

Women's Initiatives Committee (WIC) 2020 AGM Report

Once again, we had very few applications for funding this season but still worked side by side with the LTAD committee to partner on event funding. Our committee aimed to refrain from professional development opportunities for 2019 because we have our hearts set on attending the 2020 Women in Sport conference.

Five events/training opportunities were funded this season, which consisted of:

1. CP Camp, run by Jay Moledzki and Peter Kozak, Skydive City, FL
2. 4-way Skills Camp – Parachutisme Nouvel Air (coached by Valerie Poulin & Monika Wittmer)
3. Artistic Freestyle training – Coralie Boudreault
4. 4-way Skills Camp – Skydive Vancouver Island (coached by Renée Point)
5. Remote location opportunities – Chani Fleshman

We are looking for feedback as to how we can have more dropzones run opportunities for female skydivers. Applications are still very few. We're still aiming to have female-only canopy courses, and we want to focus on driving the development and participation of our own skydivers and want to further promote and encourage local organizing and coaching by Canadian female skydivers. We want to see more events being held across Canada and will work with dropzones on a different strategy to assist in promotion of our funding opportunities. In addition, we hope to work with many other groups of women that are promoting their own activities and social development of women in our sport!

Looking forward to 2020,

Michelle Matte-Stotyn

Chair, WIC

A little more from our recipients:

CP Skills Camp

What did you enjoy most about this opportunity?

- *Opportunity for accelerated improvement through repetition. Team training environment.*
- *Training with the Canadian team. As my 3rd year, I've noticed a huge skill improvement of the group in performance and safety. Being coached by a female of whom understands many of the same issues that I have been struggling with in this sport. The community this camp is building across Canada.*

Why do you believe CSPA should continue to fund opportunities like this?

- *This particular event has occurred annually for several years now, and the overall skill level of Canadian canopy pilots has taken a huge leap forward in the last few years. I believe this due in no small part to camps like this one.*
- *Swooping is obviously a dangerous and exciting sport. It's the first thing most skydivers are witness to during their AFF, and many look for guidance in it far too early because of the lack of understanding not just provided to them, but across most dropzones. This opportunity allows 16 people to return to their home dropzones across the country and relay that information students can not receive in their PIMs or, God forbid, around the fire.*

4-way Skills Camp – hosted by Parachutisme Nouvel Air

What did you enjoy most about this opportunity?

- *This kind of camp makes you want to continue in 4-way FS, it generates enthusiasm and attracts more participants to practice this discipline. By learning good methods and doing quality jumps, improvement is noticeable.*
- *The more we improve, the more we are tempted to continue to progress in the sport. We also learn to jump with different people. The coaches have different tips and methods, so that at each camp, you learn and evolve. Thank you so much!*

Why do you believe CSPA should continue to fund opportunities like this?

- *I really enjoyed having a competent coach for my team that allowed us to fix our mistakes and bad habits and taught us new techniques. CSPA should keep on providing funds for opportunities like this to continue to believe in its athletes and train them safely.*

Artistic Freestyle training – Coralie Boudreault

I already completed a freestyle camp with the World Champion Greg Crozier from Airwax a few weeks back. It will not be my last camp. We are planning on having another one in April 2020. Also, I have a camp planned with Inka Titto in DeLand this coming November. My ultimate goal when I started indoor skydiving was to do freestyle competitions in the sky and it hasn't changed. I am planning on taking part at the world championships of skydiving in 2022. I am already an IBA coach for all levels. I would like to do all my classes as soon as I can from coach 1 to coach 3 (freestyle) to give back my knowledge in the sky. Many women are inspired by me because of my progression and I hope this will continue. Eventually, I would like to host events to encourage women to start or discover what is freestyle.

4-way Skills Camp – hosted by Skydive Vancouver Island

The lasting impact on one another is amazing when you get a group of women together who come from all different walks of life but share a common passion. The level of knowledge that was shared by Reneé and Erika was truly impressive. They not only provided amazing coaching, but they took the time to share their story and journey in skydiving, their highs and lows, and the challenges they faced in competing in a predominantly male sport. It was a development camp that I took so much from and have continued to use the tools in my skydiving since that weekend.

It's truly an inspiration seeing so many women come together to help empower each other and the sport of skydiving.

Remote location opportunities – Chani Fleshman

The learning curve was huge and I felt like the underdog. I had more jumps than some but less exposure to the sport and was therefore the one with least knowledge and required most individual support. I had a range of emotions from "in over my head" to "can't get enough" and I left feeling a positive connection with all the ladies. I feel that this was such a valuable experience for me and a great way to connect with other women in the sport while building and refining skills! Mission accomplished, learning and fun!"

Thanks again for the support I receive from you and the ladies on the WIC. It is not easy to keep up with the bunch from up here but I want it so badly I will not stop trying. I will continue to push for opportunities in Yukon and this Women That Fly camp was an amazing start for networking.