

## **Accessible Stadia**

*Amy Pothier, Quadrangle Architects Limited, Toronto, Canada (presenter); Jesse Klimitz, Quadrangle Architects Limited, Toronto, Canada (presenter); Susan Ruptash Quadrangle Architects Limited, Toronto, Canada (presenter)*

**Situation/purpose of study:** Community engagement through sport is vital to the health and wellbeing of its inhabitants. Cities who host major sporting events benefit not only from the tourism and spotlight on their city, but also can leave a lasting legacy of sport and sporting infrastructure for diverse communities. This workshop is intended to explore ways in which universal design considerations can create accessible stadia for athletes, spectators and surrounding communities for generations to come.

**Approach and/or methodology:** This workshop is a collection of current research and design experience of accessible sport stadia. Effective strategies and design solutions will be described and illustrated to provide an in-depth understanding of the universal design process, and will include focused research studies on accessible change facilities and spectator seating.

**Results/conclusions:** Sport tourism brings people together in extraordinary ways and can play a major role as a catalyst for change. Sport stadia must embody the spirit of inclusion by integrating universal design features to improve the overall functionality, use and safety of the venue. The design of accessible stadia that considers the needs of para-athletes and the diverse extremes of all people will help to establish sport facilities that can be used by visitors and surrounding communities for generations to come.