

Carla QUALTROUGH

Carla Qualtrough is a Vancouver-based human rights lawyer and Paralympic athlete. Carla joined 2010 Legacies Now in August of 2006 as Director of Inclusion and Sport Tourism, and is also the elected President of the Canadian Paralympic Committee. Carla is responsible for developing a strategy for making the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games a true celebration of diversity and inclusion. Her focus will be on leveraging the opportunity provided by hosting the 2010 Games to address inequity and advance social policy objectives, particularly as they relate to traditionally marginalized and disadvantaged groups.

Carla comes from a unique background in the areas of human rights and sport policy. Carla has acted as legal counsel for both the BC Human Rights Tribunal and the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC). In addition to her duties as a litigator with both organizations, she acted as lead counsel and primary presenter for the CHRC on a human rights mission to India to discuss the area of disability rights and the legal definition of "disability". On the sport policy side, in 2005 Carla acted as Senior Advisor to the Parliamentary Secretary (Sport) to the Prime Minister, where she was responsible for researching and drafting the Report to the Prime Minister on the advisability of the creation of a full Ministry of Physical Activity and Sport for Canada. Prior to that, she served as the Senior Policy Advisor to the former Secretary of State (Physical Activity and Sport), as well as Special Advisor to the Director General of Sport Canada. As Senior Policy advisor, her responsibility was to provide overall strategic political advice and policy direction in all matters related to sport and physical activity in Canada. Her passion for fairness and equity led her to oversee the creation of a national alternative dispute resolution system for sport, as well to manage the strategic development of programs and policies aimed at reducing barriers to and increasing participation of traditionally under-represented groups within the Canadian sport system, which included the development of an Aboriginal sport policy; the development of a Strategy for Women and Girls in Sport; and the creation of a Work Group for Persons with a Disability in Sport.

Carla regularly conducts workshops and makes presentations in the areas of governance, equity and inclusion, and effective decision-making. She volunteers in a number of capacities within the Canadian and international sport systems, including the Canadian Olympic Committee, Commonwealth Games Canada, and the International Paralympic Committee. She recently received a federal ministerial appointment to the Board of the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada.

Carla competed nationally for 8 years and internationally for 7 years in the sport of swimming, including the Paralympics in Seoul 1988 (1 bronze), the World Championships in Assen, Holland in 1990 (2 silver, 2 bronze), and the Paralympics in Barcelona 1992 (2 bronze).