



## OVERVIEW

### Mike Nemesvary's 'Round The World Challenge Continues

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**March 21, 2021, OTTAWA** - International Human Rights Activist and former World Champion Freestyle Skier, Mike Nemesvary takes you back around the world, on a virtual tour exactly 20 years after he became the first ever quadriplegic to circumnavigate the globe. You will see his struggle, powerful will and the toll that the Challenge takes on Mike. The solo driver, he pushes through 20 countries in 7 months, raising awareness and 1.5 million dollars of desperately needed funds towards rehabilitation and research for people with spinal cord injuries.

*“Disability need not equate to inability. In the past two decades we have all seen profound changes in society but for the spinal cord injured who are among the 1.3 billion people with disabilities, the struggle is greater than ever.” Mike Nemesvary*

From Canada to the UK to Switzerland to India and beyond, hop on Mike's Virtual Tour as he revisits each of the original 20 stops of the 2001 'Round The World Challenge, speaking with notable guests along the way comparing quality of life issues and disability inclusion, 20 years ago versus today in 2021.

The 2021 Round The World Challenge, a Virtual Tour is a vital call to action for each country to learn what is happening to their citizens with disabilities, especially those living with spinal cord injuries and the basic human right of access to mobility for all.

The 'Round The World Challenge Virtual Tour 2021 aims to raise a 1 million dollar endowment divided equally amongst 3 vital organizations close to Mike's heart: Back Up, Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation and Spinal Cord Injury Ontario. These 3 beneficiaries do the all-important work of helping people with spinal cord injuries, directly, to improve their quality of life and care.

Mike's drive may be over, but the challenge continues . . .

<https://roundtheworldchallenge.com/>





## NEWS RELEASE

### **‘Round The World Challenge Returns to Switzerland: 4<sup>th</sup> of 21 Episodes Airs Today!**

**Contact:** Mary Anne McPhee [maryanne@rtwc2021.ca](mailto:maryanne@rtwc2021.ca)

**May 10, 2021, OTTAWA** – ‘Round The World Challenge 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Virtual Tour lands in Switzerland today!

On Mike’s pivotal stop in Switzerland he has a conversation with Sonny Schonbachler, dear friend, former Swiss World Cup Team Member, and first Olympic Gold Medalist in Freestyle Skiing Aerials. We hear about his epic Olympic victory and life changing reaction to the news of Mike’s accident and spinal cord injury in 1985.

Then, return with Mike to the 204 bed Swiss Paraplegic Centre in Nottwil, Switzerland, indeed one of the world’s premiere rehabilitation centres for people with spinal cord injuries. Experience with Mike his emotional visit to the Swiss Centre, 20 years ago. Watch Mike’s eye-opening interview with the Head Physician of Spinal Cord Medicine at the Centre, Dr. Michael Baumberger. In his heartfelt interview he speaks to people with spinal cord injury as being “a part of humanity. We are all together. No exclusion, only inclusion.” Learn how the Swiss care for their patients from the time of their spinal cord injuries through rehabilitation, and continue with physical, mental and financial support for each person in their life outside the Centre as they transition back into their communities and for the rest of their lives. The Swiss Paraplegic Centre’s vision “is a world in which people with spinal cord injury lead a self-determined life in the best possible health”

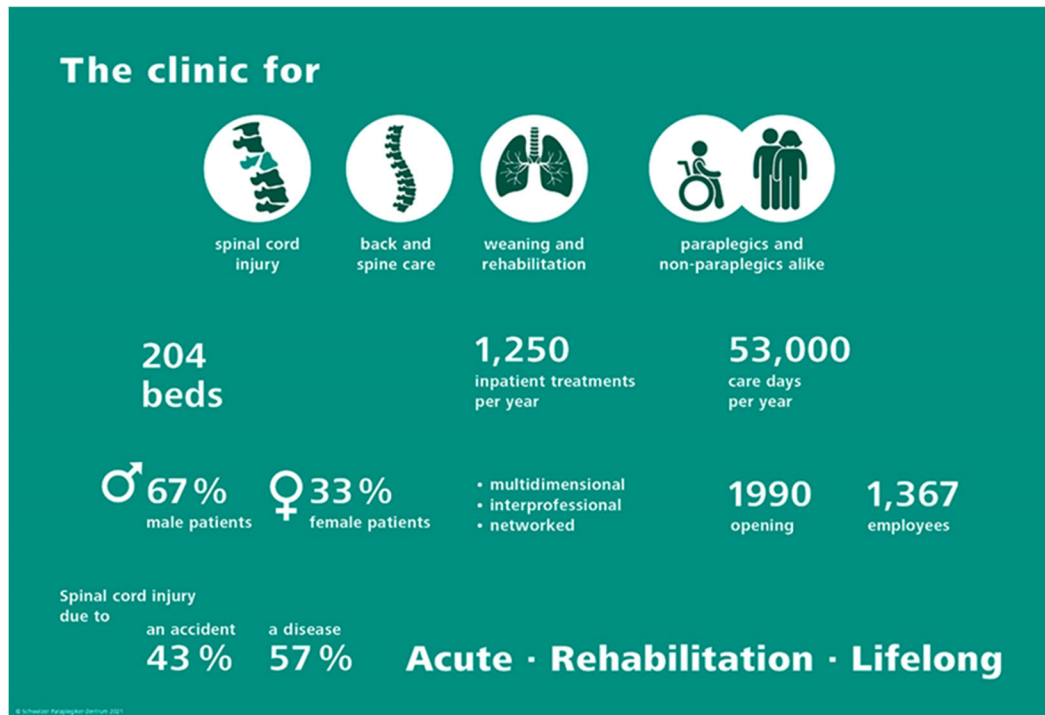
<https://www.paraplegie.ch/spz/de/ueber-das-spz/>

*The ‘Round The World Challenge 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Virtual Tour aims to raise a 1 million dollar endowment divided equally amongst 3 vital charities who directly help people with spinal cord injuries, their quality of life and care.*

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## Facts about the Swiss Paraplegic Centre:



The Swiss Paraplegic Centre is part of the Swiss Paraplegic Group. The Swiss Paraplegic Group sees the rehabilitation of paraplegics as a holistic approach. Thus, the range of services goes far beyond the medical range. The basis and framework for a fulfilling life is integration into family, work and society. That is why they accompany paraplegics from the scene of the accident to the end of their life in all relevant areas of life that includes:

- Professional integration
- family
- Leisure time and sport
- sexuality
- Barrier-free building
- Mobility (i.e. vehicle conversion, aids)
- Training of relatives and professionals for home care
- Aging in a wheelchair