



CHANTAL PETITCLERC

**SENATOR, OLYMPIAN AND PARALYMPIAN GOLD
MEDALLIST; WORLD RECORDS HOLDER**



At the age of 13, an accident deprived Chantal Petitclerc of the use of her legs. Her high school physical education teacher, Gaston Jacques, had a strong influence on her future. He convinced her to try swimming to develop her strength and endurance.

Four years later she discovered wheelchair athletics, which would be the beginning of a long and successful career that would take her to the Barcelona Games in 1992 and other games up until those in Beijing in 2008.

Chantal Petitclerc is the track athlete who won the most medals of all time, the Canadian athlete who won the most medals (in any given sport), as well as the only Canadian athlete to have won a gold medal at the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, as well as the Commonwealth Games.

2012 opened a new chapter in her sports career. She became a coach and mentor for the British Paralympic team at the Paralympic Games in London. In 2014 she was appointed Chef de Mission for the Canadian team at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland. She also played the same role at the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games.

Chantal Petitclerc is a highly sought-after speaker, author of the book "16 days in Beijing", and enjoys sharing her story with dozens of groups across Canada and abroad every year. She plays an active role in several organizations in the athletic world, as well as in Paralympic sports organizations, and is actively involved as spokesperson for Défi sportif in Montreal, as well as ambassador for Right to Play International.

On 18th March 2016, Chantal was named to the Senate of Canada on the advice of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Senator Petitclerc sits on two committees, Agriculture and Forestry and Social affairs, science and technology. Her main priorities in the Senate are health as well as the rights of persons with disabilities.