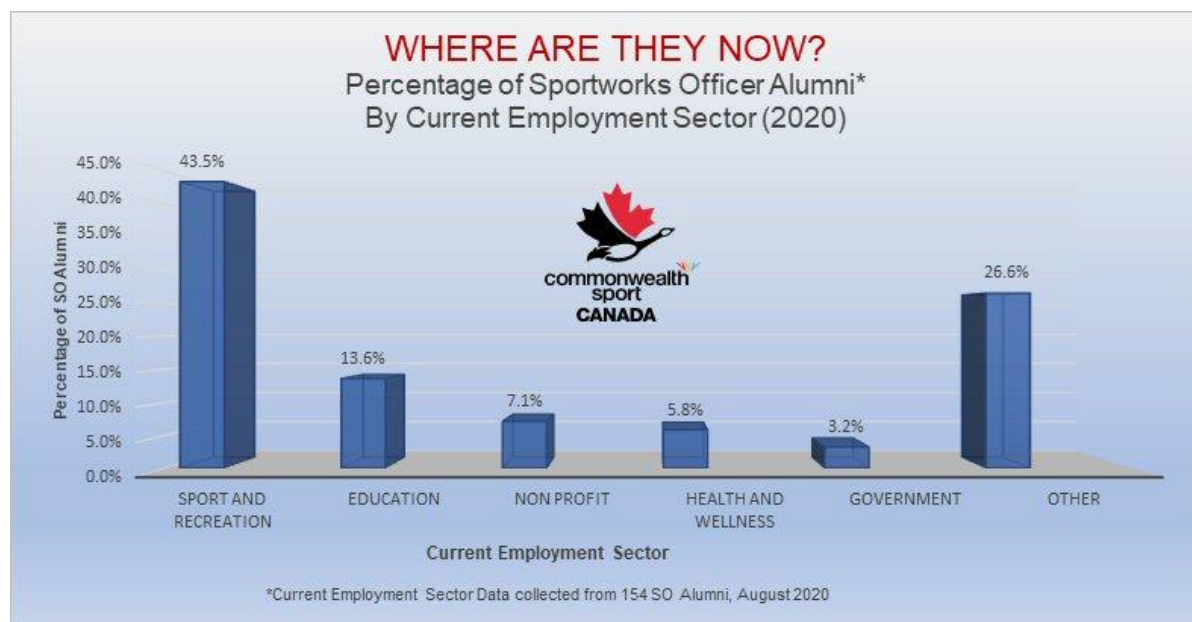
While in Namibia, some of the projects I was involved with - and saw within the community - sparked an interest to educate myself more in the field of 'sport management.' I discovered the FIFA Master while at the African Youth Games in Botswana, and in 2016 I graduated with an International Master in Management, Law and Humanities of Sport.

I have been in Switzerland since 2017, first working at UEFA and playing soccer in the Swiss National League, and most recently I spent almost 2 years with the International Hockey Federation (FIH) in the events department working with cross-continental developing National Associations to successfully organize a cycle of international events.

As part of the SportWORKS Officer role, we were requested to keep a blog during our time abroad, and to write about our professional and personal experience. I loved reading the previous SportWORKS Officer's blogs prior to and during my experience, as we were all doing the same role, but they couldn't have been more different. I have revived that blog and turned it into my own travel blog, so if you'd like to read about my experience in Namibia, or what I've been up to since, you can check out <https://shalsworld.com/namibia/>

Shalini Krishnan

CGA Capacity Support Program - Namibia



Commonwealth Sport Canada Awarded Commonwealth Sport Foundation Game Changers Grant

Commonwealth Sport Canada (CSC) was recently awarded a Game Changers Grant, which is the first program to be launched under the newly formed Commonwealth Sport Foundation.

The Grant will aid in alleviating the financial barriers to sport participation for newcomer youth to Canada through CSC's SportWORKS Sport For Newcomers Initiative (pilot). Sport For Newcomers aims to reduce or eliminate select barriers to sport participation for newcomer youth to Canada while promoting social cohesion.

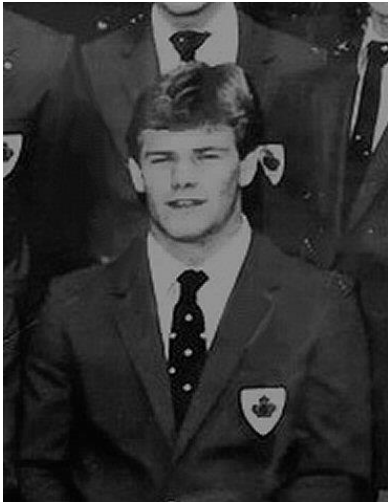
The Game Changers Grant supports the collective impact of the Commonwealth Sport Family through the values based, people centered Commonwealth Sport Movement.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Willie deWit

Boxing +81kg (Heavyweight) Division

Brisbane 1982 Commonwealth Games - Gold Medallist



Willie deWit of Grande Prairie, Alberta, is best known for his outstanding accomplishments as a heavyweight boxer. His career in both amateur and professional boxing made him a Canadian icon in the 1980's. However, deWit's accomplishments outside the ring have been just as impressive.

