

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Special Olympics NWT

867-446-2266

Executive Director: Sandra Turner
Sport Program Coordinator: Lexie Letzing



**Special
Olympics**

Northwest Territories

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Board Directors of Special Olympics Northwest Territories (SONWT), I am very pleased to present an annual report on our operations covering the period 2023-2024.

It's been an exciting year of post-Covid rebuilding and revitalization, which included the welcoming of new Board Members, relocating our office, a new partnership with Sport North, and the highly successful rebirth, after a five-year hiatus, of our Polar Plunge fundraiser.

But most importantly of all, we mark another year of the achievements of our athletes. They continue to challenge themselves and hone their skills in whichever sport they choose to participate, including: swimming, bowling, speed skating, figure skating, gymnastics, fitness, snowshoeing, track and field, and golf. In February of 2024, six of our athletes participated in the National Games hosted in Calgary, Alberta and did the NWT proud, not only in winning 2 gold and one bronze, but in meeting and often beating their personal bests while demonstrating the very finest in sportsmanship.

None of our success would have been possible without our dedicated volunteers and partners. Northerners should take pride in the fact that SONWT has the highest rate of volunteers to athletes of any Special Olympics organization in the country. To those who coach, fundraise, organize, share facilities, and provide moral and financial support to enable our athletes to participate in the sports and the communities they love, please accept our sincere gratitude. SONWT would simply wither on the vine without your ongoing commitment and enthusiasm.

To the athletes who inspire us and to the volunteers who make it all possible, the SONWT Board of Directors extends our heartfelt thanks. Mahsi Cho.

-Alan Cash, President





**Special
Olympics**
Northwest Territories

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

This year has been one of meeting many milestones and growing the organization. Firstly, we have added new board members including an Athlete representative for the first time. We have almost completed a year with our Sport Coordinator role being under a 3-year contract with Sport North. This has provided some additional staffing stability. We have completed a backlog of financial statements bringing the organization back into good standing. We have been quite successful in exceeding our fundraising goals and reconnecting through the LETR movement. And to top it all off, we have moved into our new “digs” providing a great office and meeting space for the board.

On the Sport front, we have grown our volunteer and athlete base, as well as introduced some new health and fitness activities which have been very well received. We had great representation at the National Games in Calgary.

You can find all the details in our first annual report brought to you by your Executive Director and Sport Program Coordinator. We look forward to another year of enriching the lives of NWT residents with intellectual disabilities through sport.

-Sandra Turner





**Special
Olympics**
Northwest Territories

WHO WE ARE

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.

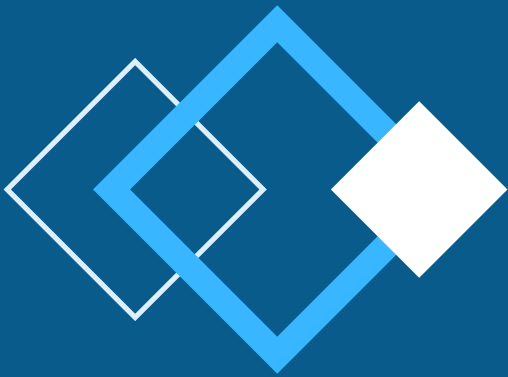
Our History:

Special Olympics NWT started in Yellowknife in 1989 with four athletes in bowling. SONWT is the territorial chapter for the national organization that provides sport for people with intellectual disabilities. It is a not-for-profit organization, registered as a charity within the SONWT. SONWT programs are run entirely by volunteers with the assistance of staff and is governed by a Board of Directors. Funding is provided through our fundraising partner Law Enforcement Torch Run, public donations, grants, corporate sponsors and special fundraising events.

Today, athletes participate in swimming, bowling, speed skating, rhythmic gymnastics and fitness in addition to seasonal mini-programs (4-6 weeks in duration) in track and field, golf and snowshoeing. We also provide Active Start and FUNdamentals, a youth physical literacy skills development programs ages 2-11. We have over 50 athletes registered along with approximately 40 volunteers taking part each season.



