

## **2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games one year away**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**February 20, 2014**

One year away from the 2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games in Kamloops, SOBC is pleased to announce the dates when 600 athletes from all over the province will compete with determination and pride in seven winter sports.

The 2015 SOBC Winter Games will be held on February 19 to 21 next year, with the Opening Ceremonies kicking off the event on February 19 and competitions taking place on February 20 and 21.

The City of Kamloops and School District No. 73 are providing significant support, which will help ensure SOBC's 2015 Provincial Games will be a huge success as the event returns to Kamloops for the first time in 12 years.

The Games will feature athletes going for gold in the seven SOBC winter sports: alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, floor hockey, snowshoeing, and speed skating. SOBC athletes around the province are competing right now in Regional Qualifiers in these sports in hopes of earning coveted spots in the 2015 Provincial Games.

In Kamloops, athletes will compete for the chance to advance to the 2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, where the participants will seek to advance to the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria.

Momentum is building around the organization of the 2015 SOBC Games, with further exciting announcements set to come soon, and SOBC athletes are excited about the prospect of coming to compete in this community. There has been a long history of support for Special Olympics in Kamloops, as it was one of the first communities in B.C. to start offering Special Olympics programs, beginning in 1983.

"It's impossible to see Special Olympics Games and not be inspired. Kamloops will be inspired by these determined athletes, by their sportsmanship and love of their sports, and by the dedicated coaches and volunteers who give them so much support and confidence," said Lois McNary, SOBC Vice President, Sport. "Special Olympics Games put our athletes in the spotlight to show all that they can do. We hope Kamloops will join us to make that happen next February."

More than 1,000 volunteers will be needed to make this inspiring experience possible. To get involved, please contact Lois McNary by e-mail at [lmcnary@specialolympics.bc.ca](mailto:lmcnary@specialolympics.bc.ca) or phone toll-free at 1-888-854-2276.

### **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 4,200 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.

**Media contact**

Megan Grittani-Livingston  
Manager, Communications  
Special Olympics BC

T: 604.737.3077 | E: [megan@specialolympics.bc.ca](mailto:megan@specialolympics.bc.ca)