

2025-2026

ANNUAL REPORT

***Special
Olympics***
Northwest Territories



Executive Director: Sandra Turner
Sport Program Coordinator: Lexie Letzing

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JANE ARYCHUK



Another amazing year for Special Olympics NWT (SONWT) and I am proud to share the Annual Report for 2025-2026. With dedicated staff in both sport and administration, SONWT has been able to try out new sports including soccer and Arctic/Dene Sports. The Board Members continued to support in every way possible and could be seen at the pool, bowling alley, selling raffle tickets and volunteering at fundraisers.

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 traveled with athletes to compete at the 2025 Special Olympics Alberta Provincial Summer Games with athletics and swimming athletes coming home sporting medals.

Secondly we were joined by the CEO of Special Olympics Canada for the Polar Plunge and she helped us raise \$17,000 to support our athletes this year. As well this year's Pick-a-Chick raised \$7080 - the highest raised by this annual event so far.

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.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

SANDRA TURNER



Another successful year for Special Olympics NWT!

Thank you to all the Coaches, Volunteers and Sponsors who contributed to the success. Your dedicated support is instrumental in providing an opportunity for those in our community with intellectual disabilities to access sport and health programs to improve their well being. The photos within this years report are reflective of the joy and excitement that is achieved through sport and it gives me great pride to be a part of a great team making this all possible.

The fundraising events for Special Olympics NWT are a great way to raise awareness and bring the community together in support of our athletes. It is also critical to ensuring we have the necessary funding to pay for facilities, travel to competitions and camps, and health events - all of this contributing to making this a reality for those who may not have this opportunity otherwise. Thank you to our sponsors, supporters, partners and volunteers for all your hard work to make these events successful and so much fun!

We look forward to another year of growing the Special Olympics movement in the NWT!



MISSION & VISION

MISSION

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



***Special
Olympics***
Northwest Territories

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.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Special Olympics
Northwest Territories



President: Jane Arychuk
Vice-President: Cecile Beemer
Athlete Representative: Loic Burns
Secretary: Leslie Smith
Treasurer: Chris Cahoon
Director: Nicole Crowley
Director: Sandy Little
Director: Paul Henry
Past President: Alan Cash



SOC FUNDING

SPORT CANADA FUNDING

Special Olympics Canada provides funding to each Chapter across Canada. Under the 2025-26 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 & National Games	Facility, Registration & Competition Fees	Chapter Admin

SOC FUNDING

PARTNER FUNDING

Special Olympics NWT receives core funding from Special Olympics Canada to support the Sport Coordinator's 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 Sobey's food store in Yellowknife, we still receive a portion of proceeds from the national campaign from Empire. The 2026 Special Olympics donut campaign broke sales records by 33% with over \$3000 raised in donut proceeds.

Special Olympics Canada provides ongoing support and is a conduit to connect with other chapters providing opportunities to learn and grow.

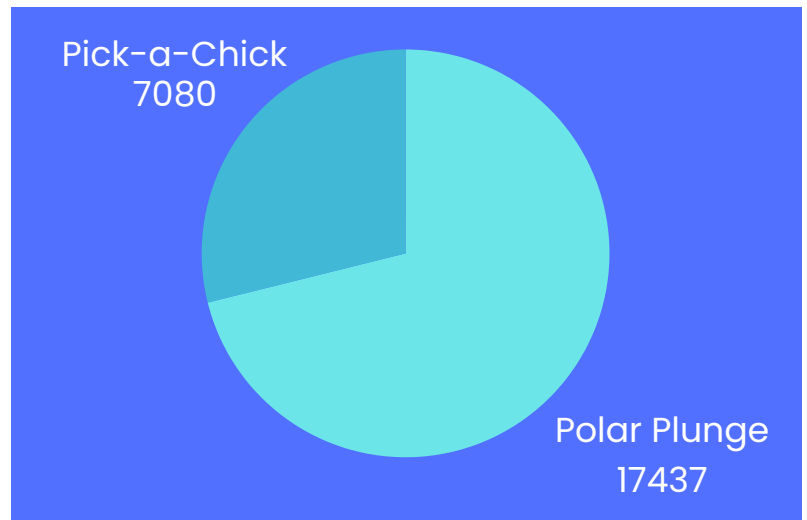




FUNDRAISING

PICK-A-CHICK

The 2025 Pick-a-Chick campaign was a record-breaking fundraising event for the chapter. With the most tickets sold compared to previous years, it is a direct correlation of the brand awareness SONWT has made to the community. In addition to local prize sponsors, we are also thankful to the local Independent Grocer for allowing us to sell in-person.