ADMINISTRATION



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Alan Cash

Vice-President: Jane Arychuk

Secretary: Leslie Smith

Treasurer: Zachary Silva

Director: Cecile Beemer

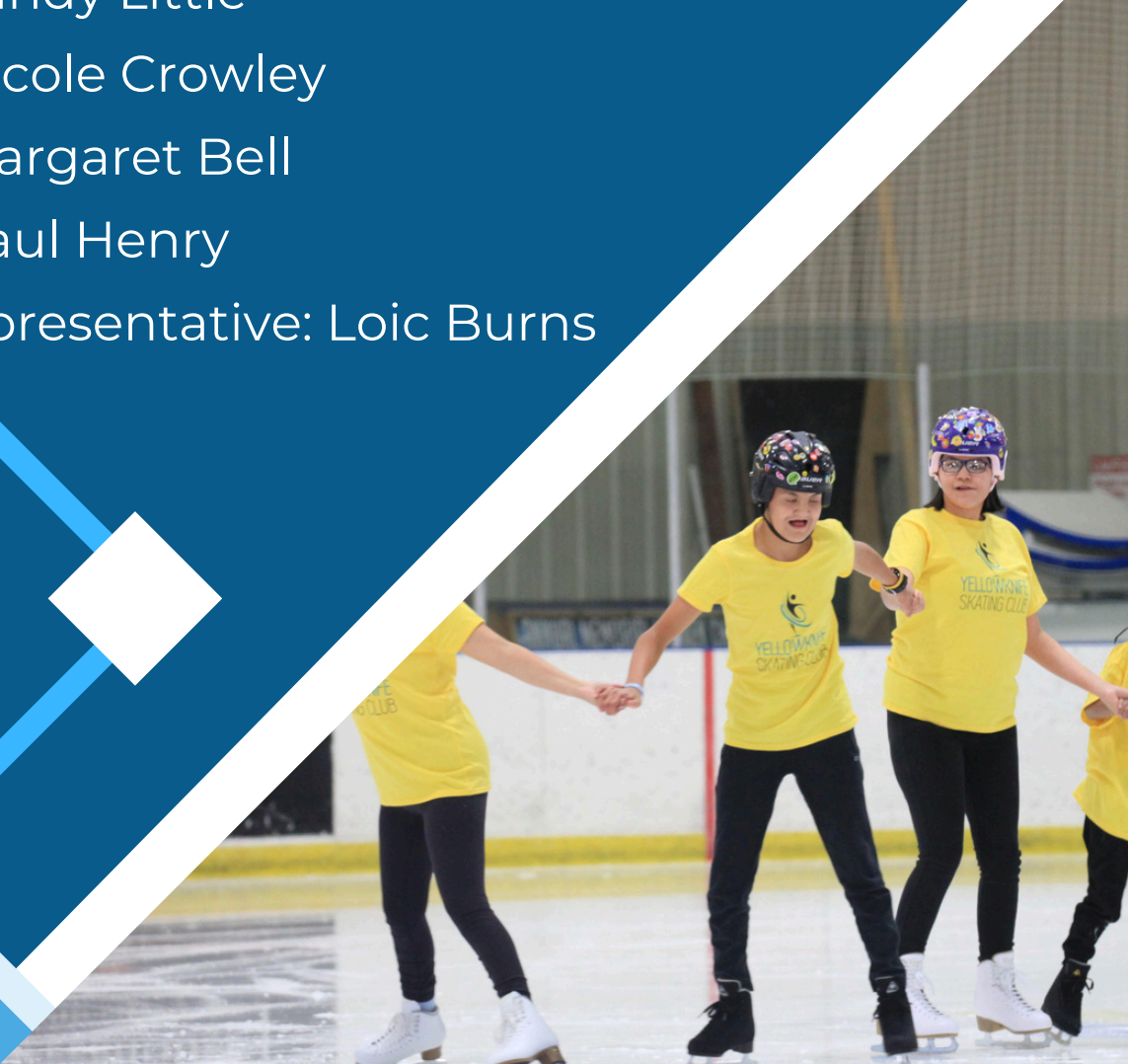
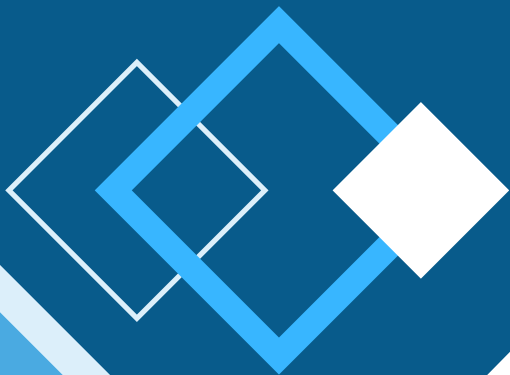
Director: Sandy Little

