



**The Honourable Chantal Petitclerc,
CC, CQ, MSM**

**Senator and Paralympic Champion
Montréal, Québec**

The Honourable Chantal Petitclerc is not only an internationally renowned athlete, but also a compassionate person. When she was 13 years old, she lost the use of her legs in an accident. While Senator Petitclerc was developing her skills as a wheelchair athlete, she pursued her studies, first in social sciences at the CEGEP de Sainte-Foy and then in history at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. She overcame adversity and many obstacles to become a proven leader in the sports world. Senator Petitclerc's gold medals in the Paralympic Games, Olympic Games and Commonwealth Games, the various awards and accolades she has received, and her appointment as Team Canada's Chef de Mission for the Rio Paralympic Games are all markers of her success. She is an ambassador for the international organization Right to Play. A tireless advocate for the contributions people with disabilities have made to our society, Senator Petitclerc plays a definitive role in building a more inclusive society. Her example inspires people to overcome their obstacles and achieve their full potential. As someone who has functional limitations herself, Senator Petitclerc has a good understanding of the needs of various minority communities and would like to ensure their voices are heard. She is a Companion of the Order of Canada and a Knight of the Order of Québec. Senator Petitclerc received the Lou Marsh Trophy for Canadian Athlete of the Year and was inducted into the Canadian Paralympic Hall of Fame. She has also received four honorary doctorates.