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Recognizing Parasport Impacts: Ripples, Waves, and Echoes

Adam J. Purdy, *The University of Western Ontario*

Supervisor: Misener, Laura, *The University of Western Ontario*

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Abstract

Major Games such as the 2015 Parapan American Games in Toronto (TO2015) generate the potential to bring awareness to sport participation opportunities for people with impairment (Chalip et al., 2017). In the post-games era, it is important to examine the ways in which sport program managers recognize the outcomes of games-related leveraging initiatives. Teleconference interviews were conducted with twelve program managers in the Greater Toronto Area. The study followed an interpretive descriptive methodology and employed a theoretical construct of recognition as a novel approach to assess legacy and the social impacts of hosting parasport games. A form of thematic analysis was used to interpret interview data and bring to surface the perspectives and attitudes of sport program managers. The knowledge acquired from this study suggests that a concept of recognition can support the assessment of the long-term impacts of hosting major games.

Keywords

Recognition, Impairment, Sport, Parasport Events, Social Impact, Leveraging, Social Philosophy

Summary for Lay Audience

Major parasport games generate the potential to bring awareness to sport participation opportunities for people with impairment (Chalip et al., 2017). Parasport games planners assume that through the hosting process, a level of awareness was generated towards the event by means of leveraging initiatives, program adaptations, and venue accommodations (Taks et al., 2014). In the post-games era, it is important to examine the ways in which sport program managers recognize the outcomes of games-related leveraging initiatives. This research employed a theoretical construct of recognition as a novel approach to assess the event legacy and the social impacts of hosting parasport games. The legacy of a set of major parasport games can be expressed in the continued recognition of impairment within the sport community. Any ongoing recognition of parasport in the legacy outcomes of major sport events implies that there is an esteemed value through a mutual and embraced idea of sport as being an impetus for positive social change (Honneth, 1996; Silvers, 1999).

Teleconference interviews were conducted with twelve program managers in the Greater Toronto Area. The study followed an interpretive descriptive approach and applied a novel concept of recognition as a guiding framework to the areas of parasport and event legacy. Interpretive description views the research problem as residing within two or more conceptual, action and value related factors (Thorne, 2008). This research study looked to go beyond what could simply be remembered from the games hosting timeframe and focused on areas associated with the recognition of parasport. Areas such as facility adaptations, programming accommodations and the overall sociocultural impact of an event that was hosted 6-years ago. A form of critical thematic analysis was used to identify the social structures and attitudes that promoted an ongoing recognition of impairment in the post-event era, while bringing to surface the perspectives and attitudes of parasport managers. The

knowledge acquired from this study suggests that a concept of recognition can support the assessment the long-term impacts of hosting major games.

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Chapter 1

1 Introduction

The concept of recognition can have many different meanings depending on the applied perspective. In the context of this thesis which focused on the impacts of major parasport games, to recognize means to employ a value judgement to the individual and collective rights of an identified sociocultural segment i.e., people with physical or intellectual impairment (Fraser & Honneth, 2003). Recognizing the rights of a particular group requires a fundamental level of respect and legitimacy of the identity and relationships between the recognizers and recognized. Recognizers being those who observe a culture from outside the identified group, and the recognized being those who operate within the identified culture. When the collective group and its constituents are recognized through various forms of participation, whether it be socially, culturally, economically, or politically; the identity of the group and its members begins to cultivate greater self-worth (love), self-respect (rights) and self-esteem (solidarity) (Honneth, 1996). It is these three patterns of recognition which lay the foundation for this study on parasport event legacy and the social impacts of sport for athletes with impairment.

The study focused on the event legacy of the 2015 Toronto Parapan American Games (TO2015). The event was also the focus of earlier studies (Misener et al., 2019) as a case study comparing the leveraging approaches of the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games and TO2015. Studying the legacy of TO2015 provided an exclusive opportunity to incorporate an athlete-researcher perspective into understanding the ongoing impacts of TO2015.

It is important to note that the language used in this thesis attempted to align with the preferred terminology as defined by the International Paralympic Committee (*Guide to Reporting on Persons with an Impairment*, 2014). “Disability” in the Paralympic context is considered to be somewhat of a derogatory social generalization, a term that implies an inability to perform. With Paralympic sport focusing on the abilities of athletes, this research made use of the word impairment which instead, placed greater emphasis on the individual athlete’s physical embodiment, on and above the notion of “disability”, as related to the collective, socially imposed constraints.

1.1 Study rationale

Recognition is apparent in almost every aspect of our day-to-day lives. For example, if an intellectual concern or error in judgement is acknowledged e.g., “oops sorry”, or through a display of ignorance towards a belief structure e.g., religious faux pas. Recognition can take the form of simply identifying familiar people while on a walk through a hallway. Recognition also takes the form of respecting or acknowledging a person’s status, their accolades, or achievements. Each one of these components of recognition is fundamentally about social value and levels of respect that exist within interactions among distinct social groups (Silvers, 1999). But what does it mean to “recognize impairment” in the post TO2015 games era, and in the ongoing delivery of sport programs and services? This question took aim at the ways in which sport stakeholders and program managers involved in parasport legacy initiatives recognized the need to adapt (i.e., attitudes, opinions, perspectives) or accommodate (i.e., a program structure e.g., coaching education; or physical infrastructure e.g., universal design) to event patrons seeking a form of ongoing participation.

Now 6-years after the hosting of the 2015 Parapan American Games, this research presented an opportunity to explore the games legacy and long-term outcomes. The continued recognition of legacy related adaptations or accommodations can indicate that there is value in the shared and “embraced idea” towards the importance of change in the delivery of a program or service (Silvers, 1999). The recognition of parasport legacy is about the continued momentum to enhance all levels of the parasport movement from the individual to the community, and to the culture of people with impairment. This research focuses on how managers in sport *recognize* impairment and disability associated with the legacies of the Games within their community. Sport managers are in a position to consider the best practices of inclusion, accessibility, and participation as they relate to Games impacts. Sport managers have the power to influence policy directives or spark social change while seeking out improvements around the recognition of parasport athletes in the ongoing development of parasport programming.

The disability rights movement is linked to other social developments that strive for emancipatory recognition e.g., gender or racially marginalized groups. Researching recognition as a concept in sport management provides a unique outlook for researchers to critically explore whether sport administrators and program managers have gone “beyond the ramp” in their attitudes towards the value of parasport and in the delivery of associated programming and accessibility services. Thus, this area of research is conceptual in nature and adopts a critical viewpoint towards the notion of recognition, respect, and a collective solidarity through sport participation.

The purpose of this research study was to explore the lasting social impacts of major games that are focused on a parasport agenda. Through the hosting process, major

parasport games such as the 2015 Parapan American Games had the potential to bring awareness and recognition to sport participation programs for people living with impairment (Chalip et al., 2017). An event of this magnitude offered a timely occasion to highlight disability rights and forefront sport for persons with impairment. Games planners and sport managers can use the event momentum to offer a level of recognition not always apparent, especially when parasport events often take place within the coattails of an able-bodied event e.g., 2015 Pan American Games. Strategic approaches to use the event for broader social outcomes have the potential to extend this level of recognition into the programming, facility structures, administrative environments, and influence the attitudes of sport stakeholders. What remains poorly understood is what these post-games impacts look like and how they are perceived among sport managers. Specifically, my interest was in understanding how the recognition of impairment in sport and recreation programming extended beyond the set of games. Thus, this research is about recognizing a critical consciousness towards the games-related impacts and outcomes, specifically for the next-generation of sport leaders, administrators, and event-planners. Recognition in this critical context is about the process of illumination, shedding light on the areas of parasport games hosting and development that will have potential for positive social change and carry a continued momentum into the future.

By studying the 2015 Parapan American Games, I found myself in a unique opportunity to investigate a concept of recognition and its affiliation to ongoing parasport participation initiatives stemming from the games. It was to me a unique occasion, as I was also a participant in the set of games in which I was currently investigating. My focus was to investigate how programs and opportunities associated with the legacy of

the 2015 Parapan Games recognize impairment. To do so, I interviewed sport managers who oversee programs that are designed to engage people with an impairment in local legacy sport and recreation programs/facilities. My aim was to capture the perspectives and viewpoints of individuals e.g., facility staff, administrative program directors, games time volunteers and former athlete / coaches, who were involved with legacy initiatives (as set-in motion by the 2015 Parapan American Games). Thus my central research question was: How do sport program managers affiliated with the hosting of the 2015 Parapan American Games recognize the games legacy? There were three specific objectives of this research:

1. To investigate a concept of recognition as an ideology in the field of sport management.
2. To explore how games-time adaptations and accommodations for disability programming was recognized in post-event sport participation initiatives.
3. To gain a deeper understanding of how games-related legacies and impacts are recognized and maintained by sport program managers.

My research study intended to contribute to an existing SSHRC/Sport Canada Research Participation Initiative funded Parasport Impact study, as directed by principal investigator and graduate supervisor, Dr. Laura Misener. This study aimed to make some theoretical and practical contributions to the field of sport leadership and the area of social impact of parasport. Supporting the event legacy scholarship of Misener et al., 2013, 2019; Misener & Mason, 2010, I intended to shed some light on a novel concept stemming from social philosophy, one that is within critical disability theory.

New facilities and major renovations are obvious legacies, the urban goliaths which most people can immediately recognize, but what about the actual impact on sport programming, ongoing facility operations, and the impacts to perceptions of parasport within a community? This research allowed me to explore the attitudes and experiences of program managers who had a connection to the 2015 Parapan American Games, and who were involved in some form of outcome stemming from the games. My data analysis provided a holistic understanding of the social impact of the 2015 Parapan American Games.

1.2 Researcher positionality

Reflecting on my position as researcher in the context of this study, it is relevant to state that certain aspects of my own personal and sport identities have influence the study and findings. This reflexive piece is meant to support and frame the research design around the narrative of impairment within the sport management and leadership field. Born with a congenital birth defect called arthrogryposis multiplex congenita (AMC), I have come to recognize impairment in many ways. In my younger years, my understanding of impairment was tied heavily to the medical model. Doctor appointments, surgeries, assistive devices, and children's rehabilitation centers all provided me with an early look into how the process of enabling a "disabled" body is primarily a restorative function of the medical community. Through the medical system, I was introduced to rehabilitation that incorporated hydrotherapy, and this ignited a passion for the sport of swimming. The physical limitations of my body (e.g., wrist contractures, lack of biceps, and two club feet) meant that I looked different, swam differently, and possessed different needs when training and competing with my peers. My participation

on a competitive swim team required that certain adaptations and accommodations needed to be considered both in the water and in the administrative programming of the club. At this point, I came to understand how impairment can be political in nature.

My physical limitations affiliated with AMC also qualified me as eligible for Paralympic classification. With all the measuring and calculating of the Paralympic classification assessment process, I was introduced to other athletes possessing similar levels of ability, and competed in S6, SB6, SM6 category. Those in the S1-S5 being more physically limited, and those above (S7-S10) possessing lesser functional limitations. This hierarchy within the classification structure has always fascinated me in its ability to create boundaries and present different perceptions of athleticism among the various impairment types. The lower the classification the more adaptation and accommodation was needed in order to incorporate these athletes into an event agenda. The higher the classification, the more of an obvious disconnect to the lower classifications. Sport participation helped me to realize how impairment is sociocultural in its nature.

The sport participation pathways for individuals with physical and intellectual impairments can commence at various entry points (e.g., sport exposure through rehabilitation). To be able to identify and target athletes with impairment who show interest in a career in parasport, sport managers and administrators need to recognize the areas of service delivery and decision making where simple adaptations and accommodations to access can be met, in order to best support the athlete. Thus, this research sought to explore the impacts of TO2015-inspired legacy initiatives and programs, specifically those designed for the individual (e.g., athlete or coach), the

community (e.g., the facility and sport infrastructure) and the collective (e.g., people with impairment and the overall parasport movement).

For the high-performance parasport athlete this pathway culminates in the signature event, the Paralympic Games. My passion for sport enabled me to compete in three sets of Paralympic Games and five-sets of world championships. I retired from competitive swimming in 2006 and returned to the pool in 2013 when I caught word that Toronto was to host the 2015 Parapan American Games. This international experience allowed me to witness and participate in the evolution of parasport, seeing change in the delivery of sport take place over two-decades of competition. During this time I competed often and, in some cases, under the shadows of ableist attitudes. More recently I have come to see how Canadian national sport organizations have gradually begun to “turn the lights on” for parasport athletes. I have been recognized (both respected and esteemed) locally, provincially, and nationally for my representation on Team Canada and personal accomplishments in the pool. This esteemed form of recognition is also a crucial part of the sport community and its ability to respect and see value in the athleticism of parasport.

After competing at TO2015, I retired from competitive swimming. In the years following my retirement, I decided to focus on areas of academic research that build upon the social impact of sport. It is my belief that when a major multi-sport set of games or international event that is parasport themed takes place, it presents stakeholders and the host community with a fertile opportunity to leverage outcomes that can go beyond the event and instill some form of positive social change. Parasport is collection of strong narratives and through my research, I have tapped into the ways in which impairment is

acknowledged and recognized in the Canadian sport delivery systems and event hosting landscape. Because of my unique relationship with the sporting community, my reflection and experience in sport is inherently visible in the research perspective and analysis. With my parasport history and personal experiences as a person with impairment, I have come to the opinion that the recognition of impairment in sport and major games is used as a tool to gain a greater leveraging foothold for broader social outcomes. Major games and event leveraging strategies that are structured around the notion of enhancing parasport awareness and recognition are both conceptual and action related; explicitly linked to stakeholder attitudes, policy directives, and sculpted by environmental and social constraints.

Fully understanding that my embodiment with impairment and my Paralympic participation history has influenced the ways in which my research was conducted, analysed, and reported, I nonetheless feel that this exploratory academic contribution is inherently important and relevant in the field. The theoretical implications of this research were to provide greater insight into the areas of parasport event hosting, event leveraging and outcomes, as well as in the broader field of program management and sport leadership.

Chapter 2

2 Literature review

In this chapter I explore literature to position this research study within the field of sport and event management. I explore the origins of sport for people with impairment and its connection to the hosting modern major parasport events. The second section looks at the concepts of associated with leveraging and legacy, while reflecting on how the hosting of major parasport events can leverage for greater social outcomes. Section three examines parasport participation as an outcome of recognized game-related leveraging strategies. Section four explores the conceptual framework of recognition as an ideology that was used to guide this study.

2.1 Recognized through rehabilitation

Elite sport competition evolved to include only the highest qualified and most-able athlete champions (DePauw & Gavron, 2005). Modern amateur sport events culminate in the celebratory event, the Olympic Games. As sport competition evolved, people with impairment could not compete on a parallel level with their able-bodied counterparts, but individuals still pursued the ability to participate in sport (Legg & Steadward, 2011). The social separation further widened the gap of exclusion for people with impairment (DePauw & Gavron, 2005). The vision of a parallel sport opportunity for people with impairment was noted in the early works of a prominent World War II doctor (Legg & Steadward, 2011). Understanding that sport, in its remedial form is exercise, and exercise promotes rehabilitation; Dr. Ludwig Guttmann recognized the health benefits of sport participation (Legg & Steadward, 2011). Guttmann viewed physical activity as a restorative function with benefits to the individual in the forms of

improving “physical fitness, strength, co-ordination, speed, endurance and overcoming fatigue” (Guttmann, 1976). Building on the health benefits of active participation, Guttmann identified that sport does not only have a positive psychological and rehabilitative impact, sport can also enhance the quality of life for persons with impairment by contributing to social integration (Guttmann, 1976).

The Stoke Mandeville Games held in England in 1948 laid the early foundations for today’s modern Paralympic movement (Legg & Steadward, 2011; Wedgwood, 2014). Guttmann’s original concept of sport as a remedial form of exercise for persons with impairment has expanded into a world-wide recognition for sport events for people with impairment (Steadward, Watkinson, & Wheeler, 2003. pp. 195). Jumping ahead 70 years since the inaugural games, sport for people with impairment has become more accepted and more mainstream.

The Commonwealth Games and the Parapan American Games are two international events that are inclusive of, or solely dedicated to athletes with impairment. These two major events make up the comparative cases within the scope of the principle research study (Misener et al., 2019). Whereas the Commonwealth Games have become an integrated major sporting event with both able-bodied and athletes with physical impairment making up the contingent; the Parapan American Games follow the Pan American Games and have delegations consisting of athletes with physical and intellectual impairments. Both of these major events happen every 4-years (offset from the Olympic and Paralympic years) and have contributed to the growth and awareness of a global parasport movement (Misener & Molloy, 2018). TO2015 was the fifth set of Parapan American Games in the history of hosting the event, welcoming approximately

1,600 athletes, representing 15 competitive parasports. TO2015 has been touted as a successfully hosted parasport event, one that effectively brought impairment and the recognition of parasport participation into the public conscience (Ontario Office of the Auditor General, 2016). TO2015 presented a research opportunity to explore a novel concept of recognition among leaders in the sport industry.

