

## Dzień dobry

Adapted Physical Activity at a Crossroads: The Future of our Profession

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7TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF APA  
"THEORY AND PRACTICE OF APA" AT THE  
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY IN LUBLIN



POLSKIE  
TOWARZYSTWO  
NAUKOWE  
ADAPTOWANEJ  
AKTYWNOŚCI  
FIZYCZNEJ



## Calgary, Canada





# Background



Adapted  
Physical  
Activity at a  
Crossroads:  
The Future of  
our Profession

- ▶ Block, M. E. (1999). Did we jump on the wrong bandwagon? Problems with inclusion in physical education. *Palaestra*, 15(3), 30–36; 55–56.



## Challenges

- ▶ inclusion being seen as a cause
- ▶ addressed from the program level versus the child advocacy perspective
- ▶ pushed by myopic zealots versus reasonable debates
- ▶ a disregard for parent or child preference



## Assumptions

physical education class sizes would mirror those of other classes

teachers were appropriately trained to teach PE and more specifically adapted PE

teachers were willing to take on the challenge and/or opportunity of including children with disabilities

most PE programs were already of high quality with individualized instruction in place



### INTERNATIONAL SCENE

#### G. Lawrence Rarick Memorial Lecture, ISAPA Conference 2019

David Legg  
Mount Royal University



In 2019, I was honoured to provide the G. Lawrence Rarick Memorial Lecture at the International Symposium of Adapted Physical Activity (ISAPA) at the University of Virginia hosted by my friend and mentor, Dr. Martin Black. At that time I was the incoming president of the International Federation of Adapted Physical Activity (IFAPA), and delivering the address was both a humbling honour and also anxiety inducing. In the audience were FOUR past presidents of IFAPA.

The G. Lawrence Rarick Memorial Lecture was created in 1987 to honour G. Lawrence Rarick, a professor emeritus of human biomechanics at the University of California who specialised in researching the motor skills of children with disabilities, and who passed away in 1995. During a long academic career that included stops at Wichita State University,

the University of Wisconsin, and UC Berkeley, Professor Rarick helped to change the way society looked at children living with disability. The first Rarick lecture was delivered at the 1999 ISAPA conference in Barcelona by another Canadian, Dr. Bob Shephard.

The title I choose for 2019 was Olympic and Paralympic Games: Converging or Diverging? Will the relationship between the two Games and movements evolve? Will it remain the same, will it diverge, separating them, or will it converge, merging them closer together? I decided to focus on sport for this presentation, in part, because of personal experiences including my volunteer background and professional opportunities but also because I considered it to be an important and meaningful conversation. When I delivered the lecture, it had only been a few days following the Toronto Raptors winning the National Basketball Association championship, their first, and for me as a Canadian something I related. My middle son who was 16 years old at the time sent me a text following the game (wholly sadly we were not able to watch together due to me travelling) said it was the best day of his life. This reminded me that sport matters and it provides us with opportunities to have conversations about larger issues such as inclusion which are obviously relevant in an APA context.

It is clearly difficult future forecasting. Returning to the Raptors, a year prior I would have been hard pressed to predict that they would be the NBA champions. Nonetheless for the purposes of this presentation, I tried to foresee the future relationship of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and International Paralympic Committee (IPC) based on evidence, observation, intuition, and spider sense while also acknowledging many blind spots and assumptions.

To start my lecture, I decided that the best place to begin is "to begin." I thus begin with my own story to give some context to my observations. I wanted to reveal my biases and tell a bit about my own story. My father had a disability (multiple sclerosis), and while he wasn't a great athlete as a person with a disability, he did love sport and that is likely where my love of adapted sport began. I have been fortunate to work with some outstanding colleagues and mentors including Laura Munster, David Howe both from Western University, Eli Wolff, Mary Humes and Ted Fox, Colleen Higgs and Yves Vanlanduyt, and certainly Robert Steadward, who was my supervisor at the University of Alberta and the founding President of the IPC. While there I had a chance to work alongside with a number of outstanding graduate students and for all of these individuals and many others, I did not name I am grateful and thankful.



Is now the  
right time to  
jump on the  
bandwagon?

Social  
Trends

Inclusion

Partnerships

Handicapitalism

Sport





## Inclusion



Is disability the forgotten 'Marginalized Population'?

