



**SOBEYS STADIUM**  
1 Shoreham Dr, Suite 100  
Toronto ON M3N 3A6  
T. 416.665.9777

**STADE IGA**  
285, rue Gary-Carter  
Montréal QC H2R 2W1  
T. 514.273.1234

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **TENNIS CANADA LAUNCHES THE WHEELCHAIR TENNIS WHOLE PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY**

***Holistic, first-of-its-kind pathway includes seven stages and five entry points designed to ensure participants enjoy wheelchair tennis for life***

**[TORONTO, ON] October 17, 2024** – Tennis Canada today unveiled the *Wheelchair Tennis Whole Player Development Pathway (WTWPDP)*, a player development guide with the aim of fostering lifelong passion for and participation in wheelchair tennis. Following the launch of the [Whole Player Development Pathway \(WPDP\)](#) last November, the WTWPDP underscores Tennis Canada's vision to be a world-leading tennis nation in all facets of the sport.

The pathway nurtures excellence both on and off the court, reinforcing that long-term development is important to sport performance and a commitment to physical activity, mental and physical health and wellness for life. Like the WPDP, it is built around seven distinct stages of development, acting as a blueprint for a user's first experience on-court to the pinnacle of wheelchair tennis, all while facilitating a safe, positive and inclusive environment. The seven stages are:

1. **Discovery:** Building awareness of wheelchair tennis
2. **Active Start:** Trying wheelchair tennis
3. **Fundamentals:** Establishing the foundations to play and compete
4. **Development:** Fueling passion and developing sound technique
5. **Consolidation:** Emphasizing tactics and focusing on specific tasks
6. **Performance:** Training with intensity and emphasizing physical development
7. **Life as a Pro:** Achieving high performance and sport-life balance

"The Wheelchair Tennis Whole Player Development Pathway by Tennis Canada is the culmination of lots of hard work, dedication and passion for wheelchair tennis," said Guillaume Marx, Vice President of High Performance at Tennis Canada. "This is an innovative, holistic pathway that aims not only to develop great athletes, but also great people. I would like to thank our national lead and national coaches of wheelchair tennis, the many world-class leaders, consultants and experts for their input, as well as acknowledge the private sector coaches, academies and our Provincial and Territorial Tennis Associations, wheelchair sport association partners and the Canadian Paralympic Committee."

The WTWPDP launches at a time when Canadian wheelchair tennis athletes are excelling on the world stage. British Columbian and 2019 Parapan Am Gold medalist Rob Shaw is ranked No. 7 in the world in quad singles and reached the quarter-finals of the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games, losing to eventual gold medalist and world No. 2 Niels Vink of the Netherlands. Meanwhile, 18-year-old Frederique Berube Perron of Quebec became the first Canadian ever to compete in a junior wheelchair tennis Grand Slam at the US Open, reaching the semi-finals in September.

"The Wheelchair Tennis Whole Player Development Pathway might be the most intriguing development that has occurred since I started playing the sport," Shaw said. "This document will ensure that wheelchair tennis players in Canada have the guidance, structure, and support they need at the right



**SOBEYS STADIUM**  
1 Shoreham Dr, Suite 100  
Toronto ON M3N 3A6  
T. 416.665.9777

**STADE IGA**  
285, rue Gary-Carter  
Montréal QC H2R 2W1  
T. 514.273.1234

times during their tennis journey. I anticipate that because of this document, we are going to have way more wheelchair tennis players fulfilling their potential which is extremely exciting.”

The rollout of the pathway coincides with this week’s 2024 Birmingham National Wheelchair Tennis Championships, Canada’s flagship national wheelchair tennis event, in Bedford, Nova Scotia from October 17-20. Click [here](#) to view the entry list.

### **THE FIVE ENTRY POINTS OF THE WTWPDP**

A player’s journey through each stage of development is influenced by many factors, from the age at which they started playing wheelchair tennis to the level of their physical impairment and previous wheelchair sport experience. Other factors like intrinsic motivation, work ethic, goal setting, health, lifestyle and a players’ support system are also vital. The WTWPDP’s holistic approach, which identifies five entry points, ensures there is a route for anyone into the sport.

Its framework is also designed around the 5C’s of coaching that develop a well-balanced player and individual: **Culture; Character; Confidence; Connection; Competence.**

For more information about the WTWPDP, please click [here](#).  
To consult the WTWPDP in full, please click [here](#).

### **About Tennis Canada**

Founded in 1890, Tennis Canada is a non-profit, national sport association with a mission to lead the growth, development and promotion of tennis in Canada and a vision to be a world-leading tennis nation. We value teamwork, passion, integrity, innovation and excellence. Tennis Canada owns and operates the premier National Bank Open presented by Rogers WTA and ATP Tour events, four professional ATP and ITF sanctioned events and financially supports four other professional tournaments in Canada. Tennis Canada operates junior national training centres/programs in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. Tennis Canada is a proud member of the International Tennis Federation, the Canadian Olympic Committee and the Canadian Paralympic Committee, and serves to administer, sponsor and select the teams for Davis Cup, Billie Jean King Cup, the Olympic and Paralympic Games and all wheelchair, junior and senior national teams. Tennis Canada invests its surplus into tennis development. For more information on Tennis Canada please visit our website at: [www.tenniscanada.com](http://www.tenniscanada.com) and follow us on LinkedIn, X, Facebook and Instagram.

-30-

### **Media Contacts**

Oliver Wheeler  
Senior Manager, Communications  
[owheeler@tenniscanada.com](mailto:owheeler@tenniscanada.com)  
+1 (647) 458-4005



**SOBEYS STADIUM**  
1 Shoreham Dr, Suite 100  
Toronto ON M3N 3A6  
T. 416.665.9777

**STADE IGA**  
285, rue Gary-Carter  
Montréal QC H2R 2W1  
T. 514.273.1234