Director: Nicole Crowley

Director: Margaret Bell

Director: Paul Henry

Athlete Representative: Loic Burns



SOC FUNDING

Sport Canada Funding

Special Olympics Canada provides funding to each Chapter across Canada. Under the 2023/24 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 funded toward specific projects that are approved through a proposal submission. For 2023/24 the \$30,000 was approved for 5 projects.

Partner Funding

Fundraising through National Campaigns and Sponsorship is another source of funding that varies based on the success of the campaigns. In 2022-23 SONWT received approximately \$16,000 with support from Tim Hortons, Sobeys, Home Hardware, and Wolseley. Another \$10,000 was also provided through the Special Olympics Canada Foundation.

Project 1	Project 2	Project 3	Project 4	Project 5
Coaching & Professional Development	National Games Support	Youth & Sport-Specific Try-It Days	School-Based/Daycare-Based Youth Programming	Health Initiatives



FUNDRAISING



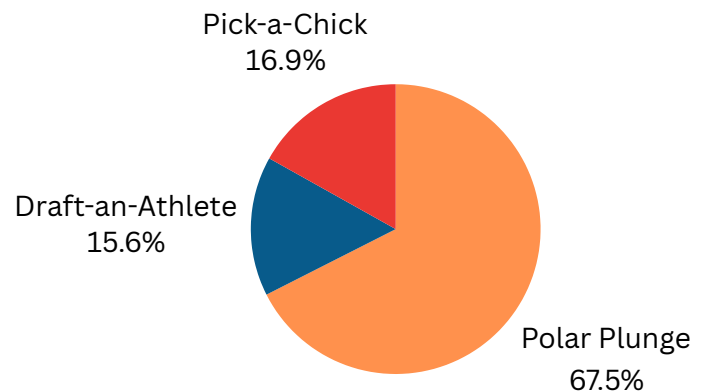
Special Olympics NWT had a very successful year fundraising locally, thanks to our very generous community. A total of about \$38,500 was raised through our annual Pick a Chick Raffle, Draft an Athlete Program and the Polar Plunge. And finally, through successful funding proposals, we have also renewed a 3-year funding contract from MACA through the Western Canada Lottery Corp funding (WCLP) of \$20,000 per year which is instrumental in covering administration costs to operate. Other funding proposals resulted in \$5,000 from the Community Parks and Recreation Association, and \$7,500 from United Way.



Polar Plunge

Draft-an-Athlete

Pick-a-Chick



Successful Funding Proposals

- GNWT Healthy Choices
- City of Yellowknife
- WCLP
- Post Office
- SONA
- Reaching Each and Everyone



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

It may seem like a trivial matter to some; however, we can't tell you how happy we are to have GONE DIGITAL in 2024! We have updated our bank accounts allowing us to do digital transactions, which has made life a little easier and payments timelier. We have also changed our fiscal year end to March 31st Due to this change, the following financial statements only reflect 9 months of operations. Next year we will have a full year of operations reported.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2023

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 136,848	\$ 139,561
Short-term guaranteed investment certificates (note 3)	370,518	361,807
Prepaid expenses	1,948	974
GST rebate receivable	3,615	6,023
	<u>\$ 512,929</u>	<u>\$ 508,365</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 21,773	\$ 17,167
Deferred revenue (note 4)	-	20,000
Contributions repayable (note 5)	3,000	3,000
	<u>24,773</u>	<u>40,167</u>
Net assets	<u>488,156</u>	<u>468,198</u>
	<u>\$ 512,929</u>	<u>\$ 508,365</u>

