

REMARKABLE WOMEN

Honouring Women From Our Vancouver Communities



Photo courtesy Yuka Chokyu

Yuka Chokyu

Born in Japan, **Yuka Chokyu** came to Canada in April 1989. In 1990 she was involved in a car accident that left her paralyzed and wheelchair dependent. After being discharged from the GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre in 1991, Yuka took up wheelchair tennis, playing at a public court in Vancouver's Dunbar neighbourhood. She immediately fell in love with the sport. Inspired by a wheelchair athlete who came from Japan to participate in a local tennis tournament, Yuka started competing on the International Tour in 1995, and has not looked back since.

She first made the National Team in 1997. The following year, she was ranked sixth in the world in singles, becoming the first Canadian player to qualify for the prestigious Wheelchair Tennis Masters. She has won numerous awards including Sport BC Disabled Athlete of the Year (1998) and the Premier's Athletic Award (1996-1999). She was named Female Athlete of the Year by the BC Wheelchair Sports Association (1997 and 2001) and by the Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association (1997, 1999, and 2001). Tennis Canada named her Female Wheelchair Athlete of the Year in 2000 and 2001 and Wheelchair Athlete of the Year in 2005 and 2006.

Her career accomplishments to date also include winning 22 singles titles, 48 doubles titles and competing in the Beijing 2008, Athens 2004, and Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games.

She currently trains six days a week, demonstrating the hard work and dedication necessary to achieve her goals of a World Top 8 singles ranking and to qualify for the 2012 London Paralympics.