



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games welcome sponsors**

### ***Call for Games volunteers launched***

The 2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games Organizing Committee is pleased to announce the sponsors who have signed on to date, and is inviting volunteers and additional sponsors to get involved in this inspiring display of sportsmanship, determination, pride, and joy.

Set to be held next February 19 to 21, the 2015 SOBC Winter Games will involve approximately 600 athletes and 200 volunteer coaches from around the province coming together here in Kamloops.

“Special Olympics really focuses on the athlete experience, and we are fortunate that some incredible local sponsors have stepped forward to help us provide an outstanding event for the athletes and their coaches who will compete here in Kamloops,” says Pat Davis, 2015 SOBC Winter Games Chair. “We’re so grateful for their support, and welcome others to get involved to help make these Provincial Games a memorable and empowering experience for everyone involved.”

- Platinum Sponsors: City of Kamloops and School District #73
- Gold Sponsor: New Gold – New Afton Mine
- Bronze Sponsors: Domtar – Kamloops and Lake City Casino
- Media Sponsors: Broadcast Centre, NL Broadcasting, and Kamloops This Week

The athletes will be competing in the seven SOBC winter sports: alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, floor hockey, snowshoeing, and speed skating.

The curling, figure skating, and speed skating events will be hosted at McArthur Island Sports and Events Centre, and floor hockey events will be held in School District #73 schools. The alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing events will be hosted at Sun Peaks Resort. The Games will kick off with the Opening Ceremony on the evening of February 19 at the Tournament Capital Centre, where all the teams will get to march in proudly and be welcomed to Kamloops.

“At Provincial Games, I meet lots of new friends, and I feel proud because I worked so hard for it. It’s a different and great experience,” says SOBC – Kamloops curler Megan Gourley, who is getting ready to compete with her team in the 2015 SOBC Winter Games. “It’s so exciting to compete in Provincial Games here in my hometown. I’ve never done that before. I hope lots of people will come out to volunteer with the events and cheer us on!”



The Games needs approximately 1,000 people to help bring the event to life, contributing through everything from sport roles to food services where they get to talk directly with the athletes and hear their pride in their Games achievements. Everyone who meets Special Olympics athletes gets hooked on how inspiring and fun they are to be around – so Kamloops volunteers are invited to come out and get hooked.

Online volunteer registration and printable registration forms are now available at [www.sobcgameskamloops.ca](http://www.sobcgameskamloops.ca).

### **About the 2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games**

The 2015 SOBC Winter Games, set to be held on February 19 to 21 next year, will feature 600 athletes from around the province going for gold in alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, floor hockey, snowshoeing, and speed skating. SOBC athletes province-wide competed in Regional Qualifiers last season to qualify for 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 qualify for the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria.

More than 1,000 volunteers will be needed to make this inspiring experience possible. To find out more and get involved, please visit [www.sobcgameskamloops.ca](http://www.sobcgameskamloops.ca) or contact [games@specialolympics.bc.ca](mailto:games@specialolympics.bc.ca) / 250-828-3822.

### **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 57 communities around the province, we provide year-round training and competitive opportunities in 18 different sports to more than 4,300 athletes of all ages and abilities, thanks to the dedicated efforts of over 3,300 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.

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