

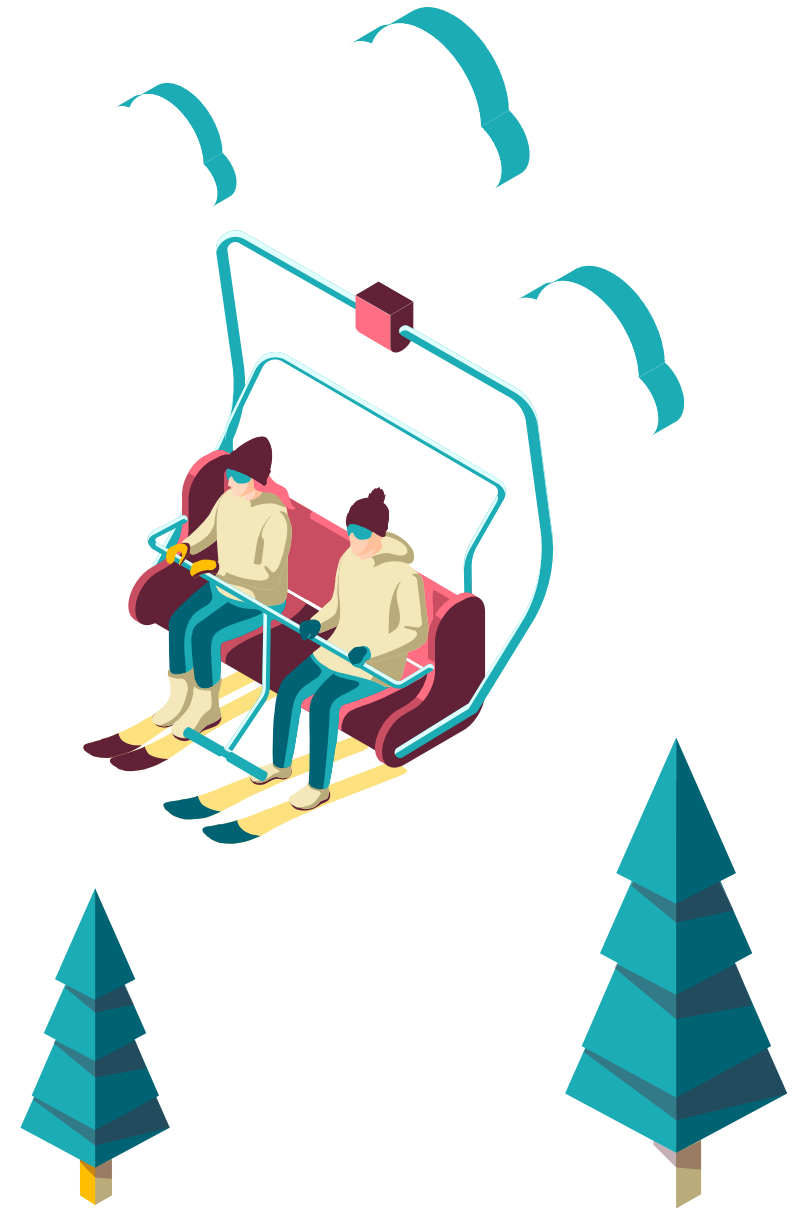
SSLOPE

SUPPORTING SNOWSPORTS LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

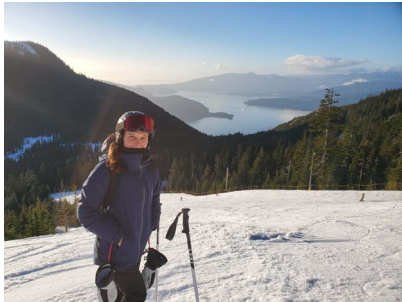
Delphine Labbé
Assistant Professor
University of Illinois - Chicago



