

# Lisa Franks

Born and raised in Moose Jaw, Lisa Franks grew up loving sports and the outdoors. At the age of 14, a cluster of blood vessels burst in her spinal cord and left her paralyzed from the neck down. She slowly regained the use of her arms and began to adapt to her new life using a wheelchair. She discovered wheelchair racing, and quickly rose through the ranks of competition. She competed at the 2000 and 2004 Paralympic Games, bringing home 6 gold and one silver medal. Throughout her racing career she set seven world records from the 100m through to the 42km marathon. Realizing she had accomplished more than she had ever imagined in racing, she made the switch to wheelchair basketball and won a gold medal at the World Championships in 2006 and competed in her third Paralympic Games in Beijing 2008.

In 2006, Lisa graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and worked designing the mechanical systems in commercial buildings. When Covid forced the world to change in 2020, Lisa realized her passion lies in making the world more accessible for all. She made a major shift in her career focus and completed the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification training. Pursuing her passion for accessibility and the outdoors led her to discover adaptive mountain biking, and she has recently been involved with a project mapping outdoor trails for accessibility. When she isn't doing that, she can be found going on adventures in her campervan, surfing on the west coast, and seeking any outdoor adrenaline activity.

She has lived, studied, worked, and played in Saskatchewan for her entire life. Seeing the people of Saskatchewan come together to support the people of Saskatchewan through TeleMiracle is a huge contributing factor to why she is proud to call it her home.