



**Canadian Paediatric Society
86th Annual Conference
The Westin Ottawa**

Keynote Speaker: Chantal Petitclerc

Chantal Petitclerc personifies strength, determination and a very special will power. Following her five gold medals, two new world records and a new Paralympic record at the Beijing Paralympic Games, Petitclerc is now the world's most decorated track athlete. She is the only Canadian to have won her medals at the Olympic, Paralympic *and* Commonwealth Games.

Petitclerc doesn't remember anyone telling her she would spend the rest of her life in a wheelchair after the accident that left her a paraplegic at age 13. She just remembers moving forward. "My life was not over," she says. "It was taking a new direction."

Inspired in part by Rick Hansen's successes, Petitclerc set her sights on wheelchair racing and, by 1988, was training in earnest at the University of Alberta. From the beginning, Petitclerc knew she wanted a gold medal for Canada.

Petitclerc says all children should be encouraged to pursue their passions. "My performance was fuelled by passion," she says. "When you're a kid, it's important to have dreams and passions. Provide children with the tools to get their dreams. And it doesn't have to be an Olympic medal."

Designated one of the twenty most influential women in sport by the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity, Petitclerc is also the winner of the 2008 Lou Marsh Award as Canada's top athlete.

Petitclerc will speak to delegates about how determination, perseverance and discipline helped her to become a great Canadian athlete and wheelchair racing specialist. She will also come with the message: Give children the opportunity to dream and don't limit the dreams they may have—whether or not they have a disability.