2.2 Leveraging vs. legacy

Local organizing committees will bring sport managers and stakeholders together to strategically plan for large-scale events. Organizing committee staff will engage with community residents, local businesses, and funding partners to maximize on the event exposure and provide a framework to increase the overall impacts and strategic outcomes (Taks et al., 2014). Impacts and outcomes can be viewed as distinct concepts in the literature. Where impacts tend to be more immediately connected to the games relating to the infrastructure, accessibility standards, economics, and general awareness initiatives; outcomes are viewed as the longer-term extensions of leveraging strategies, which generate a form of social change as a result of an initiative (Legg & Gilbert, 2011). Organizing and implementing major sporting events for people with impairment can present unique challenges for event planners (Misener & Molloy, 2018). Games-related leveraging strategies to engage the community can adopt narratives of accessibility awareness, bringing attention to parasport programming (Misener et al., 2019). Each strategic approach can influence social change within a community e.g., by means of creating new parasport grassroots initiatives, or improving accessibility within a games-related venue (Coakley & Dunning, 2006; Sherry et al., 2015).

Leveraging outcomes in this context, takes aim as the “strategic and planned use of the resources associated with hosting events in order to create new opportunities for locals and citizens most impacted by these projects” (Misener et al., 2019, p. 30). To reinforce this notion, Chalip (2017) has suggested that event leverage is not the same as event legacy and that these two terms are “differently focused”. Legacy concentrates “on the event and its elements” whereas leverage attempts to locate a “means to integrate each event into the host destination’s product and service mix...the focus is on strategy...Leveraging is about the strategic pursuit of targeted outcomes; legacy is not” (Hoye & Parent, 2017, p. 415). On the other side of the hosting “coin”, legacy outcomes are a broader concept consisting of all “planned and unplanned, positive and negative, intangible and tangible structures created by and for a sport event that remains for a longer time than the event itself” (Preuss, 2007, p. 211).

Societal preconceptions of impairment in sport can complicate the intentions of legacy outcomes that extend beyond the scope of the games (e.g., concepts of athleticism, media/broadcast engagement, and public uptake). Major parasport events often struggle with marketing strategies and awareness building campaigns (Misener, 2013; Misener & Darcy, 2014; Taks et al., 2018). Planning committees, sport organizations, non-governmental, and governmental organizations work to prepare major parasport events, striving for maximum public momentum in the lead-up to an event. However, ambitions and the event liminality will not always carry forth into the future (Chalip, 2006a). The intentions of event planners and games stakeholders tend to be overwhelmingly positive regarding the projected lasting impact of a set of games, while the legacy outcomes can have a limited shelf life as determined by the level of activation and momentum

following a set of games (Misener et al., 2015). With the limited shelf life of the organizing committee and gradual loss of games momentum among partners, it is difficult to define ownership of the lasting legacy – who is accountable to maintain games-related legacy initiatives and steer outcomes?

The 2015 Parapan American Games brought together over twenty-eight delegations to compete in fifteen sports over eight days of competition. This event involved twelve core venues, with services and programs covering the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), reaching Markham, Milton, Mississauga and Whitby, Ontario (Office of the Auditor General, Ontario, 2016). The municipalities had concerted leveraging visions and projected efforts towards increasing parasport participation (Misener et al., 2019). To further support the municipal leveraging efforts, the Ontario Parasport Legacy Group (also a legacy of TO2015), had specific activation initiatives working in conjunction with local sport and recreation centers, the Canadian Paralympic Committee, and other non-governmental organizations.

The success and challenges of each of activation activity were determined by how much a municipality could rely on the games as a catalyst for to continue with the momentum of a desired outcome. The central themes emphasised: a) Accessible facilities, b) Training and Development, c) Grassroot Parasport development, and d) Volunteer Recruitment (Misener et al. 2015). The inherent challenge in maximizing the momentum of the outcomes was in sustaining close partnerships between all stakeholders e.g., Municipal, Provincial, National, Governmental, Non-governmental and International levels, as well as defining ownership of initiatives and outcomes (Misener & Molloy,

2018). Improved recognition and awareness of parasport has the capability to sustain and enhance legacy impacts and ongoing initiatives.

Chalip's (2017) research of event leveraging has identified that follow-up on the documented areas of potential impact stemming from a major set of games is imperative. With great ideas of promoting development and further growth within the host municipalities, organizers will often endorse ideals of social cohesion, inclusion, diversity and accessibility by making claims of the long-term impacts that the event legacy will have on the local sport development and ongoing improvement of the quality of life for people with an impairment (Taks et al., 2014). It is important, yet challenging, for organizations to follow through on the projected outcomes of these leveraging strategies and initiatives (Chalip, 2006). Parasport participation initiatives, strategies and outcomes work to enrich the lives of young aspiring athletes through active sport participation (DePauw & Gavron, 2005). The 2015 Parapan American Games presented an occasion to showcase the commitment to the development and promotion of a greater awareness and recognition of sport opportunities for people with impairment, as well as in the identification of aspiring parasport athletes.

2.3 Parasport participation

It takes a concerted effort to identify young aspiring athletes with an impairment (Dehghansai & Baker, 2020). Simply possessing a physical or intellectual limitation and having an interest in sport participation, does not mean that an individual will continue through the sport system. There are additional challenges around venue accessibility, transport, and athlete/coach alignment within offered sport programs and the available support staff. Growing parasport participation means thinking critically and taking

strategic approaches to delivering enhanced adaptations and accommodations to the programs, facilities and services for people with impairment (Lundberg et al., 2011). According to *No Accidental Champions – the Long-Term Athlete Development for Athletes with Disabilities*, 14% of Canadians live with impairment (No Accidental Champions, 2013). To promote optimal health, it is critical for all Canadians with or without impairment, to engage in physical activity. In order to continue to successfully promote parasport participation, it is essential to identify methods and best practices that will enhance social recognition and bring awareness to the benefits of accessible participation opportunities.

Impairment can occur at any age. Because of this, there two additional stages for parasport athletes. These additional stages are the awareness stage, and a first point of contact or initial recruitment stage (No Accidental Champions, 2013). In terms of localized recognition and identification of grassroots development, this means pointing young individuals with impairment to the proper parasport participation pathways and athlete identification initiatives e.g., CPC's Paralympian Search (Dehghansai & Baker, 2020). The sport medical and rehabilitation community are also well positioned to identify and positively influence these individuals to pursue sport, physical activity and possibly committed athletic careers. Games-related leveraging strategies can be designed to recognize, target, and identify the constraints existing in this potential gap in sport delivery.

Physiotherapy and rehabilitation and early physical literacy can be viewed as the nurturing ground for future skill development (Legg & Steadward, 2011). Parasport participation can be a precursor to the Paralympic stage, or elite level of parasport

performance. Sport participation for people with impairment can build and develop a sense of personal identity and mastery of one's own body (Balyi et al., 2013). Nearly one-in-five or approximately 6.2 million Canadians over the age of 15 identified as having a form of impairment (Morris et al., 2018). The Government of Canada Policy on Sport for Persons with a Disability identifies that people with impairment make up only 1% of Canadian national sport organizations memberships (Canadian Heritage, 2006). The participation rate described in this policy can be low due to internal and external sociocultural and political constraints (Misener & Darcy, 2014). Attempts to reach people with an impairment to participate in sport programs means that membership promoting initiatives need to be engaging, accommodating, and targeted as being accessible, adaptive, and inclusive. Impairment focused engagement factors can be present in the leveraging initiatives of major parasport events such as the Parapan American Games.

Using the momentum of major parasport events, community and sport partners have an opportunity to leverage for improved services and social conditions for people living with limitations (Legg & Gilbert, 2011). The social and personal benefits of sport participation has been widely researched, with emphasis on Canadian sport programs and ways to improve the opportunities for people with an impairment to get involved in sport (Balyi et al., 2013). The social and cultural contributions of sport with respect to health and social cohesion are evident in the ability of sport to reduce inequality gaps, improve physical and mental health, and positively motivate individuals to actively participate in society (Donnelly & Coakley, 2002). Physical activity can also help establish a sense of social solidarity for marginalized groups and people living with impairment (Sherry, 2010; Sherry et al., 2015). Sport and physical activity can provide “a

mode of social solidarity that binds members to one another in a network of mutual relationships, strong enough to sustain the various strains and challenges of accommodation and mutual self-limitation.” (Honneth & Petherbridge, 2011, p. 126).

2.4 Conceptual framework

Considering the philosophical component of a concept of recognition being applied as a novel and critical research lens to this study, my theoretical position took on that of a social constructivist account. This position emphasized the influence and effects of culture on an individual’s worldview and presupposes that knowledge within this culture is relative to time and place (Patton, 2002). This aspect was important to consider as the study compared knowledge of past events with the current understandings of parasport games legacy and outcomes.

2.4.1 A concept of recognition

The philosophical works of Hegel play an important role in understanding modern day critical theory (Arthur, 1983). Much of Hegel’s writings were concerned with ideas of self-consciousness and the fundamental elements of recognition and its association with alienation i.e., social exclusion. Hegel’s approach to knowledge creation and his concept of recognition has influenced a wide-range of psychological and social viewpoints e.g., Frankfurt School of critical theorists, and French postmodern power thinkers e.g., Sartre and Foucault (Arthur, 1983). Each subsequent theorist has made contributions to current definitions of social change and cultural normativity, specifically when reflecting upon the irresolvable cultural tensions stemming from gender, race, and ability.

Consistent with the principles of multiculturalism, pluralism, feminism, and queer theory, disability studies pull upon similar emancipatory strings (Taylor & Gutmann, 1994). In a comparable line of identity struggle, disability theory intersects that of feminist and queer theory whereby:

[D]isability is a very powerful identity, and one that has the power to transcend other identities. For example, it has the power to de-sex people, so that people are viewed as disabled, not as men or women, straight or gay. Also, I am aware that, for example, the disability movement is more open to lesbian and gay disabled people than the lesbian and gay community is open to disabled people. (Barnes, 1996, p. 96).

This perspective illustrates the hierarchies existing between intersections of similarly oppressed groups. Queer theory addresses the nature of sexual identity in an attempt to disrupt the greater system of sex regulation and binary oppositions (e.g., gay vs. straight), through the gradual abolishment of compulsive heteronormativity (Butler, 1993). On a similar note, critical disability theory seeks to dismantle ableist constraints and in the process bring attention to areas of potential social inclusion. When the concept of destabilizing an establishment (e.g., white, hegemonic, able, male, sport culture) is viewed in consideration of the dominant social norm, it can be seen as a potential threat and represents an added constraint to gain basic recognition.

Embedded in the struggle for independence for people with impairment are themes of power, dominance, and oppression. Disability is linked with a emancipatory principle, seeking to investigate “what is common and different ... in experiences of

oppression and privilege” (Roman, 1992, p. 557). Sport is inherently about power, winning over another through physical or cognitive feats of strength, endurance, and dominance. Critical disability research when applied to the field of sport and event management builds upon the assumption that stakeholders possess a basic awareness of impairment and their own tendencies towards ableism; along with a fundamental level of respect for, and knowledge of, the adaptations and accommodations needed to deliver parasport programming. A resistance theory, as proposed by Gabel and Peters is linked to the struggle of the disability rights movement of the late 1960’s and 70’s. It takes the approach that to influence a wide range of diverse stakeholders, an assumption is made that they exist in fluid coalitions and that these individuals can co-resist and influence oppression. The presumption is that by coordinating resistance through stakeholders, there is a mechanism to “inclusively unite [the sporting community] across paradigmatic boundaries” (Gabel & Peters, 2004, pp.594). In the case of major parasport games outcomes and increasing sport participation and delivery for people with an impairment, “it calls for a validation and recognition of diversity as well as a recognition of the commonality of lived experiences and the shared aspirations among people” (Donnelly and Coakely, 2002, pp 221). Major parasport events and parasport performances have the ability to unite a community towards a greater recognition of diversity and solidarity through participation.

The recognition of impairment in sport is something that must happen with a sense of genuine intention. Host communities planning for a major parasport event are presented with an occasion to broadcast their intention to bring awareness and elevate the status of sport for people with impairment. Building on the notion that elite level sport

competition is about high performance, parasport events represent an ideal social context to recognize a genuine intention. At the high-performance level, athletes with impairment will dedicate a portion of their lives to their sport. In doing so, parasport athletes will sculpt their bodies and prepare their minds, all in an effort for some kind of perfected routine and display of excellence through physical activity. Expanding on Judith Butler's concept of gender as being both performed and performative, so too is impairment (Butler, 1988). Gender and impairment as both being performed and a performance fall in line with the athlete-body narrative whereby there is a consolidation of perspectives concerning the core ideals of what it means to be masculine and feminine, able, or impaired. Sport is consumed for the performative entertainment purposes and for its ability to generate reactions pertaining to athleticism within the strict guidelines of "embodied fairness" (Gleaves & Lehrbach, 2016). The male and female gender presentation along with the spectrum of impairment is a part of the categorical judgements affiliated with parasport performance e.g., both in competition and recognized among fans.

The emancipatory struggle of the disability movement is much about the politics of recognition or the identity politics within a society. "To be denied recognition is to suffer a distortion in one's relation to one's self and an injury to one's identity" (Hobson, 2003). In his chapter titled: *The Politics of Recognition*, French-Canadian political philosopher Charles Taylor comments on how social misrecognition of identity "shows not just a lack of due respect. It can inflict a grievous wound, saddling its victims with a crippling self-hatred. Due recognition is not just a courtesy we owe people. It is a vital

human need” (Taylor & Gutmann, 1994, p. 26). Misrecognizing an identity is not always about the notion of recognition per se. As Anthony Appiah states:

When blacks and women in the United States campaigned for the vote, they did so very often as blacks and as women. But they weren't asking for recognition of their identity; they were asking, precisely, for the vote. Participation of this sort may presuppose a minimal sense of recognition, but it entails a good deal more. Similarly, when the lesbian and gay movement in the United States pursues recognition, it does so by asking for rights - to serve in the military, to marry - that would be worth having even if they came without recognition. (2006, p. 20).

Axel Honneth's theory of recognition is emancipatory in nature, highlighting the imbalances of power, trust, respect, participation and reciprocity (Barton, 2005; Honneth, 2007). The notion of misrecognition or “misdevelopment” is described in Honneth's perspective which views the sociocultural struggle and affiliated tension e.g., those experienced by people with an impairment, as a form of social pathology (Honneth, 1996). Social pathologies stemming from exclusion can be observed as phenomena associated with the abnormal. “Our culture is fixated on unusual bodies. Abnormal ones both attract and repel us, as evidenced by the horrified fascination engendered by nineteenth century freak shows and twentieth century telethons” (Sillers, 1998, p. 109). Social abnormality is observable in the distorted body (e.g., intersex or physically impaired), the abnormal groups (e.g., intellectually impaired) and abnormal cultures (e.g., the homeless or drug addicted).

Drawing on the medicalized language and inspired by Frankfurt School of German idealism, Honneth describes a social abnormality as representing a symptom of greater social pathology. Social pathology “compliments the concept of ‘diagnosis’: whereas ‘pathology’ originally indicated the theory of illness, it now mostly indicates an abnormal state of affairs” (Honneth, 2007 p. 34). Those individuals who, through their plight and struggles in attempting to understand their prescribed abnormal “misdevelopment” (i.e., confronting oppressive ableist systems), find a structuring force that contributes to the moral developments and normative ethics within a society (Honneth, 1996). According to Honneth, recognition in the context of achieving some form of justice, equity, and tolerance, requires a basic morality or a social ethic of “reciprocal expectation” (Honneth, 2007, p. 71). If a person or group is denied “the recognition that they deserve, they will generally react with moral feelings that accompany the experience of disrespect – shame, anger or indignation” (Honneth, 2007). It is in the process of affirming an individual or group’s particularity (e.g., recognizing impairment and bodily diversity), that a broader social world can establish a foundation of respect.

Recognition is the most basic form of respect and from Honneth’s perspective, is one of the most crucial elements in combatting systemic social pathology. Recognition is achieved through three principal forms of social relationships; those established out of love or attachment, through civil rights, and in the bonds of group solidarity. Each form of relationship fosters a different type of recognition.

Loving relationships (e.g., parent-child) establishes the need for attachment which solidifies a mutual confirmation and trust within a familiar atmosphere (e.g. home,

school, or sport facility). Love as a central theme is sculpted around a form of agape or unconditional love, whereby a love for someone or something is “value-creating” in and of itself (i.e., parental support, nurturing a passion, or the expression of a sporting talent as an obligation or duty) (Outka, 1972, p. 156). Agape is regarded as the highest form of love that one can experience, and it is about recognizing the true worth and significance of a person or particular group. It is this aspect that makes sport so intertwined with culture, athlete/fan commitment, and evident in the passions associated with recreation and amateur sport performance (Bouchier, 2003).

