



2013 Special Olympics BC Summer Games to be held in Langley

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Next year, Langley will host an inspiring display of determination, skill, sportsmanship and joy when the 2013 Special Olympics BC Summer Games come to town.

Special Olympics BC (SOBC) is pleased to announce that the 2013 SOBC Provincial Summer Games will be held in the Township of Langley from July 11 to 14, 2013, with the support of the Township and the Langley School District.

The Games will feature more than 1,100 Special Olympics athletes from the eight SOBC regions and the Yukon competing in 11 summer sports: 5- and 10-pin bowling, aquatics, athletics, basketball, bocce, golf, rhythmic gymnastics, powerlifting, soccer and softball. Athletes will show their love of sport and their inspiring sportsmanship as they compete for the opportunity to advance to the 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games, which will be held in Vancouver.

These Games will mark the first time that Special Olympics BC and Yukon athletes participating in basketball, bocce and golf will be able to compete for the chance to advance to the National Games – these three current demonstration sports will be part of the Special Olympics Canada Games for the first time in 2014.

“Special Olympics BC is excited to be hosting our 2013 Provincial Summer Games in Langley Township. We’re grateful for the support and cooperation of the Township and the Langley School District that will help make these Games an amazing experience for the athletes who will come together from all around the province and the Yukon to give their best efforts and go for gold,” said Lois McNary, SOBC Vice President of Sport. “The opportunity to participate in a SOBC Provincial Games is a memorable and often life-changing experience for athletes and volunteers alike, and we know Langley will be a great and gracious host for this inspiring experience.”

“Our community is so proud to be hosting these Games,” said Township of Langley Mayor Jack Froese. “Special Olympics athletes are extremely inspirational, and, as with all athletes, the experiences they gain from the 2013 Summer Games will help build their skills, self-esteem, and confidence. Their spirit and enthusiasm is a motivation to all of us, and we are thrilled for the chance to further empower these exceptional athletes. With our world-class facilities, dedicated volunteers, and enthusiastic fans, Langley Township has become a renowned sport tourism destination and it is a privilege to partner with Special Olympics BC and the Langley School District for this event.”

“The Langley Board of Education is honoured to support the hosting of the 2013 Special Olympics BC Summer Games in our community.” said Langley Board Chair Wendy Johnson. “The athletes are such

incredible role models for our young people and we look forward to joining our students in cheering them on as they inspire us with their dedication and commitment to achieving their goals.”

The 2013 SOBC Provincial Summer Games are expected to draw together more than 1,100 athletes and 300 volunteer coaches and mission staff members from around B.C. and the Yukon to Langley.

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About Special Olympics BC:

Special Olympics BC is dedicated to providing individuals with intellectual disabilities opportunities to enrich their lives and celebrate personal achievement through positive sport experiences. In 55 communities around the province, we provide year-round training and competitive opportunities in 18 different sports to more than 3,900 athletes of all ages and abilities, thanks to the dedicated efforts of over 2,900 volunteers. For more information, please visit www.specialolympics.bc.ca. Find us on Facebook and Twitter: www.facebook.com/specialolympicsbc / @sobcsociety.

For more information and interview opportunities, please contact:

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