

SOPEI 2022 President's Report

At this time each year we reflect on the past 12 months. 2021/22 has had its fair share of challenges. With changes to public health orders, we were able to return to the sports that we all love. This was made possible by the tireless work of our staff to ensure each practice, game or event was held in a safe manner. The organization was able to return to fundraising events as well and was able to pick back up right where we left off in 2019.

It was great to see our athletes be able to represent Prince Edward Island at the games in Antigonish this summer. In the games Team PEI took home 10 Gold, 12, Silver and 13 Bronze medals in softball, soccer, athletics, swimming, golf, and basketball. The games had a total of 53 athletes, 17 coaches and 12 mission staff and were used as a qualifier for the Special Olympics World Games in June 2023 in Berlin.

On a National level PEI continues to be well represented as we all anxiously await the return to National and World games. Our athletes, coaches and mission staff continue their preparations to when these games will return.

Through the global pandemic SOPEI continues to maintain financial stability. The pandemic has really caused stress on charitable organizations as there has been a decrease in available donations throughout the world. The generosity and support of Islanders, however, continues to be as strong as ever. Corporate and individual financial support continues to flow into SOPEI. Once again, the success of the Gala, Motionball and the support of the LETR through events like the polar plunge has ensured another successful financial year. These funds will ensure the organization is able to operate smoothly and plan for the future.

The organization would not be the success that it is without the tireless efforts of its staff. Charity, Matthew, Sarah, Genna, Ellen, and Margie all show their passion for Special Olympics everyday they come to work. I would like to take this time to thank all our staff for their continued hard work.

SOPEI's Board of Directors are a dynamic, hard-working group that contribute a great deal of time to help the organization achieve its mission:

Special Olympics PEI exists so that the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities will be enriched through sport

I am very proud to serve as the volunteer president of the SOPEI Board of Directors for my 2 terms and look forward to watching the organization grow into the future. I want to thank everyone who make this a great organization.

Jamie Arsenault,
President