Secondly, social relationships that acknowledge the importance of delivering the basic human rights will recognize and nurture an individual’s authenticity within a community e.g., venue accessibility or sport programming adaptations. These types of relationships are evident in civil, political, and social welfare, and they are fundamentally about our assertion of claims to basic rights. Lastly, relationships built on solidarity are the intersubjective community associations in which there is a mutual sympathy that establishes an individual or group’s esteem and social worth e.g., cultural celebrations of parasport events.

To “esteem one another is to uphold relations of solidarity with one another; to show solidarity for someone is to regard him or her as a person whose qualities are of value for a shared mode of life” (Honneth, 2007, p. 256). Combatting social pathology is an increasingly difficult task for people with an impairment living in an overwhelmingly ableist society. The ongoing recognition of impairment-orientated initiatives among sport program managers is much about attitudes and perspectives towards notions of adaptation and accommodation. Sport and recreation services, and facilities that

recognize necessary adaptations and accommodation for the needs of people with physical and intellectual limitations, means that there is an intentional effort to reduce social pathologies and curtail systemic stigmas towards this segment of the population. Recognition is evident in almost all social interactions and can be a contributing factor influencing social change and improved social solidarity through inclusive participation. Whether it be an individual attitude, a group perspective, an exclusive policy, an awareness promoting initiative, or a long-term planned leveraging outcome; focusing on the concept of recognition in a parasport context helps illuminate some of the physical, psychological, and social opportunities and barriers that influence outcomes and sport participation. It is these three aspects of recognition and respect (i.e., love, rights, and solidarity) which formed the core themes in the analysis of the participant interviews.

Chapter 3

3 Methods

I chose to follow an ethnographic qualitative design as the most appropriate methodology. This independent research project forms part of a larger project Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) funded project entitled: *Major Sport Events and Parasport Participation: Investigating Post-Event Opportunities and Experiences*. My part of this the study was to focus specifically on the concept of recognition as a means to examine sport program managers perspectives of post event legacies. Within this chapter I discuss the research methods, participant selection, data collection and analysis, and the research ethics

3.1 Interpretive description

This project design used an interpretive descriptive methodology (Thorne, 2008). Interpretive description, while it is rooted in social science research, has evolved out of the nursing field, principally as a methodology for bridging the gap between quantitative clinical research and qualitative clinical practice. It has become a strategy for “excavating, illuminating, articulating and disseminating the kind of knowledge that sits somewhere between fact and conjecture” (Thorne, 2008 pp ii). Interpretive description stems from a related philosophical branch of qualitative approaches, specifically that of naturalistic inquiry as explained by Lincoln and Guba (1985). Similar to observing an element in its natural state, interpretive description also sees the research problem as residing within two or more conceptual, action and value related factors. This approach “requires an integrity of purpose deriving from two sources: (1) an actual practice goal, and (2) an understanding of what is and what is not know based on the evidence (Thorne,

2008 pp. 35). With respect to parasport event planning and strategic outcomes, this research sought to identify a relatively unacknowledged aspect: how the recognition of impairment was represented in major parasport games legacy initiatives within the host community.

Employing an interpretive descriptive approach permitted me to observe the long-term social impact of parasport events through a critical disability lens which focused on recognition. This methodology enabled me to ‘stay close’ to the data while exposing some of the common language, concerns, thoughts, and viewpoints that influence facility and program managers / stakeholders when asked about recognition of impairment and the legacy of the 2015 Parapan American Games (Sandelowski, 2000 pp. 336). An interpretive descriptive approach is about locating the fundamentals of a research phenomenon, in this case, how games-related outcomes continue to recognize impairment in the ongoing sport programming and service delivery. This methodology was flexible enough to allow me to critically interpret the findings through a novel conceptual framework.

3.2 Participant sample

The sample of participants for this study were made up of sport administrators and managers. This included persons from the municipalities and venue facilities level, host committee members, games volunteers, provincial sport organizations and parasport advocates. The sample included both able-bodied people as well as included some individuals with impairment. My recruitment efforts sought participants who continued to support and maintain ongoing sport programs and campaigns linked to the 2015 Toronto Parapan American Games venues (e.g., the Toronto Pan Am Sport Center), and

associated services offered at venues (e.g., The Abilities Centre and Variety Village). By targeting sport administrators who played a role in the development and implementation of post-event parasport participation campaigns, the research was able to explore the long-term impact of a major parasport games from an administrative and managerial viewpoint.

A purposive sample of approximately twenty sport program managers, event programmers, venue staff, and key stakeholders within the Toronto region were approached to participate via an introduction recruitment email (see Appendix C: Recruitment email). The participant sample was identified based on the previous SSHRC study (Misener, et al., 2018) and through the Ontario Para Sport Collective. The technique of snowball sampling was also employed to broaden the scope of participation. These individuals were first approached to take part in semi-structured interviews in mid-February 2020. By June 2020, I had conducted a total of eleven interviews. The pandemic lockdown made it difficult to get a hold of people, and even though most participants carried a positive tone, COVID-19 featured prominently in our initial conversations about sport participation, despite it not being the focus of the study. Given the circumstances, I used the icebreaker question e.g., “how are you doing – how has COVID-19 and the social distancing measures impacted you and your facility and the patrons at this time?” This lent itself to more fluid conversations which eventually were refocused on the research question.

3.3 Participant descriptions

This section briefly introduces the twelve individuals who took part in program manager interviews. In order to protect the participant’s identity, the actual names of participants

have been changed and issued pseudonyms. All participants are involved in various parasport initiatives as either a sport manager, program coordinator, recreation managers or continue to be involved in the delivery of parasport services from their respective employment or volunteer positions.

Table 1: Participant list

Participant	Representing	Games / Role
Barry	Facility / Service	Sport Volunteer TO2015, Advocacy
Susan	Facility / Service	Sport Chair TO2015, Therapeutic Recreation
Troy	Sport Organization	Funding Initiatives, Facility Services
Charlie	Sport Organization	Sport Chair TO2015, Advocacy
Wayne	Facility / Service	Sport Volunteer TO2015, Therapeutic Recreation
Dora	Parasport Legacy	TO2015 Host Organization
Betsy	Parasport Legacy	TO2015 Host Organization
Emma	Facility / Service	Sport Volunteer TO2015, Therapeutic Recreation
James	Sport Organization	Director, Consultant, Advocacy, Media
Doug	Facility / Service	Municipal Consultant, Advocacy, Venue Design
Andy	Facility / Service	Sport Volunteer TO2015, Facility Services
Chuck	Facility / Service	Sport Volunteer TO2015, Facility Services

Barry has contributed to the growth and development of the parasport movement through his 25+ years involvement in the outreach and delivery of sport and recreation services for youth and adults with impairments in the greater Toronto area. Barry's ongoing commitment to accessible programming and inclusive opportunities sees him involved in many participation levels e.g., community advocacy, regional programming, as well as being nationally recognized for his work.

Susan has a strong history of parasport participation and was associated with the TO2015 as a sports chair and volunteer organizer. Susan has since played a key role in

the delivery of other parasport events taking place in the province of Ontario. She continues to run accessible and female-orientated programming for her sport and is involved in the delivery of therapeutic recreation services in the southwestern region of Ontario.

Troy is an international level coach and has been involved in sport program delivery for over 30 years. He has worked at the university and club settings and has been a part Team Canada's coaching staff at major international competitions and games. In full disclosure, I have worked with Troy through my participation in various events and competitions. Working at the provincial sport delivery level in the time leading into TO2015, Troy consulted on the brick-and-mortar venue design of the Toronto Pan Am Sport Centre and supported various funding projects designed to boost TO2015 legacy initiatives e.g., Ontario High Performance Sport Initiative.

Charlie is a coach and advocate for sport for people with impairment. He has been a part of the parasport community for over 30 years and this experience has provided him with a vast depth of knowledge and understanding of the parasport movement. Seeking to improve participation and awareness, Charlie's advocacy for parasport is witnessed through his provincial and national level volunteer commitments to sport delivery.

Wayne's volunteer position during TO2015 was tied to his employment as a program manager at one of the games facilities. Tasked with venue services and spectator engagement, Wayne applied his therapeutic recreation skills to animating the field of play while supporting the athletes and support staff during competition. Wayne's history as a program coordinator working with youth and adults with physical disabilities and

cognitive impairments supported his games time role to effectively engage the facility patrons.

Dora worked with TO2015 in the planning and hosting of the games. As an event planner and games manager, Dora applied her leadership skills to promote the delivery of inclusive standards while bringing awareness to the business and hosting principles of accessibility. As a proponent of the parasport movement, Dora pushes for positive social change for people with an impairment and does so through her public policy work.

Betsy is a passionate supporter of human rights and she has an adventurous sport history. Her involvement in both summer and winter parasport events has given her a unique leadership perspective which she has used to bring attention to the social and attitudinal constraints that often limit participation for people living with impairments.

Emma was involved in TO2015 through her employment as a program director at one of the games venues. During the games Emma's volunteer role tasked her with demonstrating parasport equipment and various sport participation rules to fans and spectators visiting the facility. In the post-games' era, Emma works to establish pathways to participation for youth and adults with impairments in the region.

As a retired parasport athlete, James has remained active in the sport community and he has adopted various administrative and consultancy roles with major parasport games in Canada and in the province of Ontario. From coaching positions to parasport advocacy roles, James maintains an influential presence on a variety of committees and services for people with impairment.

Doug's work with the TO2015 Parapan Am Games incorporated his passion for sport through his consultancy work in the build out of a major legacy facility in Milton, Ontario, the Mattamy National Cycling Centre, formerly known as the Cisco Milton Pan Am / Parapan Am Velodrome.

Andy's volunteer involvement with TO2015 positioned him to operate at the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre, working with the sport of sitting volleyball. Currently associated with the University of Toronto and responsible for sport and recreation program delivery, Andy's interview highlights the volunteer experience, identifying a narrative that touches upon the attitudinal impact of hosting major games.

Chuck's participation in the study was brief. Upon beginning the interview, Chuck felt that his responses to the series of questions around legacy and the recognition of parasport was not completely applicable and he believed that his perspectives would not contribute to the overall scope of the study. Chuck's interview brought to surface a notion of unrecognized legacy stemming from the games at the facility level. His perspective is still of value to the concept of recognition and games legacy in the framework of this research.

3.4 Data collection

In the proposed research initiative, I originally planned to conduct semi-structured, interviews with program managers at their facility or associated sport venue. This would have allowed me to physically meet with those who played an active role in the sport and recreation delivery system in Ontario. I intended to carry out a walking interview technique with the participants as we strolled through their associated facility

or games related venue in the Greater Toronto Area. The purpose of this intended technique was for participants to take me through their facility to describe and recognize any program adaptations and or facility accommodations. I had hoped that these one-on-one walking discussions with program managers would provide me with more depth concerning the topic of recognition alongside the perceived legacies of the 2015 Parapan Am Games. Unfortunately, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown measures, I was unable to carry out this type of interview technique.

March 2020 brought about significant social change due to the widespread threat of the coronavirus. This scenario forced me to adapt my research design and I resorted to conducting semi-structured interviews using web-based teleconference technology e.g., Zoom and Skype. Although remote sessions were not the preferred method of conducting the interview due to lack of physicality and the potential disturbances in technology (e.g., internet outages, audio issues), it did provide a suitable substitution which enabled reliable data collection (Trussell et al., 2019).

During the interview scheduling process, I would inform the participant via email of the method and technologies used for the call and the required steps to participate. This process would contain an e-calendar invite consisting of the session name e.g., Parasport Research Interview; date and time; reminder (set at 30 minutes prior to the call), and the corresponding Zoom or Skype link to the session. All sessions were scheduled for one hour, but there was no set time limit or agenda, just a framework of questions and prompts. Some interviews were less than 30 minutes, and one was over 2.5 hours, so the session length was determined by the depth of detail the participant was willing to

discuss. I had the opportunity to probe and clarify participant comments throughout the interviews.

3.5 Interview guide

This research project is working in conjunction with the *Major Sport Events and Paraspport Participation: Investigating Post-Event Opportunities and Experiences* project. The interview questions were integrated into the general interview guide which consisted of 25 open ended questions, and organized into 5 sectioned themes: Programs, Facilities, Outcomes, Challenges, and Recognition (See Appendix E: Participant interview guide). The questions were used as a framework to guide the interview and some interviews contained more than 25 questions because of the probing and semi-structured nature of the session. In all the interviews, I would encourage the participants to expand on his or her thoughts concerning a topic and did so by probing deeper into specific areas of relevance. In order to ensure accuracy of information, I would ask participants for clarification of words or phrases that have different meanings in the interview context e.g., their comfort using specific phrasing - disability, impairment, limitation.

The questions prompted the participants to talk about their knowledge of sport facility adaptations and program accommodations as recognized in affiliated legacy efforts. The interview guide questions also generated topics affiliated with personal attitudes and perspectives concerning parasport events and impairment in society.

3.6 Data analysis

Interview data was subjected to a form of thematic analysis informed by the works of Braun and Clarke (2006) and Lawless and Chen (2019). The works of Braun and Clarke laid the foundation for the thematic analysis coding process, while the works of Lawless and Chen suggested methods for including a critical perspective in the thematic analysis and final report. As the central research themes were guided by Honneth's three core tenants of recognition: love, rights, and solidarity, I went through the transcribed interviews in two phases. Phase one of the coding process reviewed the data looking for connections to the central themes. The second phase of the coding process applied a critical component to the subjects and topics that emerged out of the interviews. This phase sought to identify any latent ideas, opinions or ideologies connected to the core patterns of recognition.

In phase one, I read through each transcription in its entirety before applying any coding steps, so to feel out how the interview data was positioned within the study. In my initial review of the transcribed documents, I made preliminary notes within the file concerning any interesting features or subject matter that became apparent in the interview. I started out organizing the transcribed interviews and looked for specific statements or paragraphs that had an alignment to one of the core themes e.g. analysing the transcript for any associations or participant comments pertaining to themes of love. If a statement or sentence had tones or subject matter of one of the three core themes, I would colour code it (e.g., red for love, blue for rights, and green for solidarity) and organize the statement under the applicable theme. Phase one looked for repeated words, important statements, or ideas and grouped them into relevant categories.

Phase two went deeper into the participant quotations and pulled apart the text to look at the language being used, and the overarching topics associated with each statement. Phase two applied a critical interpretation of the participant statements. My interpretation attempted to bring to the surface an understanding of what was actually being said in relation to the concept of recognition. The identified subjects and topics that were drawn from participant statements were compared and contrasted to the central theme according to Honneth's framework, in which it was best aligned. Analyzing the sport managers' perceptions of legacy and games-related outcomes allowed me to focus on a concept of recognition and its role in the ongoing promotion of parasport and recreation opportunities.

3.7 Ethics

With formal acceptance from the University of Western Research Ethics Board issued on March 3rd, 2020 (see Appendix B: Ethics approval), I immediately began to proceed with the recruitment strategy by reaching out via email to potential participants. I sent each of the identified participants an email introducing myself and my role in the research initiative. Attached to the email was an information letter and consent form (Appendix – D). I followed-up with non-responsive participants to see if they had any questions or concerns about participating in the study. If a participant agreed to the interview, I responded by requesting the participant to inform me of their preferred timeframe for the interview to take place. I also asked if there were any preferences or accessibility requirements needed to schedule the teleconference. The semi-structured interviews were audio recorded and transcribed verbatim with written consent. Consent documents were issued in editable .pdf format, so participants could easily sign the

document and send it back to me via email for future reference. At the time of the interview, participants were read a brief overview of the research, purpose, and rationale of the study, and reminded of their rights as participants in the study i.e., they can stop the interview at any time, they possess the ability to withdraw their data, measures ensuring anonymity / privacy, and the data security measures.

There was no deception or partial disclosure of information throughout the data collection and interview process. Participants were fully aware that they are taking part in such a study with an aim of investigating legacy of a major parasport games and the overall recognition of social impacts. Though all research can have some risk associated with it, the proposed study is considered to have a magnitude of low risk to possible harms. Consistent with the Tri-Council Policy on minimal risk, no individual in the study was subject to risk over and beyond what would occur in their daily lives.

Chapter 4

4 Findings

The participants in the research study each offered unique narratives which identified aspects of the core themes linked to the game's outcomes and the recognition of impairment in the years following the hosting of a major parasport event. The subjects and topics that emerged out of the analysis process are emphasized in this section through the use of direct participant quotes. The following section builds upon the core themes of recognition and explores the subject and topics that became apparent during the interview process (see Appendix A: Themes of recognition).

4.1 Love

The theme of love recognized the need for attachment which further solidified the confirmation and establishment of trust within a group, a sport, or games hosting atmosphere. In the case of this research context, examples of agape love consisted of five inter-related categories within the overall theme: self-love; the love expressed by parents and friends; a social love, love in the media, and a love of sport. Categories further expanded into subject areas that discussed embodiment and participation, support personnel, leadership, and sparking individual passions.