# Calgary Commonwealth Games 2030 Bid

- ▶ Business and Economic Development
- ▶ Facility Legacies
- ▶ Indigenous Reconciliation
- ▶ Sport and Healthy Living
- ▶ Arts and Culture
- ▶ Multicultural Inclusion
- ▶ Youth Talent Attraction and Retention



# Handicapitalism

## Partnerships



#WeThe15



**GLOBAL  
CITIZEN.**



## Handicapitalism: Corporate



## Handicapitalism / Customers

- ▶ SilverTsunami
- ▶ The Valuable 500
  - ▶ <https://www.thevaluable500.com/>
- ▶ Firms 'lose trillions' by ignoring consumers with disabilities
  - ▶ <https://www-bbc-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/www.bbc.com/news/business-57155304.amp>



Handicapitalism:  
Customer

Handicapitalism /  
Staffing

**Deloitte.**

**accenture**

McKinsey  
& Company

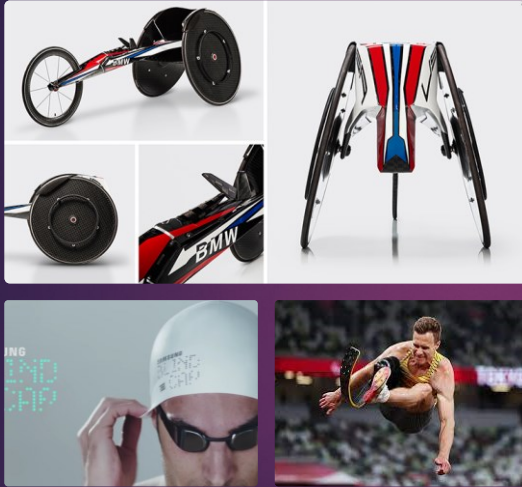
WORLD  
ECONOMIC  
FORUM

Handicapitalism / Staffing

- ▶ CBC National News
  - ▶ Business owner makes money by hiring disabled workers
- ▶ Globe and Mail Newspaper
  - ▶ Better workplace accessibility for Canadians with disabilities would boost economic growth

**THE  
GLOBE  
AND  
MAIL**





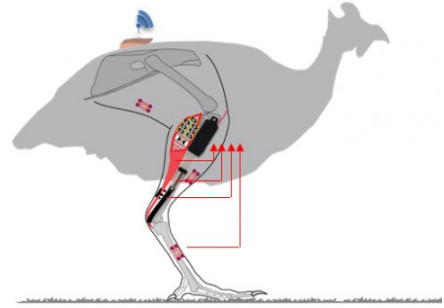
## Handicapitalism: Technology / High Performance



## Handicapitalism: Technology/Recreation

## Handicapitalism: Technology - the future

- ▶ Robots
- ▶ AI
- ▶ 3d Printing
- ▶ Virtual Reality
- ▶ Avatars



## Sport

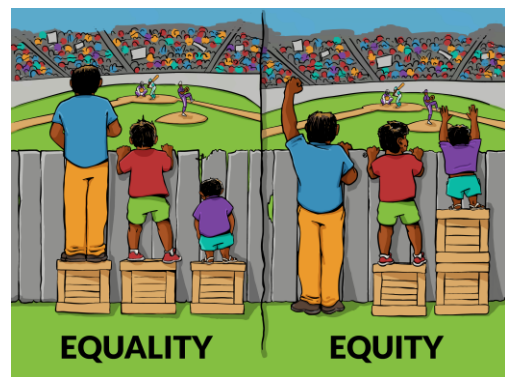
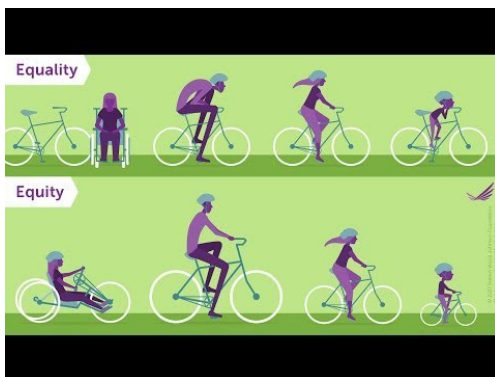
- ▶ Canada Games
- ▶ Paralympic / Olympic Games
- ▶ Commonwealth Games
- ▶ USOPC



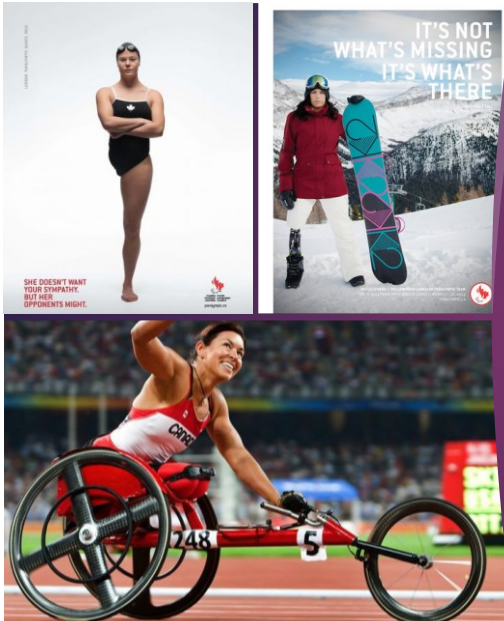
## Unintended Consequences

Treating everyone the same is not necessarily treating everyone fairly.

Only certain disabilities







# All Disabilities?



# Call to Action



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