See accompanying notes

On behalf of the Board

Member

Member

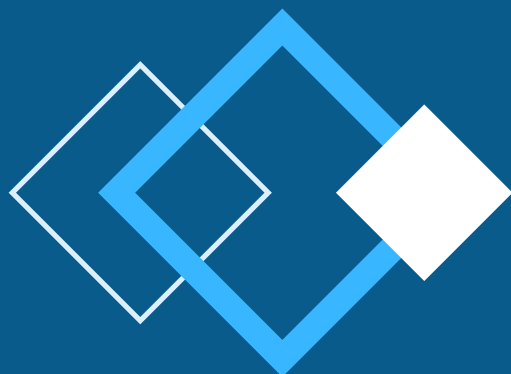
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SPECIAL OLYMPICS NORTHWEST TERRITORIES Statement of Operations Period ended March 31, 2023

	2023 Nine months	2022
Revenues		
City of Yellowknife	\$ -	\$ 1,250
Donations	16,425	3,422
Fundraising	3,773	11,266
Government of the Northwest Territories - Department of Municipal and Community Affairs	20,000	20,000
Interest income	8,712	1,237
Special Olympics Canada	123,500	139,424
	<u>172,410</u>	<u>176,599</u>
Expenses		
Accreditation fees	-	271
Advertising and promotion	1,545	2,051
Awards	36	3,305
Bad debts	-	200
Coach and volunteer development	4,683	761
Competitions	13,488	6,525
Contract labour	100,709	103,797
Equipment, supplies and events	413	1,566
Facility fees	3,481	15,167
Fundraising expenses	100	1,428
Insurance	1,531	1,451
Interest and bank charges	211	51
Office and administrative expenses	4,433	4,742
Office rent	8,839	11,685
Professional fees	12,218	2,194
Registration fees	765	228
Sport development expense	-	1,112
	<u>152,452</u>	<u>156,534</u>
Excess of revenues over expenses	<u>\$ 19,958</u>	<u>\$ 20,065</u>

See accompanying notes

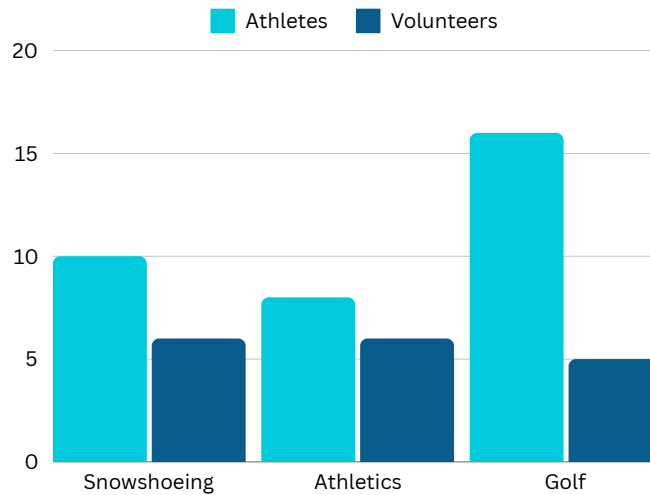
SPORT



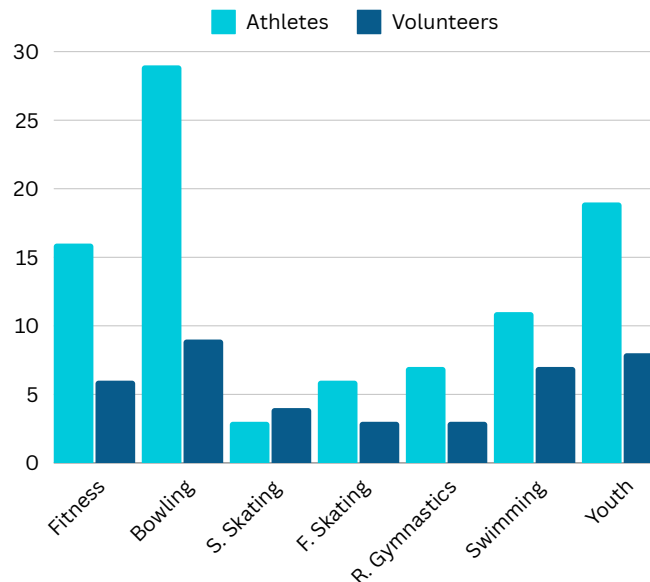
REGISTRATION BY THE NUMBERS

Special Olympics NWT has a standing goal to continue to grow athlete and volunteer registration while still providing the same quality, accessible programming to our athletes. By increasing our brand awareness across social media channels and our website we have been seeing a slow increase in registration for both athletes and volunteers.