Highlighting the impact that he noticed through his ongoing interactions with patrons at his facility, Barry describes how one individual continued to talk about his experiences with the TO2015 parasports and how his interactions with TO2015 helped him come to terms with his recent acquisition of a life-changing impairment: "But it [watching parasport] was always about that question of: Do I have a disability? And what does that

mean?” TO2015 presented an opportunity for much self-reflection among user groups within the various venues and facilities tied to sport delivery at-games. The person that Barry was speaking about was adjusting to his new body following health complication and a subsequent leg amputation. He would often come to the facility and asked questions regarding the necessary conditions to be included in parasport activities, specifically during TO2015. In the months following the close out of the games, Barry spoke about how he would meet with the individual. In their meetings Barry was able to notice a change in how the individual spoke about himself. Barry acknowledges that the games offered a space for personal self-understanding and growth and this is a part of the game’s legacy. Self-discovery through sport meant that for this specific patron, it was an existential awakening into an appropriate fit and acceptance into the culture of people with impairment. Barry offered this scenario as an example of a personalized impact related to the hosting of the games. These impacts often go unnoticed as they operate on the individual level and subconscious basis until there is an impetus to proceed into the next steps of embodiment, acceptance, and then social participation.

Others also described this aspect of self-realization as an important initial step in the ongoing delivery of sport and recreation participation activities for people with impairments. The simple act of watching the athletes and observing the public display of the sport is not necessarily enough to foster long-term participation. Through her work with therapeutic recreation in the time following the games, Susan emphasized how TO2015 enabled some individuals that she works with to discover their optimal fit in a sport.

The performance narrative doesn't do a whole lot in terms of actually changing the behavior of a person with a disability. It's the discovery narrative... I found a sport, or I found this activity and I really like it. ... I'm enjoying being physically active. I feel healthier. I know it's not about I'm winning races or it's not about... being a high-performance athlete.

Recognizing a preferred action or finding it out for oneself is what sparks a passion to participate. Claiming a sense of ownership to the activity further solidifies the reason to participate. The hosting of the games only allows a select group of athletes to perform under the public eye. However, the hype and excitement of the games presents the opportunity for exposure to a momentum that is driven by an individual passion and a reinforced by a social love (of sport). Susan's comment touches upon a notion that leveraging games outcomes do not have to relate to any aspect of the actual performances that take place on the competition field. The peripheral activities and activation initiatives also have the potential to generate an "ah ha" moment. This points to the importance of the support mechanisms and services that can increase awareness and enhance exposure to participation opportunities.

The hosting of major parasport games requires the coordination of many functional areas, taking into consideration the mobility, accessibility, personal care, and social supports needed to make the games happen for all those taking part. There are no real differences in support deliverables in parasport when compared to mainstream or able-bodied events, yet, in the case of impairment, supports in the form love of the immediate family, the parents and caregivers, and close friends, are critical for continued participation. These supportive networks also tend to be the most influential and

compassionate when it comes to identifying and nurturing a talent. When asked about whether TO2015 had an impact on participation numbers at his facility, Wayne responded with:

Following TO2015, I think there's a ton of parents that want their child who has a disability to experience the highs and lows of sport. And they see the life lessons and that they understand risk. So, I think it just depends on the personality of the kid and mom and dad's outlooks and goals for that child... Getting parents on board with the next step...that is one of the biggest challenges!

The hosting of a major parasport games has the potential to increase awareness as seen from the example of TO2015, but is the act of hosting enough to influence parents and caregivers to hop on board with parasport participation? Wayne's comment suggests that even though parents and caregivers demonstrated positive experiences with parasport events, it can be difficult for them to arrive at a decision to get their children or youth with impairment involved in a program. Committing to a sport or recreation activity can be a big decision for a person with impairment, it will inherently create challenges with scheduling, transportation, and requires positive habits and lifestyle choices, coaching alignment, and goal setting. Understanding the challenges of committing to a sporting program requires knowledge of what to expect by being an athlete participant and including an accompanying support person. Considering Wayne's comment, parasport events can even turn parents and support personnel away from sport due to the sheer work involved in pursuing the activity and stresses of achieving a longer-term goal. Participants reflected on the concern that parents and caregivers supporting family members who have an impairment can hold them back due to medical or safety concerns

over participation. It is out of a paternalistic love to protect, that a barrier to participation can be created. Participants identified that ongoing participant identification and engagement is linked to some of the leveraging initiatives of TO2015, especially within therapeutic recreation centers in the GTA. The challenge is in how to best convey the necessary information about the benefits of participation for all and to effectively provide the supports, accommodations and adaptations that are necessary to fully participate. These aspects cannot be determined by a set of games alone, but require ongoing engagement, support, and capacity within each centre.

Peripheral activities and awareness orientated activation initiatives that were in place at TO2015 often included students from schools in the GTA. In terms of localized supports for people with impairment, teachers, staff, and peer groups make up the next sphere of influence. Host representatives at TO2015 understood the value of tapping into this group for a few specified reasons:

Our activations with the school we had really good responses. While the classes came out and cheered on, the [host] groups were very worried, especially at the beginning because there wasn't a big audience of spectators...and I always felt kind of bad, because the teams would come out for an official entry where they waved to the crowd and then no one would be there.

Not only did the classes and students have an opportunity to come out to observe the sporting events and athletes of TO2015, but their participation as fans offered up a source of community compassion for elite-level or high-performance amateur sport. Participants described how this compassion filled the stands, and the accompanying cheers and voices

of support inflated the energy of the competition atmosphere. The Olympic and Paralympic games are traditionally considered high-performance amateur sport. However, professional NBA players have since the 1992 Dream Team been a part of the Olympic agendas, thus expanding the definition of high-performance amateur sport. Literature on parasport pathway development sees the pinnacle of parasport systems as residing in a high-performance, excellence or elite amateur sport model that incorporates aspects of professionalized facilities and performance supports (Patatas et al., 2020). Avoiding the notion of a professional parasport initiative. There has yet to be a professional cross-over within the parasport world, one with a sturdy fan base, consistent media coverage, and independent governance / funding structure akin to the NBA or NHL. That Therefore, bringing in schools and students to fill the stands is an ideal scenario to teach the next generation of students about athleticism, the culture of people living with impairment and to actively promote adaptive / inclusive sport opportunities. Barry's comment also expresses this important opportunity as a measure of empathy for the athletes who did not have the anticipated fan support during their competition.

The lack of an enthusiastic crowd represents the notion of being misrecognized as less valued athletes. As stated, Canadian parasports typically operate under the guise of amateur sport with elite level athletes funded by e.g., government initiatives such as the Athlete Assistance Program (Heritage, 2020). The International Wheelchair Basketball Federation is one example of a league governed parasport that is striving for recognition as a legitimate and professional parasport. Participants discussed the importance that students were given a chance to grab onto something new, fresh, and unorthodox in its presentation (elite-level amateur parasport). Being part of the unfolding parasport event

presented students, teachers, and staff with a personal choice - to accept or decline this sport. Through education and awareness, compassion, and performance, parasport can become more visible. Participants offered thoughts on how this occurrence extended beyond the attending of the event into the classroom with many follow up discussions, assignments, and presentations on the students' experiences of parasport.

I think a lot of that was the championship and the leadership of the teachers too. They brought the classes. They were there and had a vested interest in sport and... were passionate around the adoption of parasport...So we generated a lot of enthusiasm that way.

There were many enthusiastic student experiences that took place over the course of TO2015. From demonstration activities to athlete engagement initiatives, students were introduced firsthand to the parasport culture. Once the lights go out and the hype of the games are taken to another host city, it is important to consider the aspects of the games that continue in the classroom setting. Charlie spoke about his hopes that TO2015 would encourage a curriculum adjustment to how physical education is considered and delivered to a diverse population of students:

Because we rely so heavily on the fact that [sport] is taught in schools is that they will adapt their programming to suit the needs of their students. [Sport] is taught all over the world, but perhaps not the adaptive side ... That aspect has always been missing in my opinion.

Charlie's comment brings to surface an obvious question, why would adaptive sport not be taught in the classroom, especially if the students in the region just had an experience

of it at a major parasport event such as TO2015? Mainstream sports (e.g., basketball, soccer) can certainly be taught with (relatively) simple accommodations that target the specified needs of the participants. However, teaching adaptive sport requires the teacher to think about and deliver a holistic approach to physical education, keeping mind and body diversity at the forefront of the lesson. In terms of games legacy, the impacts of TO2015 school awareness initiatives may not be recognized until some of the students grow and become advocate teachers themselves who fully embrace the benefits of adaptive / inclusive sport in their teaching curriculum.

Another area of the games that incorporates the compassion of the community is in the acts of games-time volunteers. Volunteers can register to take part in the games for several reasons, but fundamentally, volunteering is altruistic in nature. This kind of agape love is also tied to caring for people with physical and intellectual impairments. Outside of a few perks e.g., uniform, discounts on services, or intangible collective experiences, volunteers perform their tasks by doing something for another without a preconceived notion that they will get something in return. Andy talks about his volunteer experience at the TO2015 games and how it impacted his opinion towards sport delivery for people with impairments:

Its the human aspect for me, as a volunteer - that changed my life. That changed how I saw sport. For the community, I would love to hope that they had those moments as well...If they were in the building, they're able to see these athletes can compete and cry and laugh and just like any other athlete would, right? So I think hopefully that impact was there for the [other]volunteers.

Andy's volunteer experience was eye opening and motivating for him. He stated that although he was originally apprehensive to dive in to the parasport experience, he was "voluntold" by a work colleague to get involved in the games. In hindsight he stated that would never change a thing with all the time and effort he put into his volunteer position at the games. Andy recognized that parasport events like TO2015 incorporate all the same human attributes and passions that would be expected in an able-bodied set of games of similar calibre. Alternatively, Andy's comment identifies a notion that a preconceived assumption exists about the quality of athleticism among parasport athletes in comparison to their mainstream able-bodied counterparts. Perhaps Andy was not prepared for the reality of what he was to experience as a volunteer at TO215, and in his current role. Upon being immersed in the culture it allowed him to embrace the nature of adaptive participation which he witnessed on the field of play.

Volunteer positions at games present an opportunity for the host organization to accept the principles of social inclusion by providing accessible volunteer roles and responsibilities to a diverse workforce. Volunteers will typically be issued a uniform and accreditation badge that the individual wears when they perform their scheduled duties. The purpose of the accreditation is for security recognition while the uniform presents an impression of a unified and homogenous cohesive unit, akin to soldiers wearing army fatigues. There can be some pushback when integrating volunteers with an impairment into the workforce program. Charlie describes his experience with managing staff and volunteers for his sport committee at TO2015:

My volunteer group was largely from the one school, I had others as well, but I did have some who had physical disabilities and impairments, and a couple with

cognitive challenges. They applied and everybody told me ‘do not allow them...don't let them on because it will be a lot of work for you.’ And it was a bit of work, but we did get them on, and I am really glad that we did. There was a lot of laughter with this group.

The opinions of the staff as described by Charlie is nothing short of astonishing. This is an international set of games designated for athletes with impairment, and among this group is an exclusionary attitude suggesting they refrain from involving some willing volunteers due to their physical or cognitive limitations. Charlie’s quote serves as a noteworthy testament to the depth of challenges to overcoming ableism. All additional work and accommodations aside, Charlie’s leadership recognized that there was an intrinsic value to welcoming these volunteers onto his sport committee.

The legacies and long-term social impacts of TO2015 are the results of the work of many dedicated volunteers, staff, business, and sport partners who each shared a similar vision and common goal. TO2015 and other subsequent major parasport games that have taken place in the province of Ontario e.g., 2017 Ontario Parasport Winter Games in Brantford and the 2019 Ontario Parasport Summer Games in Durham, incorporate the advocacy, consultancy, planning and hosting efforts of a common group of parasport stakeholders.

It was it really one of my favorite parts from a legacy perspective - working with that group. It was just a great group of common interests, passionate people, really dedicated, a lifelong dedication to the development of parasport within our communities.

Dora's comment emphasizes the shared passions that unite stakeholders in the parasport movement. These like-minded individuals offer their time, services, and resources to continue working on projects that promote sport and recreation participation activities and strategize hosting of events. The Ontario Parasport Legacy Group is just one example of a partner group that following TO2015, continued to host meetings, coming together to promote parasport agendas as well as to improve services and facilities beyond the immediate scope of the games. The collaborative partnerships of athletes, parents, family, therapeutic recreation staff, coaches, and independent consultants each have some direct relationship to, and love for, parasport. Given that non-profit organizations like OPLG rely so heavily on the volunteer position to donate time and effort, it can be seen why members of these groups tend to be close family and friends of athletes with impairment. According to Susan, athletes must also play an active role in educating the public to further advance the overall parasport agenda:

The athletes who train and compete in their sport are the best mentors to reflect upon why people would want to come and see the sport. I always find that when you have someone that's been involved in sport and they explain the sport from their perspective, it has such a stronger impact.

Athletes possess the ability to influence not only from the field of play, but in their off-competition agendas and media personalities. Whether it is a visit to a classroom to present on a recent competition experience or delivering the keynote speech at a corporate event, parasport athlete mentorship is an imperative to bringing recognition to a future major parasport event and is crucial to the ongoing appreciation of games related outcomes. Acknowledging what is obvious to some, Susan's quote speaks to the

examples of advocacy leadership through status display and an enhanced visibility via personal accolades. This means that the parasport athlete mentors must in some way, become identified and “activated” within his/her community, especially if it is supporting a parasport games host community.

The athlete mentors must also connect personally with consumers of parasport e.g., students, fans, aspiring potential athletes, or media outputs. With hosting cycles offset from one another and switching from summer to winter agendas, athlete mentors need to be timely, relevant, and capable of generating a form of awareness at a rapid pace. In an age of enhanced information technologies and social media applications, parasport influencers can create their own platform, manage their online presence and reach identified targets in a seamless and more direct way. This type of reach can help spread awareness while at the same time sparking individual passions to get involved in parasport opportunities.

Athlete mentorship and any affiliated media messaging is critical to maintaining a connection with the consumers of parasport. Through the media coverage of engagement activities and the performative acts of competition, athletes can reach and impact the culture of sport consumers. The difficulty is in understanding how the games are perceived among this culture. James describes his personal view of the media messaging occurring around the hosting of TO2015, and the impact that this perspective had on the future direction of parasport media representations. He states: “Inspiration is not what we want...The poster boy for inspiration was not what we wanted to be. We wanted to be athletes.” Inspiration is naturally a part of sport and performance. When impairment intersects with sport performance and the media, the combined output results with an

overflow of inspirational content. It can be beneficial to tap into this inspiration narrative to generate some awareness but is not necessarily the optimal thematic approach. During TO2015, James wanted to curb the inspirational content and focused more on the embodiment aspects of the sport and decided to publish content that highlighted images of the performing body, the adaptive equipment involved, and the physicality of the parasport experience. Although it is difficult to measure the legacy of a specific media message or theme, James' comment is about a media strategy that aimed to promote a specified narrative. This approach sought to redirect the media messaging from the peripheral or inspirational tone to that of the embodied reality taking place around the games-time competitions.

Like their mainstream able-bodied counterparts, parasport athlete performances are driven by a passion and a love of sport. Wayne spoke about witnessing the public uptake and consumption of parasport among fans and patrons at the sport venue which he volunteered and continued to work at following TO2015. "A lot of people were not surprised by the athletes, and not surprised by the sport. But surprised at the passion behind the sport" (Wayne). Passion behind the sport in this context, refers to the atmosphere of the hosting environment - the bursts of cheers, sounds of performance, the look and feel of the field of play, smell of the facility, and the pomp and circumstance of the medal presentations. These tangible and intangible experiential aspects of parasport games have the power to influence. As a program manager delivering therapeutic recreation programming, Wayne mentioned how participants would continue to talk about the venue, the field of play, or recognize aspects of TO2015 e.g., "remember when they presented a medal over in that area". The above-mentioned elements will certainly

leave a lasting impact to the knowledgeable fan, but what about the spectator new to parasport?

Wayne's comment touches upon a subtle preconception evident in the perceived "lack of surprise" from the sport and athletes' performances. Wayne's volunteer committee positioned him at a parasport event (bocce) that focuses on the acquisition of points and takes into consideration the strategy and dexterity of athletes with more severe motor impairments. These athletes tend to have mobility requirements and personal assistance needs to perform their sport. The public knowledge and understanding of such competition types (e.g., dexterity / strategy based) is less understood from a fan perspective than that of an event which seems to have more immediate action e.g., an athletics race (wheelchair 100m), field event (long jump) or matchup competitions (wheelchair rugby). The lack of an element of surprise implies that the athletes and the sport itself, was conducted as expected. In this case, the energy of the atmosphere and of the games, superseded the athlete performances, and it is this element (the atmosphere) of hosting major parasport events that is being recognized 5-years down the line.

Parasport awareness initiatives and strategies do not only happen at-games. Charlie spoke about the value of creating awareness opportunities as well as educating the public through sport demonstrations that are recognized through the scheduling of parasport practices and events in an integrative setting:

How do we get that awareness? We run events at these facilities where it is a fully integrated facility and the awareness comes from the recognition of all patrons

using the space as they participate potentially as athletes or participate possibly as volunteers, whether through a private setup or major event.

