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## Law enforcement members will be freezin' for a reason at Vancouver Island Polar Plunge

Who doesn't love a good ocean dip in February? Brave law enforcement members and a cast of colourful characters will dunk themselves for a great cause in the 2019 Vancouver Island Polar Plunge for Special Olympics BC. Taking place at Willows Beach on February 17, this fun and frigid event will raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics BC's empowering year-round sport, youth, and health programs for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

"The Polar Plunge brings together law enforcement members, Special Olympics athletes, and other members of the community to have a great time and make a difference for Special Olympics BC," says SOBC President & CEO Dan Howe. "We are grateful to all the brave Plungers who get will be freezin' for a reason at this fun and inclusive event."

Staged in partnership with the [Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics BC](#), the Vancouver Island Polar Plunge will see BC Corrections, B.C. Sheriff Services, Canada Border Services Agency, Central Saanich Police Service, Oak Bay Police Department, RCMP, Saanich Police Department, and Victoria Police Department members get bold and cold alongside corporate teams, Special Olympics athletes, and other fearless Plungers.

"I am excited to participate in the 2019 Polar Plunge challenge because I want to be a part of enriching the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities by providing them with opportunities to celebrate personal achievements through positive sport experiences. The Polar Plunge is a great way to bring our community together and show our support for Special Olympics BC. I encourage everyone to join the VicPD team in 'taking the Plunge!'" says Victoria Police Department Chief Constable and BC LETR Executive Council member Del Manak.

The event at Willows Beach will include a colourful costume contest, law enforcement operations vehicles on display, and plenty of prizes and giveaways. Funds raised will support SOBC's life-changing year-round sport programs and competitions for more than 4,800 individuals with intellectual disabilities in 55 communities around the province. Last year's inaugural Vancouver Island Polar Plunge raised more than \$20,000, far exceeding its original fundraising goal of \$5,000.

Special Olympics BC – Victoria athlete Emily Walzak took the Plunge in 2018 and will be back supporting the 2019 event. She said she was grateful to see so many law enforcement members out to support Special Olympics.

"It means a lot to see law enforcement out today," she said after the event. "It means that they really care about us as athletes and they want to show their support – and all the fundraising that they did was really amazing!"

You can register for the Vancouver Island Polar Plunge as a team or an individual at [www.plunge4specialolympics.com](http://www.plunge4specialolympics.com). To get involved as a volunteer, please send your contact information to [mishida@specialolympics.bc.ca](mailto:mishida@specialolympics.bc.ca). Supporters can also help by making a [donation to the Polar Plunge](#).

Sincere thanks to Vancouver Island Polar Plunge Event Sponsors [Serious Coffee Millstream Village](#), [The Neal Estate Team](#), and [Thrifty Foods](#).



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**Date:** Sunday, February 17  
**Schedule:** 10 a.m. Plungers check in  
11 a.m. Plunge  
**Place:** Willows Beach, Oak Bay

For more information, please visit [plunge4specialolympics.com](http://plunge4specialolympics.com)

### **About the Law Enforcement Torch Run**

For more than 35 years, law enforcement members throughout the world have supported people with intellectual disabilities through the Law Enforcement Torch Run. The LETR movement has raised more than \$4 million in British Columbia since 1990. To date, the LETR has raised more than \$700 million for Special Olympics programs around the world. To learn more about the LETR, visit [www.specialolympics.bc.ca/letr](http://www.specialolympics.bc.ca/letr). Find BC LETR on Twitter @BCLETR.

### **About Special Olympics BC**

Special Olympics BC is dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities through sport. In 55 communities around the province, we provide year-round training and competitive opportunities in 18 different sports to more than 4,800 athletes of all ages and a wide range of abilities, thanks to the dedicated efforts of over 3,900 volunteers. For more information, please visit [www.specialolympics.bc.ca](http://www.specialolympics.bc.ca) and find us on Facebook and Instagram @specialolympicsbc and Twitter @sobcsociety. To learn more about SOBC – Victoria, visit [www.victoriaspecialolympics.com](http://www.victoriaspecialolympics.com) or find them on Facebook @VictoriaSpecialOlympics and Twitter and Instagram @sobcvictoria.

### **Contact:**

Constable Sheri Lucas  
Oak Bay Police Department  
Vancouver Island Polar Plunge Media Coordinator  
P: 250.589.8705  
E: [lucas.sheri@mac.com](mailto:lucas.sheri@mac.com)