Mini Program Registration

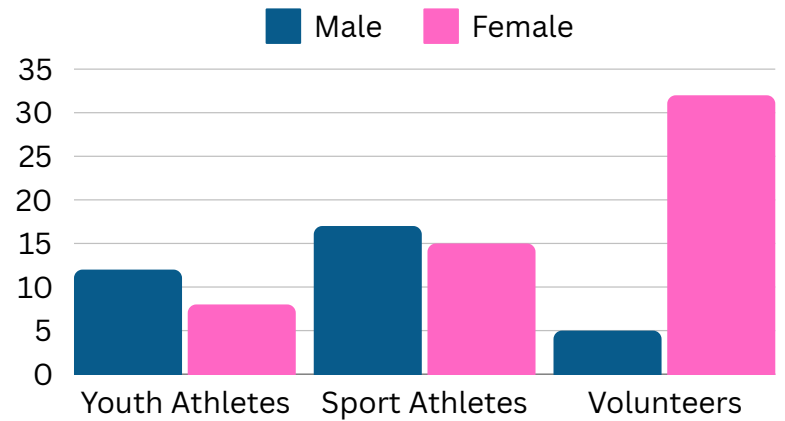


Sport & Youth Program Registration

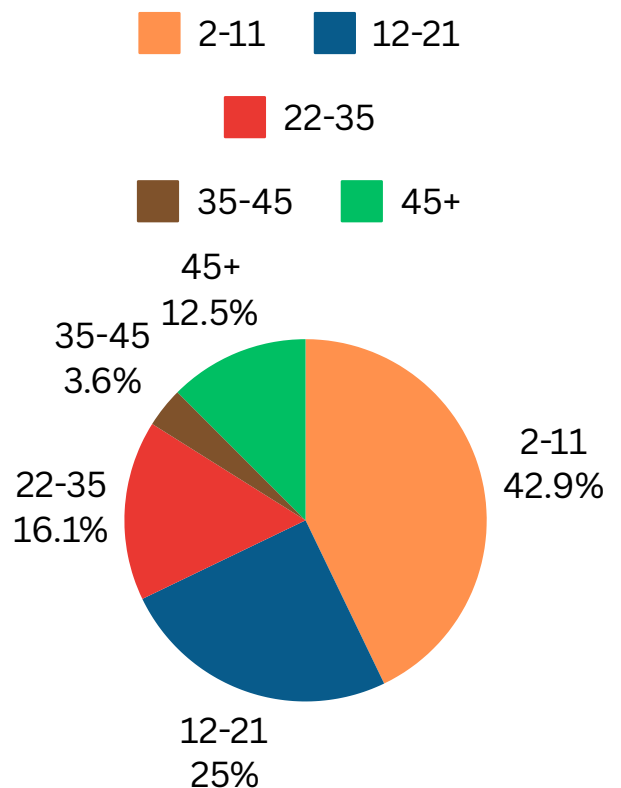


REGISTRATION BY THE NUMBERS

Registration Breakdown by Gender



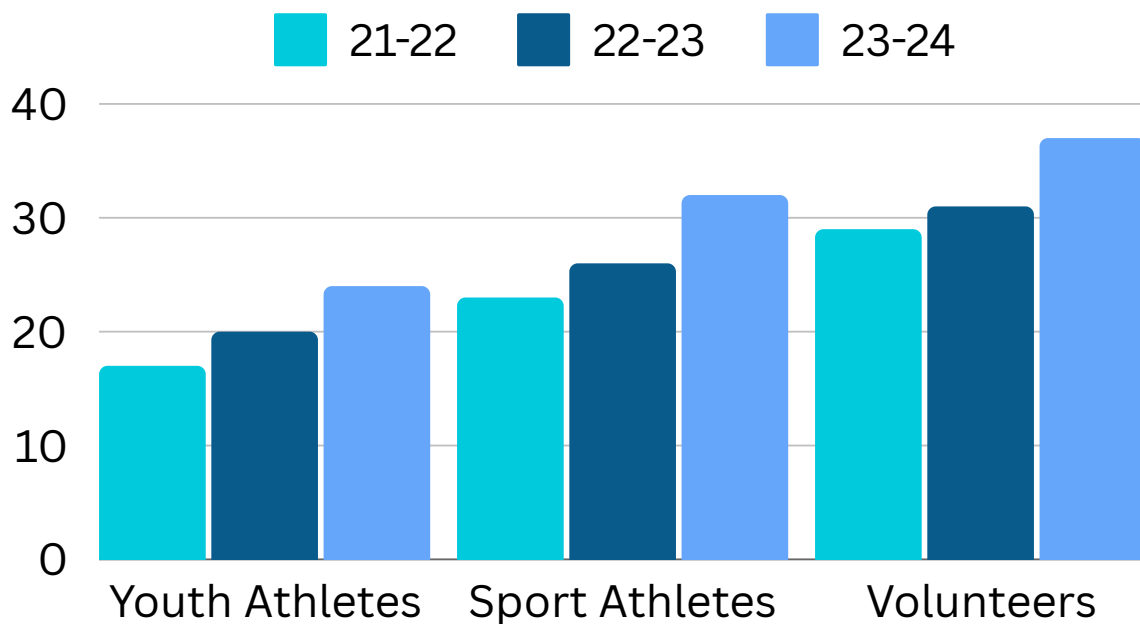
Athlete Registration by Age



REGISTRATION GROWTH

Unlike many chapters across the country, Special Olympics NWT has seen a steady growth in volunteer registrations. Leveraging our current volunteers to promote their positive experiences with friends and family members has not only improved our volunteer registration numbers but has provided a positive social environment for both our athletes and volunteers.

Registration Growth 2021-2024



NATIONAL GAMES

The 2024 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games were held February 26th-March 3rd in Calgary, AB. The team consisted of 6 athletes, 3 coaches, 1 next gen coach, 2 mission staff and 1 Chef de Mission. Team NWT competed in 5-pin bowling and speed skating. Josh Boudreau (speed skating) wrapped the week up with two gold medals and a bronze medal, securing his spot on