Charlie's history and experience with the parasport movement becomes evident when asked about awareness generating initiatives at the facility level. Hosting TO2015 brought to fruition the design and build out of three high-performance sports facilities: the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre located in Scarborough, the Mattamy National Cycling Centre (aka. Cisco Milton Pan Am / Parapan Am Velodrome), and the Pan Am / Parapan Am Athletics Stadium at York University (aka. CIBC Pan Am and Parapan Am Athletics Stadium). Charlie's suggested strategy to generate parasport awareness begins with the sport and recreation programming run out of each facility. Emphasizing that the localized scheduling of programs within these new facilities, whether it be for training or competition purposes, must maintain that parasport continue to be a priority in the use of the facility (most notably in light of coronavirus restrictions).

When parasport and mainstream sport training sessions or events are scheduled in close proximity, Charlie believes this overlap opens the doors for more opportunity towards recognition, visibility, and to foster a synergy of shared passions among patrons. Not only can Charlie's suggested approach to scheduling positively promote awareness, but it can also encourage participation and ongoing parasport education. If able-bodied athletes are training / competing in the same space as parasport athletes, in an integrative setting, then parents, staff and volunteers will also experience the benefits of social inclusion. Understanding that the abovementioned TO2015 legacy facilities offer exclusivity to high-performance programming as opposed to recreation-based programs and services, it points to the importance of visibility within a facility. Parasport athletes

operating at the introduction or grassroots level, need to look up to some influential group to which they can apply an overarching performance goal, and then pursue that passion along a defined pathway.

The Mattamy National Cycling Centre is one TO2015 legacy venue that continues to struggle with parasport engagement. Since TO2015, Doug has supported the National Cycling Centre as it hosted five international sport competitions and six national events. Both the provincial and national cycling programs are run out of the centre and in terms of visibility, both groups run training programs that overlap, and are accessible to a diverse group of participants. Doug's programming work within the facility at-games and in the post-game's era has attempted to nurture the passions of those athletes who show interest in paracycling:

We were so oversubscribed on people wanting to get on the track on the able-bodied side but very little on the para side. We needed to do something here to really carry this through and create a legacy and try to create more opportunities on that side... I still think there is a gap on getting a good level of programming going at the grassroots level. Getting para-athletes to come to the facility and try it - there is still very much a gap and a challenge there.

With all the hosting exposure from subsequent competitions and events, it remains a challenge to get athletes with impairment to try the sport. The differences in participation numbers of the two "sides" of athlete e.g., able-bodied and parasport, indicates a subtle programming tension between the user groups. With oversubscribed interest on the able-bodied side, it can be seen how making parasport a priority in the

programming will generate some animosity among the coaches and able-bodied members seeking limited access to the facility. Although Doug does not mention the role of coaches in the overall strategic initiatives to engage at the facility level, this aspect of sport (i.e., coach / athlete interactions and initial bonding) can be overlooked or even take place too late in the para-athlete identification process. Parasport coaches need to be approachable, a good fit with the athlete, and display a compassion towards of the participation needs of potential athletes with impairment. For the parents and caregivers seeking out a participation opportunity for their child or youth with impairment, coaching alignment is critical to establishing the trusting bond which can then nurture a talent and foster a life-long passion in sport.

Patterns of recognition stemming from loving relationships are important to the overall development of a sense of self-confidence and self-worth. Recognizing the influence that loving relationships have on the personal development and growth of people with an impairment is critical to social inclusion and a generalized sense of belonging within a community. When people with impairments recognize their passions for sport and those around them acknowledge their talents, parasport grows within a community. Major parasport games can have a direct and lasting impact on the individual. Whether it is trying out a sport or coming to terms with one's own impairment, the smallest of impacts can have a rippling effect and a spark passion for continued sport participation.

4.2 Rights

The theme of social rights recognized the need for an individual or group's authenticity within a games hosting context and made itself evident in the attitudes and

actions of program managers. This theme expanded to include four related categories: Civil, Political, Respect; and Disrespect. The subjects associated with this theme of expanded into a range of emancipatory focal points which discussed concepts of inclusion, recognized ableism, and examples of hypocrisy.

Awareness is present in forms of community recognition that occurs prior to, and during the competition days of a major event. Bringing awareness and attention to a movement requires a great deal of energy and momentum towards the hosting initiative. Host organization staff involved in the games planning and legacy directives seek to bring awareness to the games while at the same time they need to consider how the event hosting will impact the community in the post-games' era. TO2015 brought awareness to disability culture in Ontario, Canada, and internationally (Office of the Auditor General, Ontario, 2016). Under the game's motto "United We Play," TO2015 presented a vision of unity while advocating for the shared aspirations of participating delegations, fans, volunteers, sponsors, and corporate enterprise. Dora describes her feelings towards the legacy of the games in terms of the degree of impacts and influences on international program delivery:

I'm pretty proud of the fact that our program for the 2015 games, the IPC actually now has used that as a model to require it for all future games. And they call it Road To... So Road to Tokyo, Road to Rio and all of it started from Toronto 2015 and the Parapan Am development program. So that was a tangible example of greater international legacy that was created from work we were doing as an organizing committee. So that was the international piece. The domestic piece was obviously also critical and I kind of split that in two ways. One was focused

on accessibility from a bricks and mortar perspective, but also from a more kind of training and awareness perspective.

The analogy of a road is fitting when discussing the legacy and impacts of a major parasport event. Roads enable movement within a society, they take people places, they are (hopefully) accessible - flat paved surfaces, free of obstacles; and their environments naturally change. When thinking about paving a new road, it is helpful to know where to put the road and to consult with those who will be using the road in the future. The Road To program is an example of a pre-games awareness initiative (structured around coaching, sport management and classification), and it's legacy impacts in the areas of human capacity and resource development in Paralympic sports (*Road to the Games*, 2020). From an international perspective, the legacy of TO2015's Road To program continues on as a successful strategic campaign for the IPC, its partners and other federations to further recognize and bring awareness to the multifaceted areas of impact within a host community.

From a domestic perspective, the impacts are more tangible – the bricks and mortar of new facilities means the required recognition and awareness of accessibility standards. Recognizing the individual rights to participate is what accessibility is all about. TO2015 Pan American Games and the TO2015 Parapan American Games were organized and hosted in the same city, at the same venues, with the same staff, the only difference is the timing of the events. The normative standards that society has come to adopt around concepts of accessibility have subtle tones of ableism e.g., door openers are for people in wheelchairs as opposed to it being a universal tool used during pandemic

times. Speaking about her role educating event staff, consultants and facility builders, Betsy identified a holistic approach to the principle of accessibility:

You bring an intervention, and it ends up just being accessible: Access-ABLE, ABLE to access - for all, right? For everyone, everywhere! It is not about being a ‘handicap button’ on your door opener ... It is an accessible door opener so that if you got a stroller, you're going to use it, or if you got crutches, you're going to use it too!

Within the hosting context, Betsy identifies the need to recognize and validate the individual needs of a wide group of people who take part in a major set of games. This involves the athletes, the delegation staff, the spectators, the technical officials, the VIPs, the volunteers, and host committee staff. Each of the user groups will have accessibility requirements in some capacity. Host organizations like TO2015 have a requirement to incorporate the principles of accessibility into their planning processes, but it is important to note that the spoken tone of Betsy’s quote was intense. She intended to get a point across about how accessibility is perceived in and among a predominantly able-bodied group of staff or stakeholders. She points to those who adhere to a misrecognition or stigma that accessibility is only a “disability thing” or that it consists only of specialized adaptations for the Parapan Am version of the Games. “Access-ABLE, ABLE to access” is a strong statement about the recognition of authenticity within a hosting context. Breaking apart the word and spelling out ABLE, Betsy conveys a view that places emphasis on a fundamental aspect of social participation, Access. Access for everyone everywhere. She articulates that this must be a goal for all Games and embedded in legacy plans. Wayne adds to Betsy’s approach by commenting on how accessibility is a

systemic philosophy that goes beyond a checklist of default standards and services.

Thinking “beyond the ramp,”:

[Hosting games] makes people think about accessibility in a way that it's not a box ticking exercise. It's not a sticker you put on your building that says, ‘we're accessible and inclusive,’ it's actually a philosophy in a way that you run your company, your business, your facility, ...or your program.

The interviewees emphasized that accessibility is not just about reducing the physical constraints and the embodied obstacles to participation; it is also about delivering a condition for significant emotionally appropriate standards of living. Recognizing the authentic needs of each participant who attends a set of games is paramount to the overall vision and purpose of hosting. When a host community bids to put on a set of games, they are committing to open their community up and to welcome and accept those who would be competing and taking part in the games. Services such as travel, hospitality services and accommodations will certainly have a critical aspect for accessibility services. From the management of dietary considerations to ensuring that hotel patrons have roll-in showers, there are many details that need to be considered around access. It is also about adhering to a commitment, especially for a host organization operating with finite resources and limited timeframes. Betsy presents her view of working with people in the community in the planning and delivery of hosting services from TO2015: “it's funny! everybody, until it happens to them, everybody thinks that the world is accessible!”

Betsy's statement suggests that impairment is part of the human condition. Accessibility can be overlooked by able bodied people as something that does not directly impact them in their day-to-day realities, so it is therefore not a priority - until it happens to them. The "it" Betsy describes is impairment through e.g., accident, sickness, or simply getting old. Her statement is powerful as it points to the universal benefit of accessibility, not only for the immediate needs but also for future generations who will benefit from an accessible environment.

To the host organization tasked with providing accessible services and venues for people with impairment, the picture is so much bigger than the reported statistic of 15% as having a form of impairment. Betsy believes that it is more representative of numbers ranging between 15% and 37% (Morris et al., 2018). Host organizations need to prepare for those services and deliverables at games venues in a much more wholesome and accountable way than ever before. This means targeting specific hosting standards and adjusting the scope of accessibility to focus on the nature of the requirements. Dora describes this further by stating:

If there wasn't a requirement to do it, most people would fall back to the required goodwill for people to do it. And accessibility shouldn't be a goodwill opportunity or an option. It should be a requirement...It's sort of like the carrot and the stick argument... I would like to see more sticks!

Applying an ethic of naturalism to the politics of accessibility and decision making, Dora pinpoints how, without any set guidance around accessibility staff operating in a hosting environment must unconditionally recognize the good in

accessibility while avoiding tendencies of ableism. Relying on the intrinsic goodwill of staff, stakeholders, and partners, presupposes that these individuals or organizations can act with self-determination in the pursuit of accessibility standards, regardless of budgeting, corner cutting, or selfish advantage. Dora's comment places the onus at the individual and organizational level to be able to acknowledge the opportunities that can make an impact during the games and thus remain as a recognized outcome in the post games era. However good it may be, this is an enormous task to place on a host organization, its staff and association of hosting partners. This is about a cultural adjustment and societal perspectives that accept the commitment and challenges facing the delivery of accessibility standards. Dora comments further on how awareness of impairment and the delivery of accessibility standards can best be approached in a hosting context and evident within the realm of ongoing leveraging initiatives:

What it means is having the widest possible lens! That is a component of legacy and if you can change people's perspectives and attitudes towards something...that's massive because you can't forget. Once you understand why accessibility is important ... you understand those things, that's with you for good.

Not everyone involved in a set of games will be able to adopt and sustain a lens of accessibility. The people who have experience with the plights and constraints associated with impairment will have the advantage in being able to identify ableism and transfer this firsthand knowledge to others operating in a host organization. The identity politics involved in hosting games means to recognize the various social segments that become illuminated when a lens of accessibility is applied to a specific theme or functional area of the games e.g., media messaging or transportation services. It is those who can

seamlessly apply the lens and critically assess the impact of an intervention, that will help to ensure that it is maintained and maximized for mutual societal benefit in the future.

The participants note these learnings came from the work on TO2015 where there were numerous challenges of applying this lens.

Being recognized and respected within a society calls for the reduction of disparities through the application of fundamental human rights. Wayne describes how hosting the TO2015 games helped broaden a lens of awareness and in turn, enhanced the service deliverables to better reflect the diversity existing in the community of patrons who visit his sport and therapeutic recreation centre:

One thing that we've kind of gone to now is not only having the representation of people with / without disabilities, and the different cultures and ethnicities, and different parts of communities e.g., LGBTQ community, First Nations, new to Canada... But it's also the accessibility of your marketing. So what size is your font? Do you have closed captioning? Is it descriptive video? There are so many layers to be more inclusive and to be more accessible. So I think that is one thing that there might not ever be, a gold standard.

The 2015 Pan / Parapan American Games represented two distinct cultural celebrations of sport and community. Wayne's comment about a gold-standard of service delivery around access and inclusion means separating the component parts and celebrating the distinct sociocultural intersections. People who actively pursue sport and recreation, not only for physical and mental well-being, but also for the accolades of high-performance, will each stem from a social segment that can be over or

underrepresented in an event e.g., female athletes with impairment from First Nations communities. The impact of TO2015 at the facility level, has inspired a new perspective concerning the delivery of accessible programs and services. Wayne's take on the outcomes of hosting parasport games extends into the marketing and media reach that seeks to funnel participants from the broad level of inclusion down to the individually recognized choice and autonomy to participate.

In the months following the closing of TO2015, Wayne found an appreciated awareness of parasport among therapeutic recreation patrons visiting the facility. This interest generated an increase in registration for recreation activities and in turn, he was faced with more pressure to deliver programs with adapted variations. These variations of rules, positions and equipment use are issued to better align with the needs and individual accommodations of the participant groups:

That freedom to choose how you participate. One thing that we do with our programs is that we do programming with variations...We're going to actually just change the entire activity for everybody and have different ways to...participate and allowing the kids to choose. So for me, autonomy is a big one.

Facilitating a participant's autonomy to choose how to perform can reinforce an individual's self-respect and confidence to continue on and take part in a social activity. Sport and recreation activities are fundamentally about variations of performance. Many parasports are variations of mainstream sport e.g., wheelchair rugby, and this means that there are necessary adaptations and accommodations that must be considered. No two athletes will perform sport activities the same way, although they use the same

techniques, equipment, or have the same coaching instruction, each athlete will attempt to the best of their ability. Able-bodied sport and parasport share these common traits. In order to nurture parasport participation it can be beneficial to extend programs outside the confines of the traditional sport rules and structures e.g., taking into consideration an individual's sport classifications, adapted events or distances, or permit the use of assistive devices. Facilities also play a role in the delivery of individual variations that support the autonomy of participants.

We've been building a lot of new things to that high standard above the entire building code because we wanted to provide that opportunity for all our residents to access and remove barriers. And we know from all the research that there are barriers, and it is difficult to get para-athletes... So if you don't have a facility that makes them feel comfortable, it's even harder... It starts with a good design, but it's not just a design. It's everything you do after that too, in terms of the programs and feeling making people feel welcome.

Doug's work in the design, development, and ongoing implementation of a TO2015 legacy facility provided him with the firsthand account of games impact. Hosting TO2015 brought a lot of new ideas and resources to the community and this enabled Doug to see beyond the immediate scope of the games, emphasizing a greater push to maximize on the "new build" opportunity, and to seek out all accessible options in the facility. In this case, Doug sought to ensure that the lasting impact of the new facility would not just provide accessible infrastructure to the community but also contribute to the development of parasport programs.

Being a new build venue for TO2015 meant that there were government subsidies and additional financial supports that would not be available outside of the hosting context. The immediacy of games hosting puts pressure on the community and the facilities to recognize access and this suggests that universal accessibility requirements could more easily be pursued and applied in alignment with the strategic leveraging plans and goals of the facility. Leveraging impairment in new facility designs seems to be easier done than in retrofit or renovations to older facilities. The caveat to the successful leveraging of impairment and accessibility is about recognizing how far the money can go. This legacy venue of the TO2015 games is now home to a national training centre which provides high-performance training and services to both para and able-bodied athletes. The long-lasting impact of games time leveraging initiatives are still being felt in the parasport programs and continued hosting of national and international events. The leveraging at games to maximize on an opportunity to have greater future impact involved connecting with, and listening to, like-minded individuals who can synergize and make things happen. Susan reinforces this notion, commenting on how her opinion and perspectives were taken more seriously during her volunteer work with the games host organization:

They [TO2015 directors] were really good about if we said something, it was taken as carrying more weight or ... this is the proper thing to do, or this is something we need to look into. They were pretty good from that perspective, very open to being creative about things and to making changes.

Incorporating and valuing the voices of those who have the parasport knowledge and games hosting experience is another example of a collective recognition. A host

organization will only have a set amount of available human resources who have the skills sets and networks to bring a concept into reality concerning parasport initiatives. Those who know, should be the ones who advise, and this is no different when leveraging impairment in a sporting context. The hosting cycle of a major parasport games represent an optimal period of time when impairment and disability culture shift into the community lens. Through media and awareness campaigns, impairment in sport becomes a tangible reality and thus brings about a form of social recognition:

Its that perception of disability close to the games, and I think they are more open. Society is more open to understanding how people with an impairment function in a different way but are functioning effectively.

