

***Special
Olympics***
Northwest Territories



ANNUAL REPORT

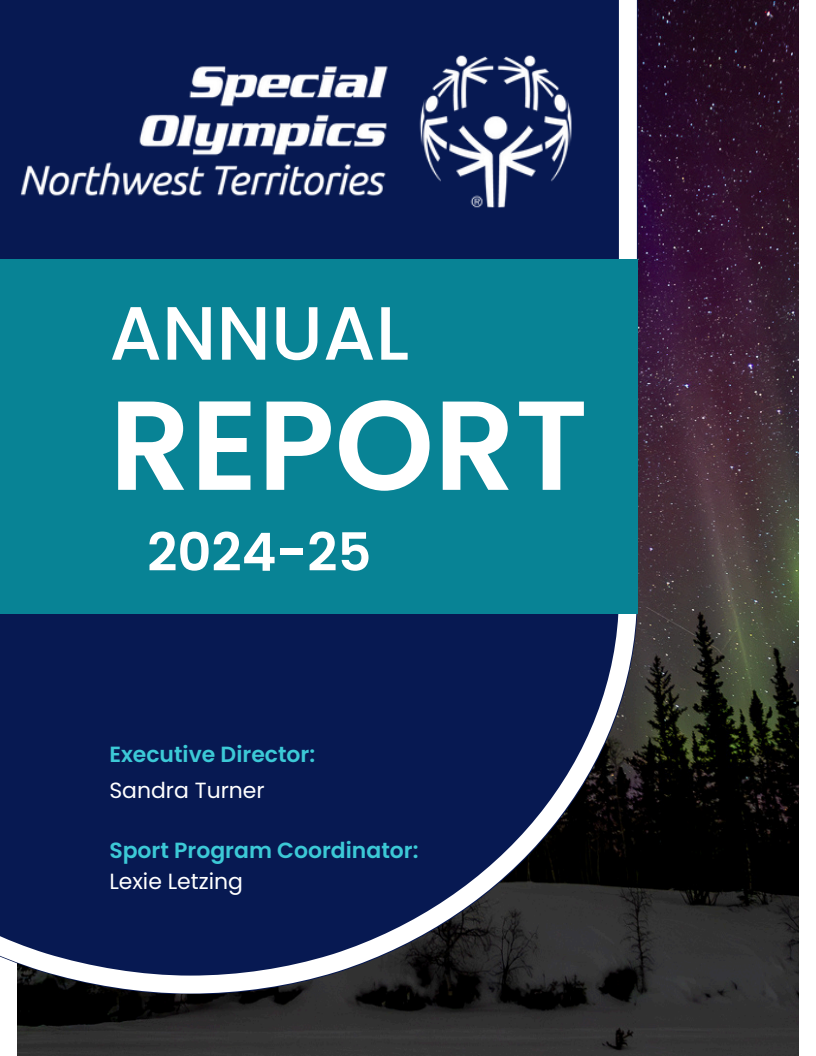
2024-25

Executive Director:

Sandra Turner

Sport Program Coordinator:

Lexie Letzing



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jane Arychuk

It is with great pride I share with you the Special Olympics NWT (SONWT) Annual Report for 2024-2025. With dedicated staff in both sport and administration, SONWT has continued to make great strides in sport development and growth, athlete safety, accreditation and awareness. The diverse skills of board members and volunteers have both assisted in these developments but also made athlete experience and fundraising highlights for this past year.

There are so many developments and successes that will be featured in this report and I would like to highlight two of them. First SONWT competed on the International Sport Stage this year. Thanks to our athlete Josh, his speed skating coaches in the NWT and the National coaching staff, the NWT now has three International medals (two silver and a bronze) to be proud of. As well Josh was named Senior Athlete of the Year in the NWT by the Sport North Federation.

Secondly thanks to our amazing sponsors and volunteers, especially Board Vice-President Cecile Beemer, the Polar Plunge raised just over \$35,000 which goes directly to athlete support.

