

THE FALL LINE



2023

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HEADING DOWN THE FALL LINE

Frank Iannuzzi

Hello, my name is Frank Iannuzzi; 55 years young, born and raised in Toronto.

Due to complications during birth, my nerves severed, paralyzing me from my waist down, and leaving me to use a wheelchair as my mobility.

As terrible as that may sound, nothing was holding me back from enjoying life. I got involved in anything and everything and developed a passion for wheelchair basketball early in life. Basketball gave me more than sports; it made me strong, which gave me independence. It taught me discipline and teamwork and, for the most part, kept me active. In addition, it provided me with the opportunity to travel the world while competing at

all levels of the sport. Unfortunately, through time, living a very active life took a toll on my shoulders, forcing me to slow down and eventually retire from my basketball career.

Now let's fast forward 15-plus years to today. I've been happily married to my wife, Dyane, for 23 years. We live in Woodbridge. I'm a senior manager for the Ministry of Transportation, where I've worked for 32 years.

Why ADDS? It was a cold fall evening when I had dinner and drinks around the fireplace with good friends. The topic of what to do with our long, cold winter quickly became conversation.



As our friends started to tell us about the ADDS program and how it is their preferred way of coping with the winter, Dyane and I became intrigued with the program and had to check it out. Well, let me tell you, we were sold on day one.

We've never felt so welcomed by everyone. The number of volunteers willing and ready to help; the equipment available to me to ensure success and safety. It was incredible.

Now that's ADDS on the surface. But ADDS is so much more than just those things. The ADDS program provides a safe space for a diverse community of all abilities to share the day without barriers. ADDS allows me to spend one day every week with my wife and friends on the slopes while leaving the confines of my wheelchair behind and giving me a sense of freedom. ADDS has built a community of hope, fun, and equality.

So, I thank you in advance for any support your organization can provide in keeping our community strong.

Frank Iannuzzi

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

With the cooler weather and shorter days upon us, it's time once again think snow and look forward to the upcoming ski season. My sincere thanks to our devoted volunteers, donors and hosts. As our program continues to build back its capacity in the wake of the pandemic, your contribution and time is now more important than ever.

As many of you know, we are the first and only in adaptive ski program in Canada that caters uniquely to participants nineteen years of age and older; a demographic that all too often falls through the cracks as it pertains to adaptive sport and the well-being attained through organized recreation. As we aim to satisfy the unique needs of our participants, the safety and well being of our members and volunteer staff is always top of mind. This year we've upgraded our equipment roster to include two new Dynamique sit skis from Enabling Technologies. At a cost

of approximately \$8000 per unit, I'm confident that the new additions will serve many skiers well in the years to come.

Our 2023 season will be a nine week Sunday program spanning from January 8th to March 5th . My thanks to Craig MacDonald and his team for welcoming ADDS back to Caledon for our second season at the club. Many thanks to the members and staff at Caledon Ski Club for their gracious hospitality and contributions to our cause. We are truly lucky to have such steadfast supporters!

On that same note, I would like to commend our Board of Directors along with Chairman of Fundraising, Fred Gaby for spreading awareness about our cause and making our membership fees financially attainable for all of our participants. My sincere thanks to all that you do.

This year, our annual "Think Snow" get-together will take place on November 18 th at the Mandarin Buffet at Finch and Dufferin in Toronto. If you're able to attend, I invite you to join us for dinner and the opportunity to socialize in the spirit of skiing.

As we are an organization solely comprised of volunteer staff, if you or someone you know is interested in helping out in any capacity, please contact me directly at ski.adds@cadsonario.ca

See you on the slopes!

Gabor Takacs
President, Adult Disabled
Downhill Skiing (ADDS)