The openness that Charlie mentions refers to a community mindset. A mindset that is experiencing the hype of the games and the powerful unifying aspects of parasport competition. Charlie also noted the highlight functional differences among parasport athletes – functioning differently, yet effectively. Parasport athletes operate differently due physical or intellectual impairment, yet they are able to perform on the competitive stage as effectively as their able-bodied peers. The event provided the opportunity to showcase this. For the new spectator, the non-traditional or “different” aspects of parasport can contribute to a lack of understanding around how an event is conducted and winners determined. Educating the public on the classification structures, rule variations, and technologies is crucial to the overall growth of a cultural respect for the parasport movement.

Charlie's mention of a time period suggests that parasport stakeholders must act within an appropriate proximity of the games to be able to maximize awareness and to solidify their leveraging goals in the post games timeframe. If stakeholders miss out on the ideal timeframes, the implications could result in a form of public misrecognition of the event, its participants and overarching message. James describes his thoughts on the impact of hosting and the uptake of parasport among fans and students in attendance:

Is it really sending the right message? To show how hard life is in a wheelchair or how hard it is without an arm ...? So the extension of that, I just hope these kids and fans understand or appreciate the athleticism that they are being brought to and that they enjoy it, and it does not become more of a 'look at those poor, poor, people [scenario].

The misrecognition of the purpose in the context of parasport identifies the importance of media messaging and education. The significance of James comment suggests that there will be pockets of spectators and students who cannot see beyond the immediate performance i.e., impairment first and then sport performance. Awareness initiatives with schools and youth seek to normalize diversity and impairment in sport. The mixed messaging can occur when predominant narratives (e.g., overcoming, inspirational, supercrip) undermine the value of the event and accompanying sport performances. Incorrectly applied narratives in the overall messaging of parasport games can perpetuate ableism, reinforce social stigmas, and also confuse the public as to the overall purpose of the games.

We've come a long way and there are still some organisations out there that are raising money on the backs of people with an impairment, that still really promote that inspirational porn approach right here in Ontario and it's discouraging.

James and Susan spoke about the themes and topics that they felt do not positively contribute to media representations of parasport. The inspiration narrative has long been a part of disability movement and sport culture. Inspiration porn on the other hand, is a relatively new media construct and is about a continued fascination and need to see parasport athletes or people with impairment overcoming and triumphing over simple acts, especially those that are not perceptively difficult. To the parasport athlete who performs their sport on a daily basis, this act is part of their normal expression of a talent. Inspiration porn is the eye candy that is an easy sell in the media. On a similar note, so is the charity narrative. Susan states “we are very conscious to not...equate disability with the need to give, or with charity, or with pity.” Gone are the days where it is socially acceptable to host a telethon that exploits a person’s disability or abnormality. This narrative capitalizes off of those with physical and intellectual impairments, for the purposes of achieving a financial goal, enhanced ratings, or long-term viewership. Major parasport events do not fit this narrative. Inspiration, overcoming, or charity narratives are powerful and persuasive media themes. Parasport events have a heavy task to be able to control and convey the proper messaging.

Community residents were informed that in 2015 Toronto was to host the two sets of Pan American Games, commencing with an abled-bodied set of games and then the city was to welcome the athletes with impairment for the subsequent para “side” of the games. Embedded in this messaging is a tone of reciprocity in the acceptance and

professional conduct within the 'second wave' of games participants. The same hosting services were needed among both games participants as well as their respective delegations. Participants discussed subtle forms of disrespect that are evident at the facility level and within the host community:

It's amazing because it's easy for people to give lip service to it...No one is going to say that they don't believe in universal design or that they are anti-accessibility. And so I really found that was a huge challenge, was getting people beyond the sort of blanket statements e.g., 'well of course, I believe in accessibility...but I don't I don't want a ramp here. I'm just going to have stairs out front. But I really support parasport. But I'm not going to make that bathroom accessible because it costs too much', you know."

Lip service in business and personal relations is form of misrecognition and can lead to more tangible examples of disrespect in the games hosting environment. Words not backed up by action are simply empty and unfulfilled commitments, whether it be to fix an elevator or to deliver on a promised standard of accessibility. Expressions and comments that are insincere or intended to redirect a focus towards some other view, can be difficult to navigate with respect to intention, especially when dollar signs are on the line.

Interviewees noted that decision-making processes of these major parasport games can demonstrate a lack of mutual respect. They noted the numerous expectations that Games would bring about change, but impairment often remains secondary or overlooked completely. Besty offers an example that she experienced during her time

working at the Games: “They're not allowed to send out anything that doesn't have a French translation, even if it takes longer and it's expensive. Why do we let it go out without the accessibility filter? Right?” Hosting a set of parasport games implies that those who are hired on staff and advocating for the games are sharing a common vision around accessibility. Adhering to the bilingual language standards is a must when operating in Canada. As an extension of this requirement, there needs to be oversight in accessibility communication standards. The TO2015 host organization had overlooked the importance of accessibility in communication with respect to inaccessible documents that were being shared among staff. Betsy highlights how some files were not being saved and circulated in a format that could be easily read by screen reading applications. A simple file format omission had the ability to foster a sense of social exclusion among visually impaired staff at the host organization level. This lapse in accessible services was overlooked and taken lightly by staff and an explanation issued recognizing the negative impact it had on inclusion and participation. Betsy’s tone suggests that it was not fully recognized as a meaningful issue which should have prompted some form of change.

When major games and parasport events are hosted, program managers who play a part in the event planning and advocacy do so because it is an expression of community passion. Games bring people together and allow them to recognize one another as social participants who thrive by being seen through the actions of sport, volunteerism, and culture. Parasport games are an opportunity to amplify the individual ripples of passion into waves of community support and acknowledgement through a common achievement. Sporting events have so much potential to provide learning opportunities around the sociocultural diversity that exists within a host society. Interviewees

highlighted that basic human rights of people with impairment can be forefronted at a major parasport games or they can be forgotten perpetuating the ongoing challenges for inclusion.

4.3 Solidarity

The last theme looked at social solidarity and the community relationships that nurture a mutual sympathy towards an individual or group's social worth. In the context of games legacy impacts and the leveraging outcomes of hosting major parasport events, this theme expanded into three categories: Esteem; Transformation; and Social Achievement. The subjects associated with this theme supported notions of capacity, value, and leveraging change to acquire greater social worth within the parasport community and the overall culture of people living with impairment.

Hosting major parasport games will represent the culmination of many years of hard work and dedication. The games planning committees and host organizations only have one shot to maximize the impact and deliver a positive hosting experience. Games impacts are often measured by the breadth of tangible outcomes e.g., legacy funds, new facilities, updated equipment. Emma talked about how TO2015 kickstarted the parasport programming at the facility which she worked during the games and has continued since:

I think it [TO2015] was really the pivotal point for the building to start enhancing the parasport that we do offer. Whether it be in our child sports and games, to drop-in programs or whether we try to integrate it within the summer sport camps, I think that was really the turning point.

These aspects are important to continue on as leveraging outcomes and goals, nonetheless, the intangible outcomes e.g., personal experiences, learned skills, and community bonds, can leave more of a lasting impression on the overall sense of solidarity within the community. Most of the research participants spoke about the tangible outcomes that remain in the post games era. But all of them recognized the value of the intangible experiences of advocacy they had stemming from TO2015.

I think advocacy would probably be one that's kind of enhanced the way people think. You see there could be a child with a disability and mom and dad brought them to the Parapan Am games to show them sports that they might be interested in and they could have found a hero from that...I think we actually had a couple staff go and get their coaching certification and wanted to coach athletes with disabilities.

The games fostered new heroes, new networks of friendships, opened doors to employment opportunities, and triggered personal changes in attitude towards impairment in sport. These reverberations are still recognizable six-years after the closing ceremony. The energy of the games continues on in the community in the form of an echo. Whether it is the energy of the staff and stakeholders planning the event, or the volunteers devoting their free time to support the games; the sights, memories, and sounds of TO2015 can still be felt among those who had an experience:

You bring in the world and people go, 'wow, I didn't know this existed.' Or they go, 'holy crap, they are something else, they're amazing, the things they are able to do' and I think what it does is it just opens the mind up. You know seeing is

believing, and until you see that whole excitement piece, live in real time you don't really get a sense of it... It's brought a whole new level of understanding and recognition to each of the sport components than maybe ever before. I think it's so, so vital that we see things like that continue.

Troy's statement regarding the parasport experience in a major games context captures the spirit, excitement and passion that is associated with parasport. Opening up the mind towards new feelings and ideas around ability and athleticism, spectators can leave a venue realizing that the competition they just witnessed is a one of kind performance. Knowing that spectators view parasport events as a fulfilling source of experiential entertainment, one that can be equalled to the events of mainstream amateur sport, is empowering to the culture of people living with impairment. This kind of recognition nurtures the collective attitudes and cultivates a greater awareness and acceptance of specific traits of participating groups. "And now there's that expectation, right, when they go to games they want to see a full spectator group there to cheer rather than just their parents just clapping for them." Parasport has not always operated within the scope of the mainstream. It has struggled for acknowledgement as a viable form of competition and parallel display of athleticism. Although it can be a challenge to fill the stands at a parasport events, the movement has gained momentum through community acts of solidarity e.g., volunteerism, try-it demonstrations, and schools programs.

TO2015 brought about a heightened level of awareness intended to engage spectator groups with the passion of the athletic performances. One of the strategies was to partner with elementary, high school and university classes to fill the stands with youthful energy. These groups watch the events but also try the respective sport via

onsite demonstration areas. This strategic initiative hit upon two key areas of the games: filling the seats and educating the youth. It was believed that informing this demographic on the benefits of parasport participation would improve awareness of impairment and body diversity in sport. This approach presupposes that awareness through parasport is a wanted construct in this particular sphere of influence. Andy talked about this notion of a community “want”:

We're all part of this world, right? So whether you have a disability or you don't have a disability, you still need access to these programmes...There is a difference, but there shouldn't be a difference in access... I think the people within our community have to want it as well.

No one wishes to be excluded from participation opportunities, especially if the exclusion is founded on a cultural disrespect or social pathology stemming from race, gender, or ability (Honneth, 1996). Major games that have a parasport focus place a greater emphasis on the notion of a “will” to be included. For a community to want accessible programming implies that the community has a need to include it. In pursuit of the wanted outcome, the community must identify a need, accept the challenges and costs, and take ownership of the initiative. Major games have a finite lifespan, the energy and immediacy of the games rapidly dissolve when the flame is extinguished. Leveraging outcomes designed to increase participation requires that someone or some group continue to build upon the momentum within the community. If not, then the “want” will be unacknowledged and momentum lost. James points to the importance of being able to identify the “want” within a host community and to be able to support those expressing interest in various program pathways and options:

Maybe you don't want to be a competitive athlete, but they want to be involved in something physically. They want an activity, they want a sport, they want a recreational activity. That's where we've really honed our focus... What we think kind of got left behind after those games and most games... When the games are done, it's often yesterday's news. You've got a few heroes ... but essentially, turn out the lights, the party is over... We're helping others connect with programs, clubs, coaches or sport organisations if they want to pursue that sort of pathway.

The theme of the road, or pathway is important in the context of a community recognition of parasport, specifically in the post games era. The challenges associated with carving out a new road or pathway offered the opportunity to bring in new resources. Some people will seek out accessible programs for health and fitness, whereas others will pursue dreams of the Paralympic podium. James' work focused on the areas that link people to the proper pathways leading to participation in their community. He notes that that roads and pathways need to be reinforced and maintained by all program manager and partners once the event is complete. The ongoing support of the principles of accessibility in sport and recreation programming is about the continued recognition of the game's momentum.

You know, it's sort of like my secret mission. If I come into a room with municipal partners... allegedly, I'm just there to talk about what our plans are for [Games], discussing what that looks like. But really, I want to take that opportunity to try and change the way they view disability... to potentially broaden their mind about what accessibility actually means within the work that

they're doing and how that integration piece looks within their own cities outside of the games.

Dora's "secret mission" to change perspectives and broaden minds was facilitated through the hosting of the event and continues to offer avenues for discussion. The Games brings forth accessibility principles forcing people to get out of their personal comfort zones and to take on new perspectives and challenges. Some groups will easily adhere to the message, while others simply pass it off as just another thing to tend to. Dora's strategy to gauge how impairment is viewed among a partner groups and stakeholders takes for a particular personality type, capable of exemplifying negotiation skills that critically assess and measure for tones of ableism. Dora states how it is important to then interpret the intentions of Games legacy into practical outcomes: "I think that is at the core of how we'll have greater success, if we can better translate the intention into practice." A major games scenario involves the orchestration of many moving parts and interconnected social modalities. Each involved party having their own attitudes, agendas, and economic realities. Taking ownership of an intention or planned initiative, calls for the recognition of a needed change that must happen if the plan is to actualize. James takes a swipe at this by stating how:

There's always the talk of legacy from the games and I often wonder if there really is a strategic plan, a practical strategic plan thereafter?... It takes that kind of, I think, community connection to really maximise or optimise what a legacy plan is for a community after the games.

As discussed earlier, hosting games can present a timely occasion to set in motion plans and forms of social change. Implementing planned strategies or changes in service deliveries can happen relatively quickly (as experienced during times of pandemic) or can take years for a recognized outcome from a change e.g., including disability in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. James highlights the need for both short-term and long-term goals and practical strategies - goals that can be easily achieved in the immediate timeframes following the games and serve as motivation that echo towards the longer-term goals.

The 2015 Parapan American Games were a historic achievement for the province of Ontario and the regional municipalities involved. Hosting two distinct sets of major international games, held back-to-back within a limited timeframe is a commendable triumph. With one cohort taking the stage at a time, spectators had the opportunity to consume sport from two distinct angles – a mainstream able-bodied perspective, and a parasport perspective. The decision to host parasport events suggests an intention to acknowledge and value impairment in sport, however this “side” of the event agenda must consistently demonstrate their value as an equal and worthy recipient of games related services, standards, and deliverables. Betsy highlights some important differences between these two types of games:

I felt like they're like they had this emergency back door with the Pan Ams, that it [accessibility] was only really relevant during the Para events. We were trying to get it in place for the Pan Ams. but you know if there's a delay, let's make that a lower priority because they're after... It was constantly keeping it top of mind about the spectators, and the dignitaries and the VIPS ... We need the accessibility

for everything, everywhere, everyday! This isn't a secondary event that we can delay. Whereas in Glasgow [2014 Commonwealth Games], there is the media left by the spill over and there's the spectators spill over and there's the accessibility accountability, because they're at the same time and they have to be ready for the same time. It was non-negotiable.

Comparatively, the Paralympic Games take place within two weeks of the closing of the Olympic Games. Operating with the same venues, the same accommodations, and the same services, the Paralympics are the second event in the hosting agenda. The nature of its position in the hosting order can perpetuate an attitude that the Paralympics are an event with lower priority and therefore require a reduced ongoing effort after the conclusion of the “primary” event.

Betsy's effort to remind those of the continuing priority of the parasport games, signals how a host organization planning for back-to-back games must avoid “hosting fatigue” or getting burned out before the secondary event has even started. Other types of major international games that have a parasport focus e.g., Commonwealth Games run with an integrated model, whereas there is only one set of games with an integrated parasport agenda. Betsy points to the advantages that integrated models of hosting have over the dual games model. With integrated games, all service deliveries become a priority and any setbacks are immediately noticed. Accessibility services, media coverage, and spectator engagement is all part of a unified effort and parasport inclusion can benefit in these key areas. The pros and cons of an integrated model of hosting in comparison to a dual games or segregated approach is beyond the scope of this thesis. However, the achievements of the segregated model (e.g., 2015 Parapan American

Games) is able to bring more athletes and more competitive classifications to the games, while at the same time placing a greater emphasis on the identity and culture of people living with impairment in the overarching hosting message. Charlie voices his opinion on how athletes in major parasport games can get caught up in the effort trying to achieve the same level of recognition as mainstream sport participants:

You do see some recognition for the more visible athletes such as the track and wheelchair racers and they get the high-profile sport promotion based on similarities to the Olympic able-bodied athletes...They want to apply their “norm”, where their norm is able-bodied orientated, but to Para it doesn’t stick in the same way.

Recognizing parasport is about acknowledging the performances, similar to what is done in mainstream sport, but with added elements of body diversity, rule adjustments, and adaptive equipment. For parasport athletes who rise to the top of their classification, or pool of competitors, the natural question would be what is next? Parasport has come a long way since the early days of the Stoke Mandeville Games and the movement will continue to evolve into the future. Hosting major parasport games are instrumental to the evolution of sport for people with impairment. Through their achievements delivering the games, the host communities are able to learn about accessibility principles and educate the public on the many variations and benefits of active participation through sport and recreation programs. Along the way, the physical barriers to participation are identified and gradually dissolved, so too does the stigmas and presuppositions that are tied to impairment. Sport is sport and Betsy sums up this idea by stating that: “People are worth

being recognized for their athletic prowess. It is not admirable because they have a disability. It is admirable because they are phenomenal athletes.”

