



BESPOKEPLUS



"If your work speaks for itself don't interrupt"

SCI Ontario Program



We added to our annual support of SCI by including sponsorship for the Ontario Independence Initiative Program

designed to inspire all in-patients across all 7 rehab centers with entrepreneurial insight from people with disabilities and to create social responsibility from sponsors to ease transitions from hospital to home for all in-patients with SCI across Ontario.

This is a huge undertaking with a goal to support all newly injured people with SCI across Ontario as they transition from hospital to home through the philanthropic support of sponsors and donors. All resources raised will go towards enhancing SCIO's advocacy to address and resolve systemic barriers that impact the quality of life of people with SCI. To learn more about the impact they are having on thousands of lives and learn more about their Advocacy, email advocacy@sciontario.org and ask to receive monthly advocacy & public policy updates.

Unbreakable Rick Hansen



Speaking of impacting the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, Rick Hansen reflected on 50 years of development in and around people with a disability on his [website](#), and CTV aired a documentary December 2, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

Rick returned to the scene of the accident that changed his life forever. Sandie Rinaldo did a great job speaking with him, a Canadian icon and it can be seen [here](#).

World Disability Day

In 1976, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP). It called for a plan of action at the national, regional, and international levels, with an emphasis on equalization of opportunities, rehabilitation, and prevention of disabilities.

That initiative spawned the development of the International Day of Disabled Persons (first celebrated in 1992 and this year it was on December 03) designed to recognize visible and invisible disabilities, to promote the importance of inclusion in life and the workplace. This annual event labelled World Disability Day is hosted by the United Nations and encourages business leaders across the globe to value the unique contributions of disabled people. Societies around the globe are encouraged to host a training session to create change in the workplace to ensure all employees understand the importance of accessibility to cultivate an inclusive culture.

5 Benefits of Disability Awareness Training:

1. Improve Customer Service: Employees who recognise different conditions will better serve your customers, who may have such disorders.
2. Learn the Legal Requirements: Reduce the risk of legal implications or unfair treatment by learning about the Equality Act 2010.
3. Encourage Open Communication: Disabled people live with their conditions every day, so training can supply wellbeing support through open communication.
4. Transform Perceptions: Reduce unconscious bias and misinformation through an informative training session, which informs your able-bodied staff.
5. Validate Disabled Staff: A training session shows disabled employees that their feelings, experiences, and struggles are valid.

Tennis Canada Year



We have sponsored the wheelchair tennis events this year with Tennis Canada and the final one for 2023 was last weekend in Montreal. We take this opportunity to thank Paul Pepin who assisted with tire

changes and any work that needed to be done to keep the athletes competitive.

For an outsider to the sport, it would appear that there is a lot of work to do in classification to make the sport fair and equitable for all competitors if the objective is to grow the sport. Currently, there are two classes in both men's and women's divisions, Quad and Open. It is apparent to Joe Blow that such a wide range of working muscle groups would certainly make it easier for those with less physical impairment to excel, all things being equal, and discouraging to those that feel as a T-5 lesion they do not have a chance to compete against a single below knee amputee or a C6 quad to a C7. But, like all sport designed for people with a disability, the key to classification is a physical impairment, not the sport, and it has to keep them from competing in the other version of their sport that was created for all but is better known as sport for people without some sort of physical impairment or more frequently called able bodied. Regardless of the inequities, we have appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with a number of the folks from all events east to west including Saint-Hyacinthe, Montreal, Toronto, Kamloops, Vancouver, Fredericton, St. Catharines, Windsor, and Halifax. We give a special shout out to Clary, Derek, Paul, Jessica, McDonalds, Motion, Nik, Marie, and Neuf to keep everyone rolling.

Spinergy ZX-1

We await an official letter on the discontinuation of this product, but that is why you do not see any information about the ZX-1 on the new www.Spinergy.com website. The last unit was shipped on or around October 31, 2023, and Spinergy has confirmed they will continue support for the products in the field for years to come as required by medical device regulations but would no longer accept orders for it. This is an unfortunate development as the product meets the need for a lot of end users. The opportunity to refresh Pat's (founder) original concept was there but the economics of it did not meet expectations as we understand it. We hope that the product will have another day to shine as the ZX-2 for both end user and attendant driven, but for now the ZX-1 is no longer available.

Permobil CF



After purchasing Panthera and Progeo in Europe, Permobil may not be bringing Jalle's Panthera or Luciano and Leonardo's Progeo into North America, but they have introduced a product that looks like another generation to the product lines noted

above. They have introduced the TiLite CR1 that is a carbon fibre entry to the ultra light category with Key features with exceptionally lightweight frames, ± 1" Center of Gravity fine tuning adjustment, Integrated fold-down backrest for easy transport, and bespoke builds just for you. This unit will start out at \$10,816.00 equipped with Spinergy Spox and other items that are usually extra cost on other builds.

Sunrise Medical CF



The first bespoke Carbon Fibre chair was introduced earlier this year by Sunrise Medical with their Veypr Sub 4 manufactured by RGK Wheelchairs a company they had purchased a few years ago. This unit is presented as

extremely lightweight as well. It starts out at a mere \$21,134.00 with standard Spinergy BLXL blade wheels and other parts and pieces that are often extra cost on other builds in this category.

Batec New Web Site

Batec has been hard at work perfecting their industry standard Class 1 medical devices meeting all Medical Device Regulation (MDR) requirements and moving forward with new projects and a new web site that you can see here at www.Batec-Mobility.com .

Bits and Bytes

- 49 NWBA HOF Nominations Deadline Dec 17;
- 49 49 Bespoke Closed December 23-January 2, 2024;
- 49 REE March 5, 2024, Richmond Olympic Oval, BC;
- 49 CAOT Conference May 1-3, 2024, Halifax, NS.

BESPOKE PLUS is the newsletter of 49 Bespoke Inc., which markets products from around the world designed to better meet the needs of people with a disability.

We have grown up in sport, have a social service background, and have adopted an advocacy role in our business practice. **Comments are welcome.**