

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DISABILITY INCLUSIVE SPORT POLICY BY SPORTING ORGANIZATIONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

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ABOUT VIASPORT

- Non-profit
- Administer **\$13.4 million** of government investment from Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture annually
- **Purpose:** Transform and scale the impact of sport
- **Vision:** A society where people and communities are truly health, vibrant and connected because they value and participate in sport experiences that are safe, inclusive, and meaningful
- **Initiative Areas:**
 - **SAFETY** from abuse and harassment
 - **INCLUSION** to reflect the diversity of B.C.s population
 - **CAPACITY** of coaches, organizations and communities
 - **ALIGNMENT** from physical literacy to high performance



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

GLOBAL PARA SPORT INTEGRATION



**UNITED STATES
OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC
COMMITTEE**



Least Integrated

Mostly integrated

Fully integrated



BACKGROUND

- Nation states have encouraged the vertical integration of Paralympic and Olympic sport through policy.
- While most Paralympians want to be treated on an equal basis to their able-bodied peers, research has shown *integration does not always lead to equity or equality*
- In the province of British Columbia Canada both PSOs and DSOs have 'resisted' integration and the mainstreaming of para sport

LITERATURE

‘Champions of change’ are important to the instigation and sustainability of disability sport; (Jeanes et al. 2017; Kitchin & Crossin, 2018; Kitchen & Howe, 2014; Wicker, & Breuer, 2014)

Most literature on disability sport policy in Canada has focused on debates around integration of Athletics at the federal level; Problematizes and critiques ‘integration’ (Howe, 2013, 2009, 2007)

Little is known about the *translation* and *recontextualization* disability sports policy in Canada at the provincial/local level (Ball, Maguire & Braun, 2012; Penney, 2013;)

RESEARCH QUESTION

How do enactments of integration policy facilitate or hinder inclusion in British Columbia, Canada?

METHODS

Interviews

Typology

Evaluation

1. Collect and analyze:
 - Provincial and Federal policy documents
 - Policies and documentation from 8 DSOs and 9 PSOs
2. Host in-depth qualitative interviews with staff and volunteers of PSOs and DSOs centered on developing understandings of what/how organizations perceive their role and mandate
 - 30 interviews representing 11 organizations
 - Analyzed by Typology

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. PSO reported that integration was difficult and that they were not well positioned to be inclusive
2. DSO said PSO were not capable to deliver disability sport program at the same quality level in an integrated context
3. DSO pressured to become more sport-focused rather than impairment focused

INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION WAS DIFFICULT

“One of things we are seeing here in BC is that we are not necessarily doing things really well yet for whom we have [read white females aged between 8-24] [...]we are looking to be able to offer inclusive opportunities to those who want it and we are not, right now, looking to grow [our disability/male programming].” (PSO)

“There have been some push back from parents on the personal side of this, almost thinking that because their child was on a mixed ability team that there was something wrong with their kid, not that it was creating an opportunity for the adaptive [athlete].” (PSO)

PSOS NOT CAPABLE TO DELIVER DISABILITY SPORT PROGRAM AT THE SAME QUALITY LEVEL IN AN INTEGRATED CONTEXT

For me the test has always been if we move a sport over to the able-bodied equivalent, will there be a loss of service, quality and voice for those athletes. [For instance, I asked the ED of an abled bodied sport] 'OK, so if you were to take on x sport tomorrow, would you be able to do this scope of programming and would you be able to commit this amount of funding, given that 25% of it comes from government'. And he flat out said no, 'can't do it'. He said: 'We would take the government money and we would use that and go forward'. I said: 'I cannot in good conscience then say go ahead [with integration], knowing that the program is going to be cut to a quarter of what it is right now.'(DSO)

DSOS MORE SPORT-FOCUSED THAN IMPAIRMENT FOCUSED

Being our own PSO gives us a different status [with different funding bodies], so we are able to apply for more funding and different grants having our own status as a PSO and charitable organization. That was the motivation for [becoming a PSO]. (DSO)

I think if we really want to push and grow this space sometimes you have to be a stand alone event, sometimes you have to be a stand alone program to be able to really drive and change. It comes down to people. And there are those champions and leaders in the community that are going to push for Para programming and Wheelchair sport programming and often some program sometimes dies when those people leave, so a lot of it is about, who are the right people in the right place to drive the programming. (DSO)

CONCLUSION

- Integration is not necessarily inclusive
- PSOs that are under pressure to become integrated are not necessarily becoming more inclusive

Future research

1. Develop a typology of integration
2. Reconceptualize evaluation