Although there are many classification structures which govern the rules and principles of parasport, the possibilities are endless with respect to how far parasport can take an individual. People with physical and intellectual impairments are only limited by the constraints that society places on them. It is in the nature of athleticism to push harder, go farther and seek new competitive grounds. Sport achievements and the accompanying recognition is not limited to the high-performance, able-bodied athlete. To the parasport athlete, coaches, family members and support staff, Paralympic gold is recognized the same as an Olympic gold, Paralympic world-records are just that – world records. When this concept is fully recognized and respected, there will be no true boundaries for sport for people with impairment.

Chapter 5

5 Discussion

I begin this chapter with a description of the social context and influential events that were occurring at the time of data collection and analysis. With themes of recognition apparent in the social uprisings and impacts of the global pandemic scenario, this section lays out the connection to this research theme and the current world events. In this chapter, I also dive into the interpretation of the findings and further consider the identified themes and topics with respect to my theoretical framework of recognition. The section focuses on the legacy and long-term impacts of TO2015 that were immediately recognizable among program managers.

5.1 Recognized struggle

I conducted this research project during a time of considerable social change. The early months of 2020 brought about much civil unrest due to protests stemming from economic inequality, racial injustice, and gender disparity. In an unprecedented global effort to stop the coronavirus major sporting events like the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic games were postponed, with other international and domestic events forced to be cancelled. News outlets and media messaging was flooded with images of political protests, conflict in the streets, and systemic government oppression. Each of these uprisings proved timely to be studying concepts of recognition. I came to see the how recognition represents a guiding ethic and unifying principle that when adopted, can reinforce social alliances. I observed how the social alliances can manifest a “will” to improve upon the conditions and seek to reduce social pathologies (Honneth, 1996; Li, 2007, p. 20). I felt that conducting sociocultural research during this time was a

challenging task. It required a skill set to effectively navigate through the series of interconnected crises and uprisings that involved intersections of a variety of marginalized groups. Each group seeking a form of recognition by adopting identity politics as a social leveraging agent e.g., Me Too, Black Lives Matter, Occupy Wall Street (Campbell, 2018; Jackson, 2018; Lamont, 2018). Concepts of recognition were apparent in the group ideologies that attempted to find solutions to the problems they were specifically facing e.g., systemic racism, sexism, or poverty. Concepts of recognition were also applied to crises that impact humanity as a whole e.g., climate change or pandemic outcomes (Nightingale, 2017).

The COVID-19 pandemic and the impacts of physical distancing, quarantine measures and social isolation have further marginalized people with impairment (Goggin & Ellis, 2020). The struggle for recognition, for the emancipation of people living with impairment, for equality of access, is all but a branch of the same “social justice” tree. The social pathologies faced by marginalized groups that are striving for recognition represent an inherent challenge to be seen and to be acknowledged. Through the struggle for recognition, people with impairment can tap into sources of solidarity and community empowerment (Hahn, 1987). The findings of this project demonstrate that sport participation and major parasport games can offer opportunities to bring attention to this struggle. As seen in the program manager interviews, concepts of recognition are evident in many aspects of the hosting environment. Thus, recognizing parasport is about the ways in which “the struggle” experienced by athletes with impairment is acknowledged by the community through the event hosting process.

This research initially sought to investigate how games-time adaptations and accommodations for parasport programming was represented in ongoing participation initiatives stemming from the TO2015. I also wanted to gain insight into games-related legacy campaigns, exploring the ways in which they continued to have a lasting impact on participation initiatives and venue accessibility. My original research objectives needed to change to adapt to the realities of a pandemic lockdown scenario. Unable to focus on the facility adaptations and accommodations by conducting face-to-face interviews with participants, I instead paid attention to the voices of participants and focused on the areas of hosting TO2015 that program managers felt were most immediately recognizable. This allowed me to depart from the tangible facility level accommodations and adaptations to the intangible e.g., experiences and perspectives of long-term impacts. The challenge being that I only had one, often uncritical, perspective of recognition in games-related legacy. Through the participant interviews, I experienced the concept of recognition as an underlying factor in the ongoing legacy initiatives and outcomes of TO2015.

5.2 Recognized impacts

Studying a novel concept of recognition in the post-games' era meant that participants had a five-year range in which they could think back to what it was like at-games, as well as think about all the ways in which the games impacted their ongoing delivery of sport and recreation services. Overall, interviewees viewed TO2015 as being a significant cultural event that advanced the awareness agenda of the parasport movement, but not necessarily to the culture of people living with impairment. Program managers

recognized the legacy and impacts of TO2015 in the areas of: parasport development, parasport education, and parasport respect.

5.2.1 Parasport development

Interviewees who were involved with awareness initiatives from TO2015 took on the challenge of igniting a community passion for parasport. They understood that they needed to recognize impairment to successfully establish individual attachments to the events. The personal connections to the events were expressed via acts of volunteering, planning responsibilities, or participating in sport demonstrations. The findings suggest that program managers perceived an increased awareness from the hosting of the games, and they feel that this awareness helped foster an appreciation of impairment in the community.

Generating interest and sustaining participation in parasport is not an easy task. Para athlete identification and engagement presents some unique obstacles (Patatas et al., 2020). The challenges range from the low numbers of eligible people or to issues with access to innovative equipment / performance technology, identifying and engaging para athletes takes some additional effort (Hambrick et al., 2015). Interviewees talked about how the hosting of TO2015 brought attention to impairment and this helped some potential athletes better understand their own connection to the constraints that limit their own participation. Ultimately, to increase participation in parasport within the host population, the community needs to have the “want” and the will to offer inclusive and adaptive programming. The interviewees were able to recognize this “want” for more adaptive programming and this inspired some therapeutic recreation programs to better align with parasport pathways and a competitive performance model.

Of the examples discussed in the love theme, hosting TO2015 played a role in sparking a confidence to discover more from parasport participation. The findings emphasized how parasport games can facilitate opportunities of self-realization, and this is crucial to growing parasport participation. Parents, support personnel, and influential community members e.g., schoolteachers and volunteers, will each recognize and cultivate the talents of individuals with impairment in different ways (Lauruschkus et al., 2017; Shields & Synnot, 2016). Interviewees spoke about how parents and supporters can be detrimental or instrumental in how far a child or youth with impairment can take their passion for sport. This is an important aspect to consider when creating participant engagement strategies.

Major parasport games are bound to the realities of economic circumstances, human resources, and time; but this does not mean that their impacts will be muffled once the lights go out. The longer-term impacts of major games take a community to recognize and sustain the actions of the individual, the group, and the movement. As seen in the example of the OPLG, those who are committed and dedicated supporters of parasport will remain long after the completion of a set of games. It becomes imperative that parasport participants and allies are recognized for their commitment, enthusiasm, and positive influences as part of the ongoing legacy in which they have contributed. The interviews highlighted the importance of parasport representation from former athletes, coaches, therapists, volunteers, and staff. Future board of directors, host committees and sport organizations need to have a recognized voice in the overall planning and implementation of future sport initiatives.

5.2.2 Parasport education

Program managers spoke about the ways in which hosting TO2015 inspired a community respect for parasport athletes. Parasport has become more of a celebrated and accepted form of mainstream sport and this social acceptance is a testament to the value of recognition as an applicable and conceptual ideology in sport management (Brittain & Wolff, 2015; Schulenkorf, 2017). The Canadian push for the integration of the parasport movement into major games and event hosting has been historically strong (Legg et al., 2015; Legg & Steadward, 2011). Advocates and researchers in the field have encouraged for the focus on sport for development with emphasis on the sociocultural impacts of parasport events (Schulenkorf, 2017). With the culture of people living with impairment being radicalized and promoted among the general population, intersecting with race, gender, and age, the act of hosting major parasport games allows for this particular culture to be celebrated in the social sphere for a brief period of time (Howe & Parker, 2012). The intention is that the event will leave some lasting impression on the individuals participating, the host community, and the culture as a whole (Purdue & Howe, 2012). When the games come to an end, the resulting impact is voiced in the personal narratives of sport and high-performance, it is expressed in the examples of participation, and evident in the stories of a newfound respect through education and volunteerism and coaching.

Sport events can be observed for their ability to unite e.g., as Canadians, as swimmers, as parasport athletes. But they can also be divisive in its competitive or over imposing nature. In the case of hosting major parasport events like TO2015, the local community was encouraged to come together (as the TO2015 games motto suggested).

Participating businesses, partners, and volunteers needed to work together to make the games a success. But some program managers suggested that the games caused a disruption to the local residents, businesses, and disturbed program delivery at games-related venues. Other impacts were described in the forms of traffic disturbances, barriers around facilities and imposing signage were examples of a misrecognized impact as a result of the hosting of the games. This type of impact was not highlighted in detail by program managers but mentioned as noteworthy negative attribute of hosting games in a major city centre.

People come together to watch, cheer, and celebrate individual and team performances while also showing their solidarity towards the culture of people living with impairment. It is through acts of solidarity that major parasport games achieve a heightened level of success. The events of the games are important, however the peripheral activities, those events happening on the sidelines e.g., parasport try-it demonstrations, fan engagement initiatives that can leave a lasting impact. Program managers reinforced the benefits of these peripheral activities as simple acts of solidarity, offering fans and spectators the opportunity to try a performance wheelchair or specific element of parasport. Interviewees spoke about their experiences with the peripheral activities (pre-games and at-games), seeing them as beneficial to sparking a passion. Other program managers stated they believed that try-it activities reinforced notions of self-confidence, and self-respect, enough to mobilize a recreational participant into a competitive sport.

Major parasport games brings to the social surface, body diversity in performance. Education about sporting bodies, in that there are not just two sides to sport,

“able-bodied” and “disabled” sport, rather there are variations and degrees of participation narratives. This aspect of awareness was discussed among program managers and considered a critical outcome of major games. Program managers acknowledged the benefits of educating youth on body diversity, parasport athleticism, and showcasing the equipment involved in parasport. Initiatives associated with school programs not only filled stands, but also reinforced a capacity to normalize parasport participation among the youth. Planners of future parasport games must continue to employ these successful strategies to engage and educate students on the merits of parasport.

5.2.3 Parasport respect

The impacts of TO2015 that resonated most with sport program managers were tied to initiatives that brought community members together. Interviewees spoke about the importance of the need for community members to take on challenges together. Not only did the hosting of the games force host organization staff to think critically about delivering an “access-ABLE” games, but it also supported an ethic of acceptance in the local host communities. When busloads of para-athletes showed up for the games and impairment became more immediately noticeable in a community, it offered visibility to issues of access and human rights. The rights for these individuals to get around town, to access stores, sport venues, and accommodations were critical in these spaces. While I was unable to tour these spaces, interviewees spoke about how the hosting of TO2015 influenced the local community to better recognize social relationships with people who have forms of impairment. Establishing relationships with individuals with impairment goes farther than just laying down a ramp. It called for a holistic approach to cultivating

respect for an individual's autonomy to participate, acknowledging a desire to be seen as a valuable and contributing performer in the event.

The process of hosting major games and events emphasizes the need to adopt the principles of accessibility in facility and service delivery levels. TO2015 brought about many facility updates and renovations to games venues. Participants spoke about how although the aspirations were to leverage TO2015 to acquire upgrades to accessibility within certain facilities, there was often push-back (due to cost, time, and space) to implement full accessibility standards, even in the new design builds, consistent with the literature (Misener et al., 2019). Doug mentioned the cost overrun for implementing accessibility standards and the challenges he faced with raising the extra funds to qualify his venue as a fully accessible facility. In some cases, the accessibility builds were temporary adaptations which were removed upon completion of the games (Misener & Molloy, 2018). The removal of accessibility accommodations is somewhat of a façade testament to the notion of a legacy of accessibility linked to TO2015. Program managers working to ensure that sport facilities and venues adhere to guidelines e.g., Universal Design or International Paralympic Committee hosting standards for accessibility (IPC, 2019), may not achieve a goal of being labeled a fully “accessible games”. These standards help to ensure that host communities planning for a set of games have plans in place to support decision making around the delivery of accessible services.

A key element is that a community must recognize impairment through a reciprocal expectation of hosting standards. If a parasport event is hosted after an able-bodied event, the same level of standards needs to be provided in the delivery of the services for the para side of the event. This is not always the case with distinct parasport

events. Betsy spoke about the great lengths she took to educate the public and ensure that the principles of accessibility were delivered for patrons, and participants attending the games. However, she also described how the message and actions of accessibility that was being promoted, was not fully being adhered to in the organizational context. Similar to sport delivery, accessibility in the host organization workplace is about delivering a reciprocated level of standard of services which enforce the principles of accessibility enabling participation, collaboration, and cooperation among all employees. Identifying any gaps to inclusion in the workplace means that human resources must know their employees and recognize the areas requiring accommodations e.g., screen reading software, transcription needs, or workspace adaptations. Program managers talked about the challenges in delivering accessibility, highlighting that the key issues lie in the diverse forms of subtle accessibility needs. The diversity of individual needs requires a thoughtful and critical eye to call attention to the distinctions that e.g., make a cafeteria easier to navigate for visually impaired persons or to identify the distinct elements that make a bathroom “truly” accessible e.g., toilet paper positioning. Hosting people with impairment in a sporting context does not call for the complete overhaul of society, it is about the bringing attention to the simplest of adaptations that will maximize participation opportunities in society.

The findings of this research study indicate that theories of recognition can play a role in acknowledging the importance of a social theory in sport management. Honneth’s conceptualization of the core tenants of recognition are linked to the philosophical registries of critical theory, and it is this perspective - a critical consciousness, that is needed among sport leaders in order to expedite awareness, increase participation

opportunities, and improve the services and supports for athletes with impairment. The theoretical approach described in this research is primarily about the recognition of a perspective, one that can be applied in the creation of sport policies and event hosting guidelines. As this research project is a part of a larger study and upon completion of the next phases of the research, it will become more apparent of how the concept of recognition can best inform action in the parasport landscape. Moving from theory to collective action can take the shape of accessible dissemination initiatives (e.g., <http://www.theechoproject.org>) that illuminate the voices and perspectives of athletes, advocates, and people with impairment who continue to participate in sport and recreation activities in the respective host communities. Participants spoke about the value of parasport leadership, promoting the voices of athlete advocates, community partner relationships, and ongoing research initiatives that support the inclusion of people with impairment at all levels of the planning and implementation of major parasport games.

Chapter 6

6 Implications and Conclusion

The final chapter begins with a description of the potential theoretical implications of studying and applying a lens of impairment recognition to the field of sport and event management. The section concludes with some final remarks on this research study.

6.1 Theoretical implications

I applied a theoretical concept of recognition as a guiding principle to assess the long-term outcomes of a major parasport event. To my knowledge, this is one of the first studies of parasport legacies to utilize this lens. Drawing on Honneth's work, I explored three core themes of recognition: love, rights, and solidarity. Each pattern of recognition was then applied as a lens when discussing games-related legacies and outcomes. With social philosophy lenses as such, recognition became a mindset which brought attention to areas of conditional improvement for people with impairment. The theoretical implications of the findings suggest that a lens of impairment recognition can be a worthwhile concept linking social philosophy and parasport management and major games planning.

Conducting this research project allowed me to think deeper about what it is to be a part of a community. Asking sport program managers what it meant to recognize impairment in the post-games' era; the responses ranged from one-word answers to philosophical perspectives on the principles of a need to be seen, and a need to be acknowledged. Planning and implementing major multi-sport games will incorporate the

views, attitudes, and opinions of a diverse group of like-minded stakeholders. At each level of planning and decision making in a major games context, sport managers need to apply a lens of impairment recognition. The purpose of such a perspective is to continuously recognize and accentuate the immediate opportunities of conditional improvement for people with impairment attending and participating in the games. A lens of impairment recognition can help in the strategic implementation of games related interventions by asking sport program managers to consider the following questions:

- How will this intervention, accommodation, or adaptation bring recognition to the growth and development of the parasport movement?
- How will this intervention, accommodation, or adaptation help the parasport movement to be recognized in an education setting?
- How will this intervention, accommodation, or adaptation contribute to a recognized community respect for the parasport movement?