the 2025 Team Canada World Games squad. It was a great week full of personal bests, new glasses and memories that will last a lifetime. A total of \$6000.00 was raised through the Draft-an-Athlete campaign. This covered the costs associated with clothing and registration fees.

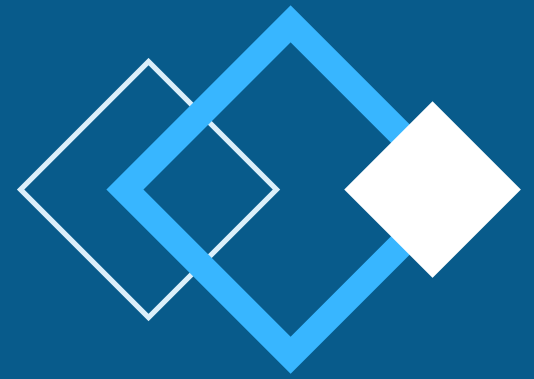


FITNESS TESTING EXTRAVAGANZA

In May of 2023, we hosted the first of hopefully many Fitness Testing Extravaganzas. Eight volunteers and 15 athletes registered and attended. In addition to fitness testing, there was an interactive nutrition presentation followed by a catered lunch.



THANK YOU



Once again, we cannot overstate how grateful we are for the generosity of our community, our coaches and volunteers. Your offer of time and resources to bring these programs to our athletes is truly priceless. You are making a difference in the lives of many – for this we thank you!

Contact Us

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www.sonwt.ca

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[@specialolympicsnwt](https://www.instagram.com/specialolympicsnwt)