



# BESPOKEPLUS



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

## ISS - International Seating

The 36th International Seating Symposium (ISS) will be held March 3-6, 2020 at The Westin Bayshore, Vancouver, BC, Canada.



ISS addresses current and emerging developments in seating, positioning, and mobility. Topic areas include service delivery, product development, research, and outcomes.

The format for the symposium includes pre-symposium, plenary, instructional, paper and poster sessions. The goal is to provide extensive opportunities for networking with colleagues in the industry. We are pleased to be involved in providing some equipment for a session referred to as: "Power Your Ride: Extending the capacity of a manual wheelchair.

There will be equipment there from a number of different manufacturers (and probably a ton more next year as the front power add on equipment takes off) and we support the work of Jo-anne Chisholm and Joanne Yip (Presenters) with product from Batec Mobility, Benoit Systemes, Spinergy ZX-1, and Cheelcare's Companion to have attendee's experience what they have to offer. These will be showcased in the afternoon session on March 3 and I am sure we will also see the Max-Mobility Smartdrive, Invacare Smoov, Klaxson, TriRide, and a host of other products (maybe even Amp Mobility) striving to better meet the needs for folks in manual wheelchairs!



## VARILITE at ISS

We are pleased to have the opportunity to represent Cascade Designs Varilite Division at ISS this year and look

forward to greeting folks at Booth 18-19 and I will enjoy the company of Marlene, Amanda, along with stealing some time from Andrea, Regina, and Mike.

We will have all the seating available to check out (Evolution, Evolution Wave, Meridian, Meridian Wave, Zoid, Stratus, ProForm NX, Stratus, along with accessories) and of course the two-point hardware for the (ICON Backs Low, Mid, Tall, and Deep). We will also have the Junior line of products there along with the other seating system accessories. Please put us on your "stop by" list and check us out!



VARILITE® products are self-inflating! We reiterate this over and over at in services as we inevitably have people express in amazement "how does it do that" as if it were magic!

VARILITE® manufactures and markets innovative, light weight, user-friendly postural support systems. Their cushions come in widths from 10" to 24" and are tested to 750 pounds in the largest sizes. Their "Air-Foam Floatation Technology" combines the best characteristics of air and foam which excel in meeting and exceeding end user and prescriber expectations in **Pressure distribution, Postural support, Vibration reduction, Light weight, and Low maintenance.**

## Matia Robotics TEK RMD



It is understood that standing at least five times a week improves bone density, digestion, bladder and bowel function, circulation, and respiratory function.

Also, standing may improve a person's outlook and physiological well being. Now, the new Tek RMD will be available in Canada and it

will allow the user to be in an upright position while leaving

their hands and arms free. This allows more freedom and independence to perform daily tasks, while improving health and overall wellbeing. We will be showcasing this product at upcoming events; change your perspective and not your home! <https://matiarobotics.com/>

## Velo Chair at Abilities



VeloChair® is a new option in personal mobility. People are traditionally offered a walker, conventional wheelchair, or electric scooter if they are experiencing difficulty getting from

A to B. The VeloChair® offers an alternative. People with limited balance and/or muscle strength will have the advantage with a VeloChair® of moving freely indoors or out without assistance while gaining exercise and independence. VeloChair® users include people who have had a stroke, a person with Parkinson, MS, Neuropathy, SCI, or other challenges. VeloChair® will enhance individual users' abilities and make going places fun again. To learn more, visit on-line [www.myvelochair.com](http://www.myvelochair.com)!

## IPC & IWBF Classification

This controversy over classification may not even be an issue if the coronavirus is not successfully dealt with as the Olympics and Paralympics may be in jeopardy. July 24<sup>th</sup> to September 06<sup>th</sup> will be a busy time in Japan when they host the Olympics and the Paralympics amid a Coronavirus (Covid-19) scare that is yet to be corralled and has demanded the focus of all governments in the world.

All major sporting events have infectious disease issues to deal with simply because you have so many people converging on a small area from around the world. Over 200 countries, 15,400 athletes, and 600,000 to 900,000 friends, relatives, fans, etc., will converge on one major city and three prefectures on 13,555 square kilometers of land! Combine that with the 40,000,000 people who live there it is fair to say that it will be a congested area and if Covid-19 is still a big issue there may be an unprecedented case of cancelling or postponing the Olympic and Paralympic Games (the only time that has happened in Olympics history is because of World War I and II and since the World Wars were a big contributor to the Paralympic movement those games evolved from 1960 on growing into a more parallel movement since 1988 but



have never had games cancelled, just rearranged and split between cities, countries, or continents on occasion). We all hope the powers that be will get a handle on this virus and the games will go on without a hitch; IWBF will have to get their paperwork in order to ensure that their sport is in the games and all their athletes are eligible.

## CFPDP Corporate Boards



A seat on the Corporate Board for Canadians with disabilities (CWD) is an important project undertaken by the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP). The project is well advanced with a Selection Board of 11 CEO's and Senior Executives of major corporations and a large pool of qualified CWD's. The CFPDP is launching a campaign to write to 500 top corporations in Canada, challenging them to find a seat on their board table for qualified CWD's. CFPDP is also partnering with the Globe & Mail on a media campaign.

Including a person with a disability on a board is not a charitable act – there is ample evidence showing that it's good for business. If they've risen to the top in their professional roles and have the right qualifications for appointment to a board, they are very likely to have what it takes to be a strong board asset. To be a champion of diversity and inclusion, one must include CWD's. **The tone is always set at the top!**

## Bits and Bytes

- 49 [Medtrade](#) March 3-5, 2020 Las Vegas, NV;
- 49 [36<sup>th</sup> ISS](#) March 3-6, 2020 Vancouver, BC;
- 49 [20<sup>th</sup> HHPC](#) Oakville April 15-16, 2020;
- 49 [Abilities Expo](#) May 1-3, 2020 New York, NY;
- 49 [CSMC 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary](#) May 5-6, 2020 Toronto, ON;
- 49 [CAOT](#) May 6-9, 2020 Saskatoon, SK;
- 49 [NBANH](#) May 13-14, 2020 in Moncton, NB;
- 49 [ENABLE/AccessABLE Carleton/ILC](#) May 26, Ottawa;
- 49 [Abilities Expo](#) May 29-31, 2020 Toronto, ON;
- 49 [European Seating Conf](#) June 9-12, Dublin, Ireland;
- 49 [Paralympic Games](#) Aug 25-Sept 6 Tokyo, Japan;
- 49 [Rehab Equip Expo](#) Richmond, BC Sept 15, 2020;
- 49 [Access Expo](#) Sept 18-19, 2020 VV, Toronto, ON;
- 49 [Rehacare](#), Dusseldorf, Germany Sept 23-26.

**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.**