



CTRA rider Ava Hatton on "Valaddi"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Cowichan Therapeutic Riding Association Receives \$27,693 from Canadian Tire and Canadian Paralympic Committee

The Cowichan Therapeutic Riding Association is a Duncan-based charity that provides therapeutic riding and adapted equestrian programs for persons with special needs, the majority of whom are children. CTRA's multifaceted program offers a range of activities for youth with special needs and provides important opportunities for para-sport, recreation, and play for children that may be "side-lined" because of disability or other persistent barriers.

Through the 2017 Parasport Jumpstart Fund, the Cowichan Therapeutic Riding Association will be receiving \$27,693 from Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities and the Canadian Paralympic Committee. This funding will help CTRA expand and enhance their services – creating more opportunities for children with special needs in the Cowichan Valley. Funds will be used to offset the costs of specialized coaches and will help CTRA acquire new equipment for their Adapted Equestrian Vaulting program, creating additional spaces for new participants and enriching the experience of existing clients.

In 2017, 35 organizations across Canada were selected to receive a grant through the Parasport Jumpstart Fund. Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities is a national charity dedicated to helping kids overcome financial and accessibility barriers to sport and recreation in order to provide inclusive play for kids of all abilities.

"Since 2005, Jumpstart has been committed to removing financial barriers to sport and recreation, helping more than 1.4 million kids, who otherwise couldn't afford to play, get in the game," said Marco Di Buono, Associate Vice President of Programs and Operations at Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities. "We are proud to expand on this mandate through programs like the Parasport Jumpstart Fund, which create greater opportunities for sport and play for children with disabilities."

The Cowichan Therapeutic Riding Association is a community-funded program that relies on donations, sponsorships, grants, and fundraising initiatives to support their services.

"This contribution makes a tremendous impact," says Jennifer Barnes van Elk, CTRA Development Officer. "This funding will allow CTRA to introduce more children to para-equestrian sport and provide important developmental opportunities for emerging athletes with special needs. We are a small charity with limited resources, but our kids have big dreams. The support of funders like Canadian Tire and the Canadian Paralympic Committee help make these dreams a reality."