## PRESENTING THE 2022 Ring Clancy Lward

The Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons' King Clancy Award is presented annually in recognition of outstanding personal achievement and important contributions in support of Canadians who live with disability. This year's award goes to a group of outstanding recipients, the medal winners at the Tokyo ParalympicGames.

N REPORTING on the performance of Canadian athletes at the Tokyo Paralympics, the CBC said they "were on fire." That was just after they had had won two gold medals and set two world records on the same day. In all, 16 athletes brought home a combined total of 21 medals (five gold, 10 silver and six bronze) and finished 19th in the overall standings. This includes 49 finishes in the top five across various sports.

There was no shortage of accolades for the performance of the Paralympic team's 128 athletes over the course of the 12-day event, which was described as being one of the most challenging ever for Paralympic athletes. This because they faced uncertainty, a lack of pre-event competition opportunities as well as travel and COVID restrictions.

At this year's Great Valentine Gala, the 16 medal winners are being presented with the King Clancy Award for their outstanding personal achievements. Each medal winner will also receive extra financial support as a reward for making it to the Paralympic podium. In partnership with Scotiabank, the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons is providing the athletes with podium cheques to fill a decades old void when it comes to rewards and support for this country's best performing amateur athletes.

"We could not be any prouder of our Paralympic athletes and the way they performed in Tokyo. Regardless of their sport or where they finished in the standings, each athlete performed incredibly and was an inspiration to our nation," says Honourable Vim Kochhar, Chairman of CFPDP. "Together with Scotiabank, CFPDP is pleased to provide podium cheques once again to the medallists. We look forward to continuing this important financial initiative in support of Canada's medal-winning Paralympians in the years to come."

## Here are some of the highlights from the Canadian Paralympic Committee:

• Aurélie Rivard (St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC) was Canada's top athlete in Tokyo. She won five medals – two gold, one

silver and two bronze. Rivard now has a total of 10 Paralympic medals from three Games.

- Brent Lakatos (Dorval, QC) was close behind Rivard in Tokyo, winning four silver medals and bringing his career total to 11 podiums throughout his five Paralympic Games.
- Danielle Dorris (Moncton, NB) was Canada's other multi-medallist in Tokyo, winning gold in the 50m butterfly S7 and silver in the 100m backstroke S7. At age 18 and 11 months, she was Canada's youngest medallist.
- All of Canada's gold medals were won in record-breaking times or distances. Rivard set new world records in both the women's 100m and 400m freestyle S10 races while Dorris broke the world record in the women's 50m butterfly S7. Greg Stewart (Kamloops, BC) set a new Paralympic record enroute to his F46 shot put title, while Nate Riech (Victoria, BC) also was Paralympic record-breaking in the men's T38 1500m.
- A total of 10 athletes won their first Paralympic medals in Tokyo Stewart, Dorris, Riech, Kate O'Brien (Calgary, AB), Priscilla Gagné (Sarnia, ON), Keely Shaw (Midale, SK), Morgan Bird (Calgary, AB), Sabrina Duchesne (St-Augustin, QC), Zachary Gingras (Markham, ON) and Marissa Papaconstantinou (Toronto, ON).
- Five of these first-time medallists captured them in their first Paralympic Games appearance —Stewart, Riech, Gingras, Shaw and O'Brien.
- Six medallists from Rio 2016 went home with hardware from Tokyo Rivard, Nicolas-Guy Turbide (Quebec City, QC), Katarina Roxon (Kippens, NL), Lakatos, Stefan Daniel (Calgary, AB) and Tristen Chernove (Cranbrook, BC).
- Medals were won in five different sports: Para swimming (8), Para athletics (8), Para cycling (3), Para triathlon (1) and Para judo (1).
- Para swimming (three gold, three silver, two bronze) and Para athletics (two gold, four silver, two bronze) tied as Canada's most successful sports.

"On behalf of CFPDP, Scotiabank and our entire community, I offer wholehearted congratulations to our amazing Paralympic athletes," says Kochhar.

