

Women's Initiatives Committee (WIC) 2017 AGM Report

2017 was a much quieter season for our committee. We had very few applications for funding this season, and due to some other issues, we only funded two opportunities which left financial room for two of our committee members to attend a professional development opportunity at the CAC Sport Leadership conference. We started initial discussions in building the framework of our female mentorship database that helps pair female coaches with female skydivers at dropzones across the country, as well as more awareness to dropzones on the need to create female-friendly environments. Our goal is to have this implemented for the 2018 skydiving season.

With LTAD, we jointly funded two events/training opportunities this season, which consisted of:

1. *CP Camp*, run by Jay Moledzki and Peter Kozak, Skydive City, FL
2. *FAI Wingsuit Judges course, Las Vegas, NV*

We're still aiming to have female-only canopy courses, and we want to focus on driving the development and participation of our own skydivers, and want to further promote and encourage load organizing and coaching by Canadian female skydivers. We want to see more events being held across Canada and will work with dropzones on a different strategy to assist in promotion of our funding opportunities. In addition, we hope to work with many other groups of women that are promoting their own activities and social development of women in our sport!

Looking forward to 2018,

Michelle Matte-Stotyn

Chair, WIC

A little more from our recipients:

CP Skills Camp

What did you enjoy most about this opportunity?

- *The intensity of training and the availability of high level coaching.*
- *The intensity of a high learning curve, the tunnel of CP*

Why do you believe CSPA should continue to fund opportunities like this?

- *To assist in developing athletes over the long term; foster specific competitive disciplines, learning & application, and help create mentors in the sport.*
- *More canopy flight training will only advance this sport in beneficial ways. Less crashes means more positive views on jumping out of perfectly good airplanes. Makes everyone safer.*

FAI Wingsuit Judges Rating course – Vera Asquith

First of all, I would like to thank the Committees for supporting me in my endeavours in furthering my Judging Career.

Attending the Judge Training course at an FAI WS Championships was not only exciting, but was an effective venue for training. Judging a Wingsuit Event requires a great deal of hands-on interaction with both the equipment and the competitors, and to truly learn all aspects of judging, it is necessary to experience the various steps first-hand rather than just learning in theory. Prior to the competition we had several days of classroom work, which was then followed up by practicing the skills we learned at the actual competition.

Prior to this training course, I had a National WS Judge Rating, which was sufficient to judge at the National Level. I believe that furthering my skills, and achieving the FAI Rating will better serve our Canadian Athletes (there were several athletes representing Canada at the competition) and I would judge them at the same level that they would expect when they travel

to International Events. I feel that my recent experience has made me a better judge, as it has given me not only additional experience, but also a greater understanding of Wingsuit Flying.

I believe CSPA should continue to support and contribute to these opportunities. Over the years, at many US and International competitions, I have heard comments from other International Judges about the high standard of the Canadian Judging Program and I believe we should strive to maintain this reputation. To do this we require constant upgrading and training.

Sport Leadership Conference

This annual conference is hosted by the Coaching Association of Canada (CAC) and is attended by approximately 500 delegates in sport. Delegates include high performance coaches from across the nation, national athletes, sport administrators as well as sport educators/researchers. The weekend was filled with learning, networking, and fun. We left the conference feeling energized, and full of new ideas and plans.

This year the topic of the conference was "Cultivating Disruption". Session topics, to name a few, included: mindset, technology, rethinking learning, turning obstacles into opportunities, and coaching development. There was A LOT of amazing information and thought stimulating processes of how to deal with change in sport. Specifically, we had the opportunity to partake in the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity (CAAWS) workshop "Female Coach Mentorship Model".

The workshop showcased the release of "A Mentorship Guide" for Sport Administrators, Coach Mentors and Coach Mentees outlining a mentorship model for female coaches. These guides are the result from a two-year pilot project developed by CAAWS and the CAC. The project resulted in the development of three guides. The Three guides are laid out specifically to help Mentors, Mentees and Sport Administrators form their own mentorship program for women coaches in their sport.

We also had the opportunity to attend other workshops, but perhaps the session that made the biggest impact on us was the presentation by Trevor Ragan. He has a very interesting attitude towards learning and growth. He compared the learning mindset to being a tiger – you can be a "zoo tiger", always playing it safe, never reaching, never growing; or you can be a "jungle tiger", and live at the edge of your comfort zone, building new skills and trying new things. He believes skills are built, not born, and that they are yours if you earn them. His enthusiasm and spirit left us all feeling like "jungle tigers" and that we could do anything. It was awesome to hear everyone using the term "jungle tiger" for the rest of the weekend! I would even challenge everyone to check out his work, and challenge yourself to be a Jungle Tiger as often as you can in your learning.

We would like to thank the CSPA Board of Directors and the Women's Initiatives Committee for the opportunity to assist and to be a part of the Sport Leadership Conference; THANK YOU!! We value the opportunity to enhance our understanding of our sport.