Willie deWit took up boxing relatively late at the age of 17. Prior to that he had been a standout high school quarterback. Although he was offered a football scholarship to the University of Alberta, he turned it down to pursue boxing instead.

DeWit was first spotted while working out at a Grande Prairie fitness club. Although not a boxing gym, it had heavy bags that were used for conditioning. The man who ran the club, Jim Murrie, saw the potential in deWit and contacted Dr. Harry Snatic, a youth boxing coach originally from the United States. Willie began training regularly with Snatic.

In March 1979, deWit entered and won his first boxing tournament – the Alberta Provincial Boxing Championships. He was placed in the Novice division along with six other inexperienced fighters aged between 17 and 20. He won his first bout so quickly and easily that all the other fighters in the division immediately withdrew from the competition.

DeWit went on to win a North American title and in 1982 moved to Calgary to work with Mansoor Esmail a Ugandan boxing and fitness coach. Esmail had also worked with other Commonwealth Games stars such as Henry Rono and Kip Keino. Later that year, deWit was selected to the Canadian team competing at the 1982 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane, Australia. Also on that team were two other outstanding boxers who would become household names in Canada – Shawn O'Sullivan and Dale Walters.

Competing in the +81kg (Heavyweight) division, deWit easily defeated William Isangura of Tanzania in the Semi-final, with the referee stopping the contest in the first round. In the Gold Medal match held on October 8th, deWit defeated Harold Hylton of England. Once again, the fight did not go beyond the first round. DeWit won by a knock-out to collect the Gold Medal for Canada.

Two years later, deWit competed for Canada at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. At the time, he was the World Amateur Heavyweight Champion and was one of the favorites to win gold. To his disappointment, deWit earned a Silver Medal after a controversial decision in the Gold Medal bout went in favour of his opponent, Henry Tillman of the United States.

Following the 1984 Olympics, deWit turned professional. His first pro fight took place at the Northlands Coliseum in Edmonton on December 1st, 1984 (a TKO win over Walter Morris, USA). His pro career lasted until March 1988. Perhaps fittingly, his last fight was a unanimous decision win over his former Olympic opponent, Henry Tillman. Over that four-year span he compiled an impressive record of 21 wins, one draw, and one loss.

Early in his boxing career, deWit became friends with a Calgary lawyer named Milt Harradence. It was Harradence who first suggested that deWit return to school after his retirement from boxing and pursue a career in Law. DeWit followed that advice and obtained a Law degree from the University of Alberta in 1994. He went on to become a successful criminal defence lawyer and a former president of the Canadian Bar Association, Criminal Law subsection. He was appointed to the Queen's Counsel in 2013 and became a Judge in 2017. DeWit still serves as a Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta sitting in Calgary.

Willie deWit was inducted into the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame in 1995 and the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame in 2019.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

ATHLETES

**Mark Pearson**

Field Hockey, 2010, 2014 and 2018 Commonwealth Games

Results: 2010: 7th place, 2014: 6th place, 2018: 8th place

Now: Business Development Specialist at the Canadian Olympic Committee. Still a member of our Canadian National Men's Team.

**Michelle Hastick-Cowell**

Athletics – Kuala Lumpur 1998 Commonwealth Games

Results: 15th place, Long Jump, 6th place, Triple Jump

Now: Financial Expert - Vice-President of Wealth and Strategic Management at Benson Kearley IFG

**Mario Méthot**

Shooting – 2002 Commonwealth Games

Results: 8th place, 10m Air Rifle (Pair), 8th place, 50m Rifle 3 Position (Pair)

Now: PhD, Coordinator, Neurophotonics Center, Adjunct Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Bioinformatics, Laval University

COACHES



Svetlana Joukova

Coach, Rhythmic Gymnastics – Delhi 2010 and Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games

Now: President/Head Coach National Rhythmic Gymnastics Centre



Carla Nicholls

Coach, Athletics – 2010 Commonwealth Games

Now: Paralympic Performance Lead at Athletics Canada

VOLUNTEERS / BUILDERS / SportWORKS / MISSION STAFF



Shawnee Scatliff

Chef de Mission - Pune 2008 Commonwealth Youth Games

Mission Staff - Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games

Now: Art Department Coordinator - Christmas at the Plaza Productions Inc. - Hallmark Channel Movies

GREAT MOMENTS IN COMMONWEALTH SPORT



ALEXANDRA ORLANDO WINS 6 GOLD MEDALS

2006 Commonwealth Games, Melbourne, Australia Rhythmic Gymnastics

On the afternoon of March 26, 2006, at the XVIII Commonwealth Games in Melbourne Australia, Alexandra Orlando of Toronto competed in the Finals of four different Rhythmic Gymnastic Events - Rope, Ball, Clubs and Ribbon. Amazingly, she won Gold in all four of those events.

