

Women Initiative Committee (WIC) 2021 Report

The WIC saw some changes over the 2021 Season with the primary change of Michelle Matte-Stotyn stepping down as the WIC Chair and Allison Cooney taking on the role. The transition was smooth, and Michelle continued to mentor me throughout 2021. We were sad to have one member of the team resign due to work obligations, but we are excited to have a new member join who is an active in the skydiving community. Currently, the WIC team is looking to actively encourage the growth of our membership by at least five (5) new volunteers with hopes to have this addition by the end of January 2022.

In 2021, WIC looked to take steps forward by creating small and achievable goals. The top priority for our team was to focus on educating our skydiving community not only about WIC but the challenges women have in our industry. With this in mind, we registered for the Canadian Women in Sport 2021 Virtual Conference which had an emphasis on Gender Equality and Equity. We had six members of WIC attend a variety of the seminars totaling a cost of seven hundred and eighty-three dollars and seventy one cents (\$783.71) for CSPA. As a result of travel restrictions due to Covid, the conference was held virtually which allowed us to significantly save on expenses for participants. The conference was over two (2) days and was a very valuable learning opportunity for our team. WIC, with the amazing writing from Jessy Robichaud, published an article on Gender Equity vs Equality in the September CanPara Issue.

Our team spent much of the 2021 Season brainstorming our vision and what we would like to accomplish in the coming years. A key focus was on the revitalization of WIC in our skydiving community. We have created a list of small projects we are looking to achieve and although some of these did not get accomplished as quickly as we would have liked, they are items we are continuing to focus on into the 2022 season. Some examples of such projects include regular articles in CanPara written by women and about women in our sport to highlight achievements, challenges, opportunities, and so much more. We are also working to develop content for a video to help promote WIC in our communities at dropzones and highlight the additional support we have to offer women in the sport.

As in years past, WIC provided funding opportunity to women in the sport to help support and encourage development. In close partnership with the Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) committee, this continued in 2021. As a result of covid, applications for funding saw a decrease compared to previous pre-Covid years. Although we budgeted for three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in 2021, we only provided about nine hundred dollars (\$900) in funding. Again, we feel this was a direct result of Covid restrictions on events throughout the country and hope to see increases to events in the 2022 season and therefore would like to maintain the budget request of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) to be applied for WIC Athlete Funding.

Going forward, the WIC team is very excited to not only continue working on educating our community through articles and other tools, but we have also added two (2) new projects for the 2022 and 2023 Seasons. The first is a rebuilding of the existing Mentorship Program that we are looking to propose for implementation to CSPA later in the 2022 season. One of our team members has been actively involved in a mentoring program through aviation that we all feel has aspects that can be easily used in skydiving. The second goal for our team is to host a Women in Skydiving Virtual Seminar in the spring of 2023. We feel both these goals would require minimal budgets but would be a value to women in our sport as well as the overall community of skydivers. I have proposed a budget of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) for the 2023 year for the virtual seminar.

In summery, I am very excited for the coming year and years ahead with our WIC Team. The enthusiasm we have on the team is seen each and every time we meet and brainstorm ideas or work on our tasks. I look forward to sharing this excitement with the CSPA BoDs and our amazing community of skydivers across Canada.