POLAR PLUNGE

After a record-breaking \$35,000 Polar Plunge campaign in 2025, SONWT set their sites on a \$25,000 fundraising goal for 2026. Despite not meeting the final goal, SONWT is proud to have raised over \$17,000 for the 2026 Polar Plunge. Thank you to all sponsors who supported the event, participants that registered or entered a team, and those that pledged and made the event the most “extreme” Polar Plunge in the country!



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SPECIAL OLYMPICS NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2026

(Unaudited)

	2026	2025
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 104,363	\$ 117,665
Short-term guaranteed investment certificates (note 3)	403,988	399,598
Accounts receivable	20,045	-
Prepaid expenses	38,474	974
GST rebate receivable	12,158	9,986
	<u>\$ 579,028</u>	<u>\$ 528,223</u>
 LIABILITY AND FUND BALANCES		
Current liability		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 26,374	\$ 21,082
Net assets	<u>552,654</u>	<u>507,141</u>
	<u>\$ 579,028</u>	<u>\$ 528,223</u>

See accompanying notes

On behalf of the Board

Director

Director



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SPECIAL OLYMPICS NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Statement of Operations

Year ended March 31, 2026

(Unaudited)

	2026	2025
Revenues		
City of Yellowknife	\$ 12,500	\$ -
Donations and fundraising	99,929	78,140
Government of the Northwest Territories - Department of Municipal and Community Affairs	20,000	25,000
Grant income	7,922	9,500
Interest income	5,015	14,748
Special Olympics Canada	106,760	112,493
	<u>252,126</u>	<u>239,881</u>
Expenditures		
Accreditation fees	661	994
Advertising and promotion	-	1,415
Bad debts	3,181	-
Coach and volunteer development	45	413
Competitions	23,047	14,185
Computer expense	2,993	1,726
Contract labour	124,200	120,100
Equipment, supplies and events	3,076	12,119
Facility fees	18,808	29,754
Fundraising expenses	2,235	5,364
Insurance	1,957	1,838
Interest and bank charges	288	311
National meetings	4,866	4,938
Office and administrative expenses	3,836	6,268
Office rent	10,736	11,488
Professional fees	4,949	4,420
Registration fees	2,554	1,772
Sport development expense	(819)	-
	<u>206,613</u>	<u>217,105</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	<u>\$ 45,513</u>	<u>\$ 22,776</u>

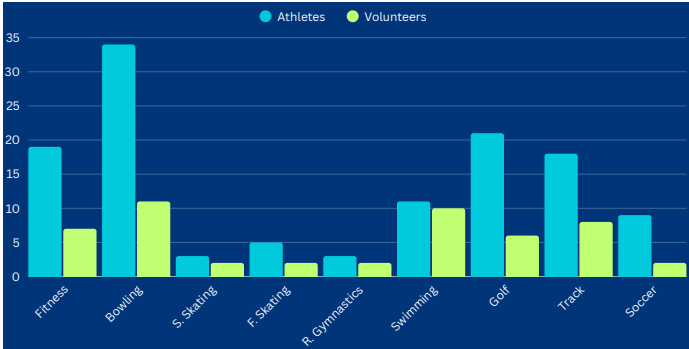


REGISTRATION

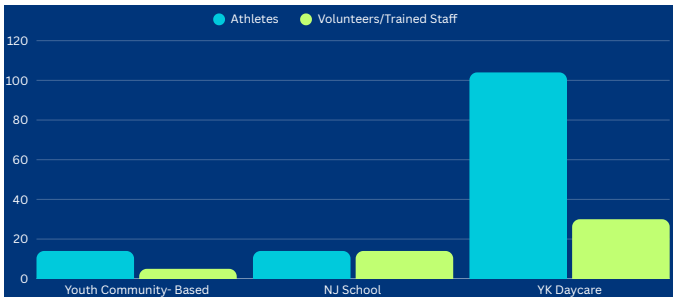
SPORT PROGRAMS

Programs such as rhythmic gymnastics and speed skating are declining in chapters across the country. SONWT continues to run its programming based on athlete needs, volunteer availability and interest. SONWT was approached by the Yellowknife Bay Soccer Club in the fall of 2025 expressing interest in starting a soccer program. In spring 2026, 9 athletes piloted a 6 week program with the club. It was well received and the hope is to expand the program into a full schedule in the 2026-27 season.

