

# BE A FAN

## *Fill the Stands*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### ***“A Language Everyone Speaks is Sports”***

## **Special Olympics Summer Games Preparations Underway**

Regional team leaders from around the province and the Yukon recently came together in Langley to review preparations underway in Langley as the community hosts the 2013 Special Olympics BC Summer Games from July 11-14. The 2013 Games Organizing Committee hosted a Chef de Mission tour on March 9, bringing together the leaders of the nine regional teams that will be coming to compete in Langley and giving them a chance to check out the facilities and faces that will welcome their athletes and coaches.

The Chefs de Mission and the GOC held an orientation session in the Langley Events Centre, including a five-hour venue tour and the opportunity to meet the Games directors and hear a briefing on the plans for the Games.

Arne Olson, Chair of the 2013 Games Organizing Committee, said the Langley organizing committee is very well prepared. “It was great to meet the regional organizers, and they left impressed with the dedication and work that has gone into preparing the Games so far,” Olson said.

The 2013 SOBC Summer Games will include competitions in 11 sports to be held at venues including the Langley Events Centre, McLeod Athletic Park, and Walnut Grove Recreation Centre. Over 1,100 athletes will be attending from all over B.C. and the Yukon.

“I hope that everyone will be a fan and fill the stands,” said Matthew Williams, SOBC – Langley athlete.

Williams, who is also a Special Olympics Global Messenger and a member of the SOBC Leadership Council, encourages Langley residents to take in the Games as spectators.

“I think that people who come and attend the Special Olympics Summer Games this year in Langley will go away with many great memories. I really hope that everyone comes out and watches these amazing athletes at the Summer Games!”

Williams is hopeful to have people cheering in the stands as “it is a feeling that is always a great experience.”

More than 1,000 volunteers will be needed to execute the Games and will share in the life-changing Special Olympics spirit of achievement, acceptance, sportsmanship, and joy. To get involved, contact Carol Madill in our Langley office at 604 533 2233 or [games@specialolympics.bc.ca](mailto:games@specialolympics.bc.ca). The office is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. from Monday to Friday except Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### **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 4,100 athletes of all ages and abilities, thanks to the dedicated efforts of over 3,200 volunteers. For more information, please visit [www.specialolympics.bc.ca](http://www.specialolympics.bc.ca). Find us on Facebook and Twitter: [www.facebook.com/specialolympicsbc](http://www.facebook.com/specialolympicsbc) @sobcsociety.

Be a Fan and Fill the Stands at the 2013 SOBC Summer Games!

#beafan

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