This year, as in the past few years, SONWT's growth and development has been exciting. Please continue reading the Annual Report to share in all our successes and the challenges we continue to work on.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Sandra Turner

This year was very productive and resulted in building significant community awareness of what Special Olympics can do for those with intellectual disabilities. As our World Games Silver and Bronze medal athlete, Josh Boudreaux points out; "It wasn't until I found Special Olympics NWT that I started to feel accepted – and look at me now!" I am so very grateful that I was able to experience the Special Olympic World Games in Italy this past winter. I made a decision to foot the bill on my own to get a taste of the movement firsthand. It was such a heartwarming experience and one that will not only stick with me for a lifetime, but gives me a renewed interest in growing the movement here in Canada and here in the North.

We have made significant strides in many areas this year around Safe Sport, Health and Wellness activities for our athletes, Policy work, and governance. Many coaches are upgrading their coaching skills, we are learning about working with our Indigenous athletes and what Reconciliation means in the world of sport and always working to bring meaningful programming to our athletes.



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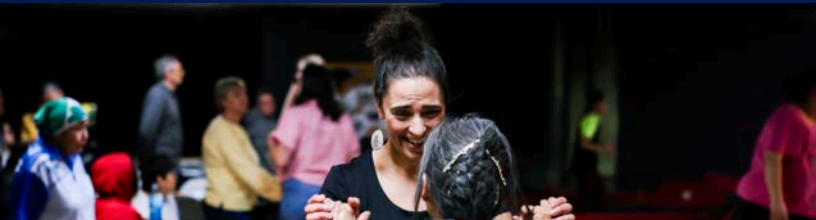
MISSION & VISION

MISSION

Special Olympics NWT is dedicated to enriching the lives of NWT residents with an intellectual disability through sport.

VISION

To provide all athletes with choices in their opportunity to train and compete and to be accessible to all athletes with an intellectual disability regardless of their ability. We look to be a change agent for social inclusion and be recognized as integral part of the sport delivery system in the NWT.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Jane Arychuk

Vice-President: Cecile Beemer

Athlete Representative: Loic Burns

Secretary: Leslie Smith

Treasurer: Chris Cahoon

Director: Zachary Silva

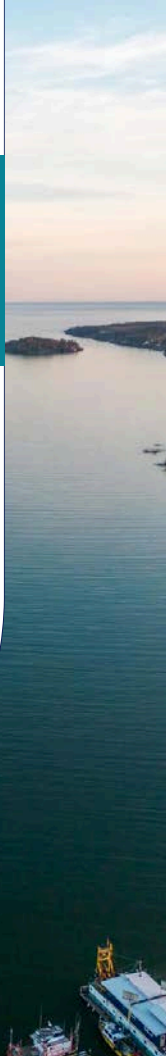
Director: Margaret Bell

Director: Sandy Little

Director: Nicole Crowley

Director: Paul Henry

Past President: Alan Cash





SOC FUNDING

SPORT CANADA FUNDING

Special Olympics Canada provides funding to each Chapter across Canada. Under the 2024-25 funding contract SONWT receives \$70,000 toward staffing of the Youth and Sport/Program Development elements of the operation.

Approximately an additional \$30,000 is allocated toward specific projects that are approved through a proposal submission. For 2024-25 the \$30,000 was approved for 4 projects.

Project 1	Project 2	Project 3	Project 4
Expansion	Provincials	Facility Fees	Chapter Admin

PARTNER FUNDING

Special Olympics NWT receives core funding from Special Olympics Canada to support the Sport Coordinators activities on sport development, managing volunteers and coaches and other related work. There are also national partnerships that work with Special Olympics to increase awareness of the movement through annual campaigns like the Tim Hortons Special Olympics donut. These partnerships are critical to national fundraising to augment the core funding. Despite there not being a Sobeys food store in Yellowknife, we still receive a portion of proceeds from the national campaign from Empire.

Special Olympics Canada provides ongoing support and is a conduit for us to connect with other chapters enabling us to learn and grow our business.

