



C A N A D I A N P A R A L Y M P I C C O M M I T T E E S P E C I A L

Canadian athletes to watch for at the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games



Canadian Paralympic Committee
Comité paralympique canadien

From March 12–21, the eyes of the world will be on Vancouver and Whistler for the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, and Canada's Paralympic athletes are ready to impress.

The Canadian team will be 55 athletes strong. It will be the largest team to ever represent Canada and the first to do so on home soil since 1976.

The members of the Canadian Paralympic Team will not be named until just before the Games. However, here are just a few of Canada's top athletes with a disability to keep an eye out for:

PARA-ALPINE SKIING: JOSH DUECK

Josh Dueck's passion for skiing began in the mountains of British Columbia, at the age of 13, where he dreamed of representing Canada as an international athlete. Following an accident in 2004, Josh's love for the mountains led him to sit-skiing and he is now about to fulfill his dream by representing Canada as a Para-Alpine

skier. Josh won his first international gold medal at a World Cup race in 2009 in Korea, and capped the season by repeating the feat a week later in Whistler, B.C., on the same course that he hopes to race on at the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games. Josh is a member of Canada's successful Para-Alpine Ski Team who finished the 2008/2009 season number one in the world and have their sights set on gold for 2010.

PARA-NORDIC SKIING: COLETTE BOURGONJE

Cross-country racing has always been part of Colette Bourgonje's life.



Josh Dueck



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Jim Armstrong

After a car accident she began a new style of racing, wheelchair racing, and went on to compete in three Paralympic Summer Games. Colette returned to cross-country racing in 1991 when she tried a sit-ski and became a dedicated cross-country skier. Colette has since added five Paralympic Winter Games to her career, winning two silver medals in Nagano and two bronze in Torino. Vancouver 2010 will be her ninth Paralympic Games.

CURLING: JIM ARMSTRONG

A six-time competitor in Canada's men's curling championship, the Brier, Jim is one of Canada's best curlers, experienced in both versions of the sport. When knee injury threatened to end his curling career, a friend from the Canadian Curling Association introduced him to the wheelchair version of the sport. Jim skipped the Canadian Wheelchair Curling team to their first World Championships victory in 2009, and along with team mates Darryl Neighbour, Ina Forrest, Sonia Gaudet and Bruno Yizek, will lead Canada's defence of the gold medal they won at the last Paralympic Games in Torino.


SLEDGE HOCKEY: ADAM DIXON

Defenseman Adam Dixon began playing sledge hockey when he was 11, and in 2006, at the age of 17, he joined the Canadian National team. Named the Defensive MVP of the 2008 IPC Ice Sledge Hockey World Championship, Adam was part of the Canadian team

that also went on to win the 2009 title. His collection of gold medals also includes ones from the Japan Paralympic 2008 Sledge Hockey International and the 2007 World Sledge Hockey Challenge in Kelowna, B.C. In 2009, Adam sealed Canada's victory in the first ever nationally televised ice sledge hockey match by scoring the winning goal in the Hockey

Canada Cup: a performance he hopes to repeat for spectators and television audiences in 2010.

SLEDGE HOCKEY: BRAD BOWDEN

Forward Brad Bowden has always been involved in sport, playing wheelchair basketball and sledge hockey from an early age. At the age of 16, Brad made the national sledge hockey team and was part of the team who won Canada's first World Championship in 2000. In 2003 he was named to the Canadian Wheelchair Basketball team and went on to win his first gold medal at the Athens 2004 Paralympic Games. He won his second gold medal at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games where he scored the game-winning goal to beat Norway in the final. Brad's offensive talents will make him a fan-favourite and a defenseman's worst nightmare at the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, as he strives for a Paralympic gold medal hat-trick. 



Brad Bowden

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