Those medals, added to the Gold medals she had already won in the Team Competition and Individual All-Round, gave her a total of six Gold at the 2006 Games. That feat had only ever been achieved by one other athlete at a Commonwealth Games - Canadian swimmer Graham Smith at the 1978 Games in Edmonton.

Alexandra, went on to compete for Canada at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. She also competed in two Pan Am Games where she won a total of 10 medals - three of them Gold.

Alexandra was a member of the Team Canada Mission staff for the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi, and is currently an ambassador for the Hamilton 2026 Bid working to bring the Games back to Canada.

Commonwealth Sport Canada Office Update

Because of the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, the Commonwealth Sport Canada office remains closed. Staff are continuing to work from home and can still be contacted by email or through the main CSC telephone number. Thank you for your patience during these unprecedented times.

HAVE YOU JOINED COMMONWEALTH SPORT CANADA'S ALUMNI PROGRAM YET?



To date, approximately 3,000 Canadian athletes have competed in the Commonwealth Games. Thousands more have attended the Games as officials or given their time as volunteers. Over 200 CSC SportWORKS Officers have taken part in sport development initiatives in Canada and throughout the Commonwealth. CSC is proud to have been a part of so many lives and we would cherish the opportunity to continue our relationship through the CSC Alumni Program!

Why should you become a CSC Alumni Program member?

Being a CSC Alumni Program member allows you to:

- Stay in touch with other CSC alumni.
- Receive regular CSC Alumni Newsletters containing news & information about the Commonwealth sport movement in Canada and abroad.
- Become a mentor and contribute to the success of current and future CSC alumni.
- Receive invitations to CSC Alumni events happening in your area.
- Receive exclusive access and offers on CSC/Team Canada clothing, Commonwealth sport events tickets and packages, etc.

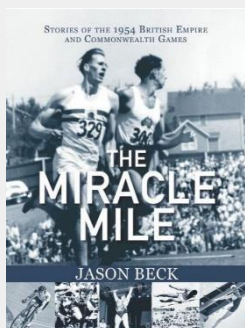
- Have a chance to win an all-inclusive, VIP trip for two to the next Commonwealth Games!
- Receive exclusive CSC Alumni discounts!

As a Commonwealth Games Canada Alumni Program member, you are entitled to the following discounts:



20% DISCOUNT AT ALL RUNNING ROOM STORES

REMINDER: If you are a CSC Alumni Program member and have not yet received your Running Room discount card, please confirm your mailing address so we can send it to you. Email your details to [Chris Taylor](mailto:Chris.Taylor@runningroom.ca).



10% DISCOUNT ON PURCHASE OF "THE MIRACLE MILE: Stories of the 1954 British Empire and Commonwealth Games"

By: Jason Beck

CSC Alumni price **\$26.95** plus tax & shipping
(Regular price \$29.95)

To order a copy of this book, please call Jennifer at the BC Sports Hall of Fame: 604-687-5520 or email sportsinfo@bcsportshalloffame.com

CSC is working to identify further benefits for Alumni Program members.

if you are a CSC Alumnus from Ontario, British Columbia or any other Canadian province or territories and are interested in starting an Alumni Program Chapter in your province, please contact [Kelly Laframboise](mailto:Kelly.Laframboise@commonwealthsport.ca) or phone 613-244-6868 x 2.
CSC has financial support for Alumni activities!

GET IN TOUCH. PASS IT ON!

We would love to hear your story. Don't be shy, drop us a note at: alumni@commonwealthsport.ca if you would like your profile published!

Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to any other Commonwealth Sport Canada Alumni who may not have already received it – and please encourage them to get in touch with CSC to become an Alumni Program Member!

To become a CSC Alumni Program Member simply email to: alumni@commonwealthsport.ca with the subject line "Count Me In". Visit our website for complete details on the [Alumni Program](http://www.commonwealthsport.ca).

Canada



GOWLING WLG



KUKRI



Sport with *Social Purpose* | *Sport à vocation sociale*
