

SOPEI President's Report-2024/25

Each year, at this time, we are afforded the opportunity to first reflect on the past 12 months and then look forward to the busy year ahead.

Our organization continues to remain dedicated to providing Islanders with intellectual disabilities access to sports. We are happy to report growth in both athlete numbers and volunteer numbers of 42% and 17% respectively. A total of 831 athletes, including young athletes, were able to join community programs, SO Fun days, and competitive events both on the island and throughout the Atlantic region. Our achievements can be largely attributed to our extensive network of 418 volunteers and our ongoing partnerships with schools.

The 2025 fiscal year was highlighted by the first world games since 2017 in Turin, Italy where we had three athletes as well three mission staff, Charity, Genna, and Sarah, from SOPEI represent Team Canada! Our leaders from PEI helped navigate many challenges at the games and our athletes performed remarkably, achieving 5 medals, three of which were gold. We also had 65 athletes compete in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in different sports and represent team PEI proudly, many of whom achieved personal bests and took home medals.

We had another succesful year at our Enriching Lives Gala, in July where \$410,264 was raised to support our mission. This along with motionball's Marathon of Sport, LETR events and the continued generosity of organizations and individuals in our community has helped ensure financial viability for the current and foreseeable future.

SOPEI is very fortunate to have a loyal staff that combines their skill with their passion to make SOPEI the best it can be. Our team works tirelessly every day to improve the organization, and for that, SOPEI is deeply grateful to all of you. A sincere thank you to Charity, Matthew, Sarah, Genna, Ellen and Olivia for your leadership, dedication, passion and tireless efforts to SOPEI.

The Board of Directors at SOPEI comprises a diverse group of individuals from different backgrounds to ensure effective governance and guidance. This team has evolved over time and it has been a privilege to collaborate with this dedicated group. I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone for their hard work.

SOPEI continues to achieve big milestones in the smallest province in Canada and I look forward to continuing to work side-by-side with all the amazing members of the Special Olympics PEI family. Please accept my sincere thank you to each and every one of you who strive every day to achieve and uphold the ever-so-important SOPEI mission:

"Special Olympics PEI exists so that the lives of Islanders with an intellectual disability will be enriched through sport."

Regards,

Robert Horne

President, Special Olympics PEI Board of Directors