Program managers acknowledged the potential benefits of a lens of impairment recognition, one that takes into consideration the immediacy of hosting as well as the long-term reach of the games. The mindset associated with a lens of recognition is guided by standards and implemented with a sense of unconditionality towards the rights of people with impairment. Major parasport games are about a right to participate, and this is applicable at all levels of hosting. The theme of rights considers the social acts of recognition that emphasize the integrity and autonomy of people with an impairment. Opening up a community for a set of games requires an understanding that many different groups of people will be in attendance each with varying degrees of accessibility and participation needs. This perspective also means that there is an appropriate narrative

that is being broadcasted. Community interest in parasport must be generated around this message, one which recognizes the performance and accomplishments as well as celebrates the narrative of parasport. A lens of impairment recognition, when applied to the hosting of major parasport events places emphasis on the acceptance of the principles of accessibility and welcomes diverse forms of athletic performances. It also goes beyond the immediate and seeks to positively leverage the sociocultural impact of the games. The theoretical implications of incorporating a mindset of recognition in the study of major parasport games leveraging strategies and outcomes means that participants could reflect upon the best practices and successes that they feel were extensions of the games that continue to resonate in some capacity in their facility or sport programming. Although not explicitly discussed in the participant interviews, future strategic leveraging initiatives that are designed and implemented at-games, can benefit by adopting a critical consciousness which incorporates a lens of impairment recognition in their planning and decision-making processes (Misener et al., 2019).

6.2 Concluding remarks

By investigating the legacies of a major set of parasport games I was able to recognize the various forms of impacts through the voices of program managers. Resembling temporal ripples, waves, and echoes, the impacts carried a momentum that was recognized at the individual, community, and culture levels of society. Researching the concepts of recognition in the post-parasport games era, enabled me to consider the attitudes, ideas and best practices that help to inform and sustain major parasport games outcomes. Through the acts of hosting major parasport games, I came to understand how communities publicly affirm the authenticity of the people with impairment and thus the

event becomes a recognized gesture which endorses sport for people with impairment. The twelve program managers that I interviewed for this study each provided a powerful narrative concerning their experiences of a recognized legacy stemming from the hosting of TO2015. Interviewees identified that events of TO2015 contributed to a progressive community acceptance of parasport. It is difficult to say how the general public would respond to my overarching research question. However the hosting of TO2015 presented an opportunity for local residents to experience the culture of people living with impairment for a short period of time, and to determine for themselves how they come to recognize the merits of parasport.

Parasport games present a real-time social context to identify ableist attitudes and to acknowledge the areas within a community where people with impairment are being misrecognized. Major parasport games also provide a nurturing environment to cultivate grassroots level passions and foster a greater self-confidence to participate in sport. Major parasport games have come a long way since the Stoke Mandeville Games in 1948 and the first Paralympic Games in 1960. The events of the past help to shape those of the future, so it is imperative that researchers and program managers continue to recognize the areas of needed improvement in field of hosting major games and parasport program delivery.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Themes of recognition

Theme	Category	Subject	Topic
Love	Self	Participation	Embodiment
			Discovery narrative
	Parental / Family / Friend	Support	Paternalism
			Compassion
			Schools / Teachers Role
			Curriculum
			Volunteerism
	Social	Leadership	Inclusivity
			Duty
	Media	Awareness	Mentorship
	Sport	Awareness	Messaging vs. message
			Passion
Awareness		Performance	
Rights	Civil	Emancipation	Chicken and egg
			Degrees of impact
			Accessibility
	Political	Inclusion	Service Delivery
			Accountability
			Hosting Requirements
			Accessibility lens
			Worldview
	Respect	Freedom	Marketing participation
		Collective	Autonomy
			Venue Design
			Voice
	Disrespect	Misrecognition	Stigma / Ableism
		Autonomy	Messaging
		Media	Exploitation
Reciprocation		Representation	
Cultural		Equity	
		Hypocrisy	
Solidarity	Esteem	Purpose	Policy
			Sport and program delivery
		Empowering	
	Transformation	Participation	Valued Traits
		Collective	The "want"
			Leveraging opportunity
			Catalyst for engagement
			Translation of momentum
		Perspectives	Short term / long term planning
Inclusion / Integration			

Appendix B: Ethics approval



Date: 3 March 2020

To: Dr. Laura Misener

Project ID: 115292

Study Title: Major Sport Events and Paraspport Participation: Understanding Program Manager Perspectives of Post-Event Opportunities and Experiences

Short Title: MSEPP: Program Manager Interviews

Application Type: NMREB Initial Application

Review Type: Delegated

Full Board Reporting Date: April 3 2020

Date Approval Issued: 03/Mar/2020

REB Approval Expiry Date: 03/Mar/2021

Dear Dr. Laura Misener

The Western University Non-Medical Research Ethics Board (NMREB) has reviewed and approved the WREM application form for the above mentioned study, as of the date noted above. NMREB approval for this study remains valid until the expiry date noted above, conditional to timely submission and acceptance of NMREB Continuing Ethics Review.

This research study is to be conducted by the investigator noted above. All other required institutional approvals must also be obtained prior to the conduct of the study.

Documents Approved:

Document Name	Document Type	Document Date	Document Version
Program Manager Email Recruitment_a[1]	Recruitment Materials	29/Jan/2020	1
Program Manager Letter of Information & Consent_a	Written Consent/Assent	13/Feb/2020	2
Recog_InterviewGuide_PM_a	Interview Guide	13/Feb/2020	2

No deviations from, or changes to the protocol should be initiated without prior written approval from the NMREB, except when necessary to eliminate immediate hazard(s) to study participants or when the change(s) involves only administrative or logistical aspects of the trial.

The Western University NMREB operates in compliance with the Tri-Council Policy Statement Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS2), the Ontario Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA, 2004), and the applicable laws and regulations of Ontario. Members of the NMREB who are named as Investigators in research studies do not participate in discussions related to, nor vote on such studies when they are presented to the REB. The NMREB is registered with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services under the IRB registration number IRB 00000941.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kelly Patterson, Research Ethics Officer on behalf of Dr. Randal Graham, NMREB Chair

Note: This correspondence includes an electronic signature (validation and approval via an online system that is compliant with all regulations).

Appendix C: Recruitment email

Subject line: Parasport Research Initiative and Opportunity - Recognizing a Legacy

Good day,

My name is Adam [Purdy](#) and I am a graduate researcher and former Paralympic swimmer. I am currently working alongside Dr. Laura Misener (Principal Investigator) and her research team on a project titled: *Major Sport Events and Parasport Participation (MSEPP): Investigating Post-Event Opportunities and Experiences*. This project focuses on the long-term outcomes of leveraging efforts aimed at rectifying social inequities for persons with disabilities.

During the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games and the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games, our research team examined the role of these events in developing positive Parasport and community impacts. As we know, the impact of these events continues well beyond the Games themselves. Now in the post-event era, we are looking to understand more about the long-term outcomes of event-related efforts. We seek to address not only if the events tackled barriers and created new sport participants, but also to examine the multifaceted nature of the post-event sport participation experience as supported by facility, venue, and program managers. Assessing areas such as transportation, venue accessibility, and the quality of the sporting practice, we look to you for your perspective concerning these relevant topics associated with hosting major Parasport games.

Given the current circumstances with COVID-19 and the practicing of social isolation, we are asking you to participate in a semi-structured interview via remote conference technology e.g., Zoom or MS Teams. Your involvement in the Games is of interest to our study as we consider the post-event impact that the 2015 Parapan American Games had on the legacy implementation and sport participation programs in the region. The interviews will focus on a series of questions and prompts concerning the overall inclusion agenda and tactics (e.g. accessible infrastructure, adapted equipment, varying communication mediums). This is not a program evaluation or an evaluation of your role efficacy, but rather a broader examination of structures, policies, and implementation practices associated with an inclusion agenda.

See attached letter of information for project details. To discuss this opportunity further or set up a time for a remote interview at your convenience.

We look forward to connecting and involving you in this exciting Parasport research opportunity.

Respectfully,

Adam Purdy on behalf of Dr. Laura Misener and the MSEPP Research Team

Appendix D: Letter of information and consent



LETTER OF INFORMATION TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

Title of Study: Major Sport Events and Parasport Participation: Understanding Program Manager Perspectives of Post-Event Opportunities and Experiences

Principal Investigator: Dr. Laura Misener

Director and Associate Professor, School of Kinesiology, Western University

Thank you for your interest in our study on Major Events and Parasport Participation. You are being invited to freely participate in research related to the post-event opportunities and experiences stemming from the hosting of games and event in your region. This research is being funded by a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council in collaboration with Sport Canada Sport Participation Research Initiative. If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please feel free to contact Dr. Laura Misener (Canada) at [REDACTED]

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information about the project that will help you make an informed decision about your participation in the research. Review this letter carefully and please do not hesitate to ask questions if you need any aspects of the project clarified further. Once participation in the study is confirmed via the consent agreement, you will be issued a copy of this letter of information for your personal records.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY: This research focuses on understanding the long-term outcomes of event-related efforts. We seek to address not only if the events tackled barriers and created new sport participants, but also to examine the multifaceted nature of the post-event sport participation experience which includes areas such as transportation, venue accessibility, and quality of the sporting practice.

PROCEDURES: We are asking you to participate in a semi-structured, audio recorded interview, lasting approximately one-hour in duration. Audio recording the interview is optional. Should you choose not to have your interview audio recorded, the researcher will take notes during the interview for data collection purposes. Your involvement as a program manager is of interest to our study as we are investigating the post-event impact that [Glasgow2014] [Toronto2015] had on the legacy implementation and sport participation programs. The interviews will focus on a series of questions and prompts concerning the overall inclusion agenda and tactics (e.g. accessible infrastructure, adapted equipment, varying communication mediums).

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION: There is no extrinsic compensation for participation in the study. Participation is strictly voluntary and you can withdraw at any time.

WITHDRAWAL FROM STUDY: Should you choose to withdraw your information from the study, please contact Dr. Laura Misener at [REDACTED] by email [REDACTED] or Dr. Gayle McPherson at [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]

(Appendix D continued)



_____ to indicate your desire to withdraw. Once a written request for removal from the study has been received, all study records pertaining to you will be destroyed.

POTENTIAL RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS: There are few risks to participation in this study. Except for the participant's position in the context of the legacies of Parasport events, no further personal information will be asked. This research will focus on the participant knowledge of any community benefits and legacies left by these events; therefore, there is little risk physically, psychologically or emotionally. There is a slight possibility of a social risk e.g., embarrassment, in that participants are being asked to recall events that may have occurred in the past and it may be difficult to recall the details of these events. Further, while interviewees are not being asked to judge theirs or others performance, it is possible that interviewees may feel uncomfortable presenting information that would seem that they were reticent in their roles and responsibilities. If you feel uncomfortable with any line of questioning, please feel free to decline to respond or remove yourself from the research study.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS AND/OR TO SOCIETY: This study will provide tangible measures for event organizers, community sport organizations, physical educators, and policy makers seeking to increase community sport participation opportunities. Our research will also help these groups make informed decisions about the programming, services, language and infrastructure that support persons with disabilities in sport participation.

Through the interview, you will have the opportunity to reflect and learn about the legacies of these events and discuss if there were any beneficial community impacts. Implementing this information may result in a feelings of pride and success.

CONFIDENTIALITY: Any disclosures of harm to self or others, will be reported to the appropriate authorities. All necessary steps will be taken to ensure the security, privacy and confidentiality of your information and the data you provide to the research team. It is important to know that representatives of Western University's Non-Medical Research Ethics Board, and representatives from the University of the West of Scotland Research ethics committee, may require access to your study-related records to monitor the conduct of the research.

Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission. No names will be released with results; a generic title (i.e., program manager) will be assigned to you at the time of the interview to help retain confidentiality. As such no reference to names will be made within the data. All interviews will be audio recorded and transcribed with your generic title assigned to your data. This information will only be accessible by the members of the research team. There will be a master list linking identifiers to the study ID, and this spreadsheet file will be encrypted and stored separate from the study data. The audio files will be destroyed when transcribing is complete. The transcribed interviews will be stored on a secure University server and stored for seven (7) years after completion of the study, after which they will be destroyed.

RIGHTS OF RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS: You do not waive any legal right by consenting to this study. Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You may decide not to be in this study. Even if you consent to participate you have the right to not answer individual

(Appendix D continued)



questions or to withdraw from the study at any time. If you choose not to participate or to leave the study at any time it will have no effect on your employment or academic status.

There is no conflict of interest to declare for the principle investigator, the research team members or any collaborators in the proposed research initiative.

PUBLICATIONS: The results of this research will be written up in the form of a published scholarly article. By completing the letter of consent, you are consenting to have your anonymized data be a part of the published reports.

For questions about your rights as a research participant or the conduct of this study, you may contact The Office of Human Research Ethics (519) 661-3036, 1-844-720-9816, email: ethics@uwo.ca. This office oversees the ethical conduct of research studies and is not part of the study team. Everything that you discuss will be kept confidential.

These are the terms under which we will conduct research. This letter is yours to keep for future reference.

(Appendix D continued)



PROGRAM MANAGER PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM

Project Title: *Major Sport Events and Parasport Participation: Understanding Program Manager Perspectives of Post-Event Opportunities and Experiences*

Study Principal Investigator's Name: Dr. Laura Misener

I have read [or been informed] of the information given above. Laura Misener has offered to answer any questions I may have concerning the study. I hereby consent to participate in the study.

I agree to have data of me used in the following ways (please check all that apply):

I consent to the audio recording of the interview: YES NO

I consent to the dissemination of any direct, unidentifiable quotes: YES NO

Participant's Name (please print): _____

Participant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

My signature means that I have explained the study to the participant named above. I have answered all questions.

Person Obtaining Informed Consent (please print):

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Appendix E: Participant interview guide

PROTOCOL:

- The interviewers introduce themselves (hand out name card).
- The purpose of the study is repeated.
- Let participants know that they will have the opportunity to review the transcript of their interview if they wish to do so.
- Let participants know that they can conclude the interview at any time.
- The consent form is signed
- Confirm permission to audio record the interview
 - *[Start the audio recorder]*

ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS:

How specifically were you involved in the Glasgow 2014/Toronto 2015 Games?

Probe: What was your job title, specific function(s), responsibilities in the event or the legacy aspects of the event and/or their OC or facility (allow for identifying multiple roles and/or functions)

Probe: What stages of the Games were you involved? Examples include bidding, planning, implementation, wrap-up and/or post-event.

PROGRAMS:

Please state your understanding of the programs in place for Glasgow 2014/Toronto 2015 designed to provide a lasting legacy or impact for people with an impairment?

Probe: Focus of legacy strategies, areas of legacy development and or geographical implementation.

What were the objectives behind these programs pre-Games?

Probe: Type of program; emphasis on accessibility (physical, psychological, social); relationship to organization's core focus

In what areas do you feel that hosting these parasport games have altered the way sport is delivered for people with a disability in your program or facility?

Probe: People in the community or expanded programming options

FACILITIES:

Major parasport events such as the Glasgow 2014/ Toronto 2015 Games represent an opportunity to bring disability sport into the public eye for a period of time. How do you think that hosting the games has promoted visibility of parasport development in your sport / facility?

What specific adaptations and accommodations were made to the facility that would you identify as a direct legacy of the 2015 Parapan American Games?

Probe: Major renovations, new builds?

(Appendix E continued)

OUTCOMES:

With the Glasgow 2014/Toronto 2015 Games having concluded a few years ago what are your own views as to whether these games had an impact on community accessibility for persons with disability?

What are your own view on the effects these games had on understanding disability and or disability related issues?

What outcomes, both positive and or negative have you been able to identify from the hosting of the games for people with an impairment?

How are you evaluating the impact of the [Glasgow 2014/Toronto 2015] on any of the disability related impacts you just noted?

Are the outcomes mentioned linked clearly to the intended legacy outcomes (if not, why not)? Were there any strategies that were emergent or unintended? Were there any that were intended but did not materialize?

CHALLENGES:

What lessons have you taken from the event, in regard to how accessibility in the local community can be influenced (both positively and negatively) while hosting a sport event?

What special advantages or opportunities can you identify that are associated with using this type of sporting event for increasing accessibility and awareness about disability?

What problems can you identify that are associated with using this type of sporting event for increasing accessibility and awareness about disability?

Now, five/six-years post games, how is disability presented in any media / marketing campaigns associated with your sport facility or program?

If you were going to leverage future sporting events to act as a catalyst and enhance accessibility and awareness about disability, what strategies or tactics would you employ?

In your view, what could have been done to better facilitate the accessibility and awareness objectives from the games?

RECOGNITION:

Your involvement in ongoing sport delivery means that you need to take into consideration a variety of athlete and patron needs. In your opinion what does it mean to respect the needs of people with an impairment in your facility and offered sport programming?

Probe: Solidarity through sport delivery e.g., recreation participation. Recognition of parasport.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COLLABORATION

Curriculum Vitae

Name: Adam James Purdy

Post-secondary Education and Degrees: Wilfrid Laurier University
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
2001-2006 B.A Philosophy

The University of Prince Edward Island
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada
2008-2010 Applied Health Services Research

Western University
London, Ontario, Canada
2018-Present M.A Kinesiology (Management and Leadership)

Related Work Experience

Teaching Assistant, Dr. Jim Weese
International Sport Management
Western University
2018-2019

Teaching Assistant, Dr. Alison Doherty
International Sport Management
Western University
2019

Teaching Assistant, Dr. Ben Kajaste
Physical Growth and Motor Development
Western University
2019-2020

Administrative and Research Assistant, Dr. Laura Misener
Project Echo Research Initiative
Western University
2018-Present