SPORT & MINI PROGRAMS



YOUTH PROGRAMS

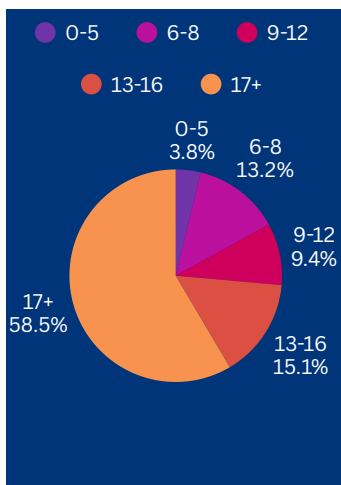


Snowshoeing was cancelled for the second consecutive season after unfavourable weather and lead volunteer availability. Adjustments to this program will need to be made for it to run successfully in the 2026-27 season.

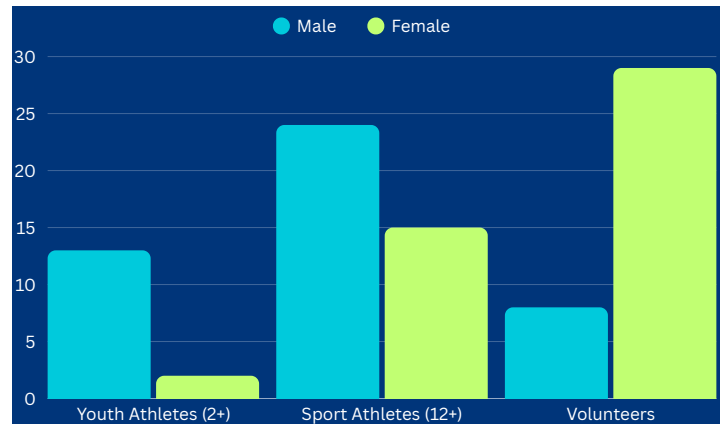


REGISTRATION BY THE NUMBERS

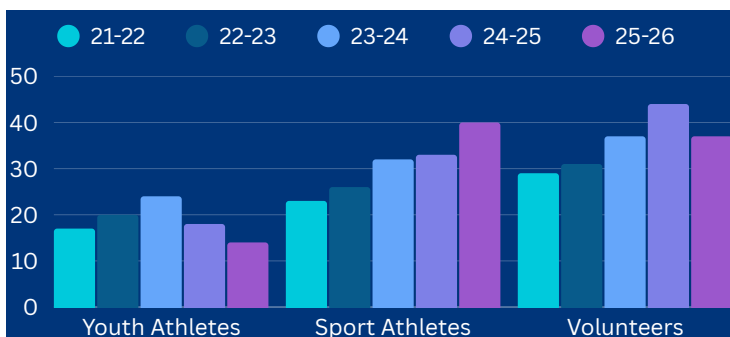
ATHLETE REGISTRATION BY AGE



REGISTRATION BREAKDOWN BY GENDER



REGISTRATION GROWTH 2021-2026



Athlete and volunteer recruitment and retention continues to be a priority for SONWT. A subtle drop in volunteer registration was largely due to volunteer lifestyle changes (growing families, relocation). There is a current decline in youth registrations - additional efforts will be made in the 2026-27 season to increase numbers.



2025-26 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2025 - FITNESS TESTING EXTRAVAGANZA





2025-26 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

MAY 2025 - SPORT NORTH AWARDS



Josh Boudreau was selected as the 2025 Sport North Senior Male Athlete of the Year. Barb Kardash was nominated and selected for the Delma Kisoun Community Contributor Award. Josh and Barb have been a part of the Special Olympics movement in the North for many years and have been great ambassadors for the chapter in the community. SONWT is proud to celebrate the accomplishments of Josh and Barb.



2025-26 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

JULY 2025 - PROVINCIAL SUMMER GAMES





2025-26 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 2025 - INDIGENOUS AND NORTHERN GAMES TRY IT EVENT



In collaboration with Indigenous Sports Circle NWT, we hosted an Indigenous and Northern Games try it event. Thirteen athletes attended and received instruction from Northern Games facilitators Veronica McDonald and Aurora Kotokak. Athletes learned the concepts of seven events and their origin. This was an important and meaningful event for our athletes and volunteers, learning some history and culturally relevant practices of the Northwest Territories.



2025-26 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 2026 - SOCCER PILOT PROGRAM LAUNCH





2025-26 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 2026 - SPECIAL OLYMPICS CANADA CEO VISIT



Special Olympics Canada CEO Gail Hamamoto visited Yellowknife in March 2026 where she met SONWT staff, board members and athletes. Gail wanted to experience and meet the athletes first hand and understand the realities of running programs for a small chapter. She even took part in the Polar Plunge!