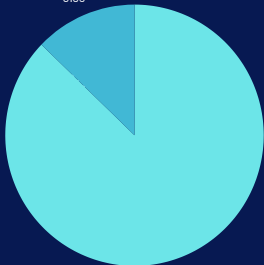


FUNDRAISING

Special Olympics NWT has been very lucky to engage with many local businesses to provide prizes for our annual Pick-a-Chick raffle. Each year, SONWT runs this fundraiser we explore different options to sell tickets to increase our reach and purchasing audience. The November 2024 raffle saw tickets available for purchase in two ways, online via the Crowdchange platform and physical ticket books. Thanks to local grocers, uptown Independent and Lakeshore Co-op, we had many in-person sales opportunities which provided ticket sellers the opportunity to meet our athletes and board members.

The 2025 Polar Plunge was the second year the Polar Plunge returned post-Covid. The community continues to amaze us with their generosity in supporting our chapter and Freezin' for a Reason. This year's Polar Plunge raised a record breaking \$35,000+, surpassing our \$25,000 goal. A special thanks goes out to our event partner, Arctic Duchess Adventures, whose unique venue is a crowd-pleaser. We appreciate the ongoing partnership with Arctic Duchess.

Pick-a-Chick
5136



Polar Plunge
35000



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SPECIAL OLYMPICS NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2025

(Unaudited)

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 117,665	\$ 110,927
Short-term guaranteed investment certificates (note 3)	399,598	384,850
Prepaid expenses	974	974
GST rebate receivable	9,986	6,534
	<u>\$ 528,223</u>	<u>\$ 503,285</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 21,082	\$ 15,920
Contributions repayable (note 4)	-	3,000
	<u>21,082</u>	<u>18,920</u>
Net assets	<u>507,141</u>	<u>484,365</u>
	<u>\$ 528,223</u>	<u>\$ 503,285</u>

See accompanying notes

On behalf of the Board

Director

Director

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SPECIAL OLYMPICS NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Statement of Operations
Year ended March 31, 2025
(Unaudited)

	2025	2024
		Nine months
Revenues		
Donations	\$ 23,919	\$ 2,160
Fundraising	54,221	48,879
Government of the Northwest Territories - Department of Municipal and Community Affairs	25,000	20,000
Grant income	9,500	-
Interest income	14,748	14,865
Special Olympics Canada	112,493	119,587
	<u>239,881</u>	<u>205,491</u>
Expenditures		
Accreditation fees	994	929
Advertising and promotion	1,415	8,242
Coach and volunteer development	413	818
Competitions	14,185	8,093
Computer expense	1,726	-
Contract labour	120,100	126,267
Equipment, supplies and events	12,119	4,439
Facility fees	29,754	23,565
Fundraising expenses	5,364	-
Insurance	1,838	1,732
Interest and bank charges	311	244
National meetings	4,938	2,995
Office and administrative expenses	6,268	3,465
Office rent	11,488	11,729
Professional fees	4,420	16,400
Registration fees	1,772	334
Sport development expense	-	30
	<u>217,105</u>	<u>209,282</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	\$ 22,776	\$ (3,791)

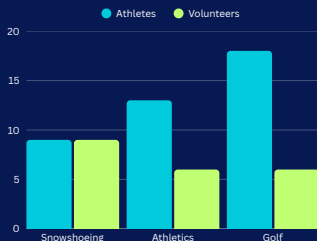
See accompanying notes



REGISTRATION BY THE NUMBERS

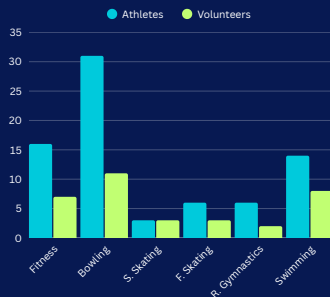
As SONWT continue to grow in athlete numbers, Special Olympics NWT is continuing to explore ways of increasing capacity amongst volunteers. In many programs, we are noticing the lack of engagement from volunteers to take a program lead role to take attendance and liaise between the program and the chapter staff. SONWT is in the process of developing a volunteer admin position where they would be a point of contact for absences and volunteer-athlete ratio management. The speed skating program delivery model changed this season, we worked with the YK Speed Skating Club to register our athletes to participate within their program based on skill level while also providing a Special Olympics volunteer once a week.

