



# BESPOKE PLUS

*"If your work speaks for itself, don't interrupt."*

## Black and Blue

We have program challenges all over world with the provision of products designed to meet the mobility needs of folks. Outside Alberta we think it is funny that the Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) funding agency will only provide wheelchairs that are either black or blue.



The late Percy Wickman, who was initially injured in a work accident, enjoyed the use of whatever color chair he

wanted when they became available, because it was purchased through the Worker's Compensation Board (WCB) in AB and he chose red to be aligned with his political party. "In the 1989 Edmonton Journal picture above, Percy is shown in an old E&J folder depicting then Premier Getty as chicken for not wanting to debate the issues." He gave the reigning Tories the gears on occasion when they chose to afford Albertans benefiting from the AADL program a black only chair. My understanding is that the choice was widened to also include Tory blue when the lack of choice became a media item. In defence of the folks making these decisions at AADL, they are clinging to a recycling concept that makes it easier to match up parts and pieces if they have limited colors (ie: swapping swing away hangers, frame components, etc.). I stress the "clinging to" because the recycling concept (although in sync with my philosophy of waste not want not) is in no way more cost effective than the way other provinces deliver services when all associated costs are factored into the equation.

But then again, a lot of countries have no services at all and unsurprisingly, people with a disability have less than a contributing member status in that area and the Percy Wickman's of their world do not exist!

## Ree, Ree, Ree!

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! Three years ago in a rant about prescribing authorities requesting multiple chair setups to try and meet an end users needs, I suggested that provinces use the recycling of product to actually meet those needs with the view of the practise reducing costs.

*"Alberta and Quebec have recycle programs that may streamline this part of the process (determining the chair type and setup required by an end user) of getting into a new chair, but in Ontario and some other provinces the cost is born by the dealer, distributor, or manufacturer. If there was a recycle program in Ontario for example, there would be a ton of equipment to meet demo needs, emergency needs, etc. The drawback is that if recycle product was actually used rather than purchasing a new product we would be forcing individuals to use product that someone else had died in or at the very least, a product that would have a used stigma attached to it."*

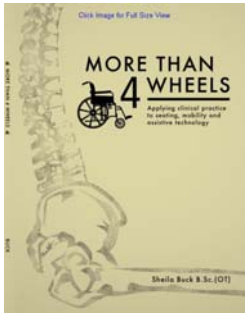
The cost to the dealer and manufacturer providing demo equipment is staggering and the smaller companies have to watch their pennies or fall victim to the finance agencies, some owned by the bigger companies.

*"The way we operate in Canada today is taking the toll with retail dealers facing tougher economic times and ending up in business closures and bankruptcies. This results in a rallying of the troops in organizations with big pockets; again perpetuating monopoly situations at the retail end of the scale mirroring that in the manufacturing sector. If this story continues to play out the industry will be driven toward a retail model away from the service businesses that were started years ago; the businesses that were end user focused and making a positive difference in the lives of people with a disability."*

*"We always operate with the motto "waste not want not" ... something our parents instilled in us. There is a lot of good equipment out there that someone has died in, grew out of, or otherwise no longer requires; that product should have*

value other than Kijiji, Ebay, or Craig's List, and there should be a way to have that product meet someone else's needs. But, we should not force anyone into equipment for economic reasons. At the end of the day the system should ensure that the choice is with the end user of the product and they are the most important person in the transaction"!

## MoreThan4 Wheels



As noted in the last issue of Bespoke Plus, we have the pleasure of working with Sheila Buck, Author, Presenter, OT, in a presentation next week August 15<sup>th</sup> from 9-12 noon at the Stan Cassidy Center in Fredericton, NB. Thanks to the efforts of Brenda McAlpine, OT, this presentation will be broadcast live

on the telehealth network and interactively available to all in Moncton, Saint John, Edmundston, Fredericton, Campbellton, Sackville, Charlottetown, Souris Area, and points beyond.

Course objectives are as follows:

### Objectives:

1. To understand how clinical presentation can be used as a method of determining the critical pathway to gaining postural control, pressure management, and mobility;
2. To review the assessment data required to create a simulation of posture prior to gaining the correct sizing for seat cushions, back supports, and wheelchairs;
3. To understand the dynamics of pelvic positioning related not only to the seat support but the back support as well;
4. To understand the variety of interventions available to accommodate fixed postures and/or to enhance flexibility and correction based on the client's ability to tolerate correction or adjust posture throughout the day;
5. To review set up particulars related to optimal functioning of seat and back supports within the wheelchair to enhance functionality and mobility;
6. To review the principle of "Do no harm", related to

seating and mobility assistive technology provision;

7. To review wheelchair set up and it's affect on functional performance and seating;
8. To review seating prescription and its affect on wheelchair set up and functionality.

Along with the 49 Bespoke sponsorship of this event to assist in marketing and promoting RGK, Ki Mobility, Varilite, Kenda, and other products, we will see representation from other manufacturers/distributors like Ottobock at this event as well.

## Anna Paddock

We may not know this name yet, but super star wheelchair basketball player Patrick Anderson is married to this lady and she has beaten him to the recording business. If you like Joni Mitchell, Judy Collins, Carole King, and my twitter pal Joan Baez, then you will love her music. Her first album includes 11 original songs. "**Feel Better**" is available on **iTunes** (search Anna Paddock) and [www.cdbaby.com/cd/annapaddock](http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/annapaddock) . For more info you can also visit her home page [www.annapaddock.com](http://www.annapaddock.com) . Best of luck to you both in the music business, but we need you on court in about four more major events Patrick!

## Bits and Bytes

- 49 New Brunswick Trip August 12-16;
- 49 Vancouver area visits Sept. 8-12 & REE on the 9th;
- 49 U23 World W/C Bball - Men Sept. 12-22 Adana, Turkey;
- 49 Alberta area visits Sept. 13-17;
- 49 SAOT Conference Edmonton Sept. 15;
- 49 OSOT Conference Sept. 27-28, London, ON;
- 49 Rolling Rampage Oct. 10 Parliament Hill Ottawa, ON!

**BESPOKE PLUS** helps to market and promote **RGK Wheelchairs**, **VARILITE®** Seating and Positioning Systems, **KENDA**, and **Ki Mobility** products, along with Spinergy, Gance, Frog Legs, Schwalbe, Sun, MBL, Natural Fit, Blax, and other great products. **Please give us a call or contact the editor, Reg McClellan, if you have something that you think we should expound on.**