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



The TEAM



Delphine Labbé



Staci Manella,
PhD Candidate, Ball University



William C. Miller
Professor, UBC



Krista Best,
Assistant Professor
CIRRIIS, ULaval



Andrea Bundon
Professor, UBC



Chris McBride
Executive Director,
SCI BC



Jeff Sauvé
Past executive director
of BCAS

Our Partner

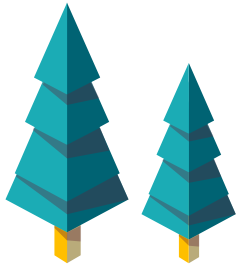


- Supports and promotes adaptive skiing and snowboarding for participants of all ages with various types of disabilities
- 15 clubs in small local resorts or destination resorts
- Learn to ski programming in daily or weekly lessons or specialized programming (e.g., learn to race, backcountry skiing, or veterans' camps)









Goals of SSLOPE

1. To study the impact of adaptive snowsports for people with disabilities, and especially the quality of participation
2. To document the strategies used in the programs to support participation
3. Understand what factors may limit sustain participation






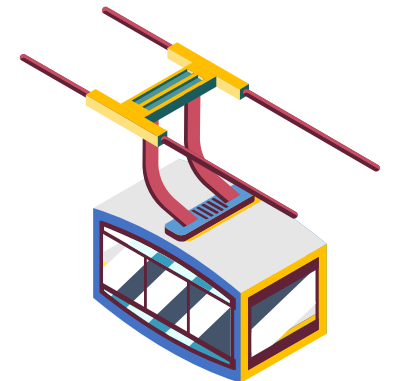
Quality Parasport Participation Framework (QPPF)

Dimensions

1. Autonomy 
2. Belongingness 
3. Challenge 
4. Engagement 
5. Mastery 
6. Meaning 

Strategies

-  Physical
-  Program
-  Social



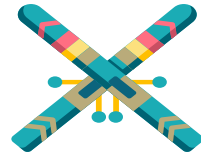


Data Collection



Interviews

12 BCAS Club
Leaders



Survey

104 Members
living with
disabilities



Interviews

15 Past
participants in
adaptive
snowsports





Main Findings

On the Snow

- Experiences of the participants and what really support quality of participation

The Clubs

- Organizational strategies, challenges and needs

Maintaining participation

- Challenges



Experience on the Snow



Using **sit ski / adaptive equipment** due to visual impairment

Low Quality of Participation



Using **assistive technology** in daily life



Skiing/snowboarding with **2+ instructors**



Program barriers (e.g., space, booking, schedules) and **environmental barriers** (e.g., accessibility, weather, travel)



Individual barriers (e.g., physical / cognitive health or needing more time for planning)

High Quality of Participation



The Clubs



Inclusion: Carving a run for everyone

- Customizing lessons to meet individual needs
- Addressing physical & economic accessibility
- Considering experiences on and off the snow



It Takes a Village

- Mutually beneficial relationships with host resorts
- Recruitment, retainment, and training of community volunteers



Mountain Range of Operations

- Volunteer Management
 - Providing incentives
 - Prioritizing volunteer training
- Marketing
 - Social media
 - Sustainable growth

Challenges to Maintaining Participation



Personal

- Age
- Physical fitness
- Focused on other life activities, or sports

Program or Sports

- Injury
- Physicality of the sport
- Aged out of the program
- Eligibility and availability of programs
- Negative experience with volunteers
- Lack of progress pathway

Environmental

- Travel distance to the mountains



Recommendations



Increase training on how to use specialized equipment and providing proper equipment



Reduce the environmental and programmatic barriers to enable more individuals to stay active in the winter → develop policies for resorts to make their environment accessible



Develop resources to help organizations learn from each other and identify the best ways to engage people with disabilities in winter sports



Recommendations



Increase awareness about the programs and access to information



Increase the length of the season and offer more options for progress



More instructors/volunteers trained and available



Funding for individuals and programs



Thank You!

Merci!

Do you have any questions?

Delphine Labbé
dlabbe@uic.edu

This work was supported by an Insight Grant from
the Social Sciences and Humanities Research
Council of Canada (grant #435-2019-0335)



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada



CREDITS: This presentation template was created by [Slidesgo](#), and includes icons by [Flaticon](#), and infographics & images by [Freepik](#)