Seasonal Mini Programs

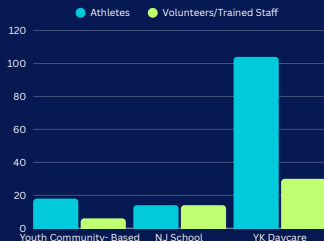


snowshoeing did not run this year due to extending fitness programming and unfavourable weather

Sport Programs



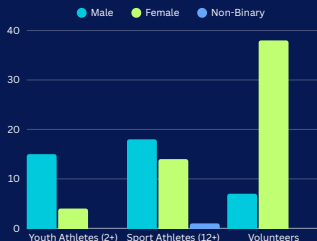
Youth Program



Special Olympics NWT continued to increase our youth participation numbers by expanding into one Yellowknife school and the Yellowknife Daycare Association. We offered "Coaching Young Athletes" training to educational assistants and daycare staff. Upon completion of the course, each group received an equipment bag to facilitate the program.

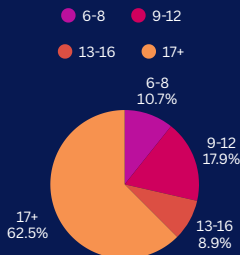
REGISTRATION BY THE NUMBERS

Registration Breakdown by Gender



NJ, YK Daycare & board members (unless sport volunteers as well) not included

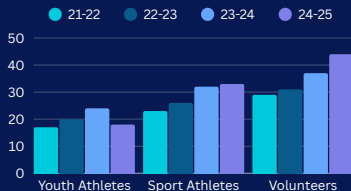
Athlete Registration by Age



NJ, YK Daycare numbers not included, age ranges were changed to reflect our MACA WCLP reporting metrics

There is steady growth across sport and volunteer registration. While there was a slight dip in youth registration from 2023-24 to 2024-25, it is attributed to children in foster care being reunited with families and relocation. Despite a dip in community-based youth programming, there is rapid growth in daycare and school-based youth programs (140+ in 24-25 season). This ultimately aligns with SONWT's goal of increasing the youth program numbers to prepare them for sport-related programming in the future (age 12+).

Registration Growth 2021-2025



NJ, YK Daycare numbers not included

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Throughout the season SONWT offered multiple professional development opportunities to our volunteers and coaches to enhance their coaching toolbox and prepare them for competition. In addition to offering the “Coaching Young Athletes” to YK Daycare and NJ School, Special Olympics NWT partnered with Indigenous Sports Circle NWT (ISCNWT) to offer the Aboriginal Coaching Modules to volunteers, staff and community members. Three volunteers, two staff members and five community members attended. The facilitation and course costs were covered by ISCNWT and Special Olympics Canada. The chapter is consistently working to enhance our work in Truth & Reconciliation and the calls to action specific to sport and recreation. With upcoming Special Olympics Alberta Provincial Games in July 2025, we have been working with the identified coaches to ensure they meet the coaching requirements.

This past year, three volunteers completed the Special Olympics Competition Introduction course and two volunteers are completing their sport-specific requirements to be in good standing for Provincials.



2025 WORLD WINTER GAMES- TURIN, ITALY

In terms of numbers, SONWT had the largest representation at Worlds in chapter history. Nicole Bonnell was selected as Mission Staff (figure skating) and Josh Boudreau was selected as a speed skating athlete to represent Special Olympics Team Canada at the 2025 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Turin, Italy in March 2025. Our Executive Director Sandra Turner attended the Games (self-funded) with the Games Experience group made up of Special Olympics chapter staff, sponsors and board executives from across the country.



Josh's Results:

777m - Silver, 01:25.85

1000m - Silver, 01:50.07

500m - Bronze, 00:54.22

SAFE SPORT UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that as part of a national movement to ensure safe sport policies are in place and enforced, we have engaged a law firm to act as a third-party representative that can be accessed in the event of safe sport specific complaints. Contact information to access this service if necessary can be found on our website.



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THANK YOU

It is truly due to the dedication and loyalty of a large contingent of volunteers, coaches and board members that enable SONWT to provide the opportunity for those in our community with intellectual disabilities to participate in sport activities in a safe and inviting environment. We have seen growth on all fronts and would like to thank you for rising to the occasion. Making a positive difference in the lives of our athletes is our prime focus.

