



## **President's Report**

As we look back at the past 12 months we are left with a lot of uncertainty and questions. This is an unusual time for SOPEI, and for the world. The Covid-19 global pandemic has caused uncertainty in both the sports world and the world of charitable organizations. With SOPEI sitting in both these worlds it has caused added stress and concern to our organization.

This added stress and concern has been made a little easier by both the sport and financial position SOPEI was in prior to the global pandemic. The shutdown of our sport programs was a difficult situation for our athletes, coaches, caretakers, and staff, but was necessary to ensure the safety of all involved. During this time, our staff and the SOPEI community continued to work tirelessly for the organization. Fundraisers were being organized and work on the return to play plan was started immediately. Thanks to this hard work and the community response to minimize the spread of Covid-19 in PEI we were one of the first provinces that were able to have our athletes return to play.

The cancelation of our annual gala, Motionball (2021 fiscal), and Polar Plunge were very devastating situations for everyone who was involved, as these are major fundraising events for our organization. We were lucky enough to have these events continue to bring in funds through a modified process. The creativity of all involved ensured that these events were not totally lost for the year. And thanks to this and the addition of the 5K run put on by Elisha Cuthbert, SOPEI has been able to weather the financial hit that has crippled many other charitable organizations to date.

During the year there was also lots of positive and good events that took place and I would be remiss of me not to mention them.

- Team PEI had another fantastic showing on the National Stage in Thunder Bay – February 2020.
- SO Fun Days continues to grow and become a marquee event for SOPEI – November 2019.
- Motionball continued its growth – September 2019.
- LETR Truck Convoy – August 2009.

The organization would not be the success that it is without the tireless efforts of its staff. Charity, Matthew, Sarah, Genna, Kristen, 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 have always been a very proud member of the SOPEI family, but this year has shown me the true dedication that everyone involved has to this great organization. I look forward to the time when our athletes can return to full play with fans cheering them on in the stands.

Jamie Arsenault,  
President