



## Special Olympics BC Winter Games

Greater Vernon 2019



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Volunteers needed for the 2019 Special Olympics BC Winter Games**

Greater Vernon is invited to share in the joy and inspiration of the [2019 Special Olympics BC Winter Games](#) by signing up to volunteer. With more than 800 athletes with intellectual disabilities and volunteer coaches and mission staff from across the province set to converge in Greater Vernon from February 21 to 23, the 2019 SOBC Games will need more than 800 volunteers to create a high-quality experience for the participants.

Currently the SOBC Games volunteer count is just over halfway there, with more than 400 volunteers registered to date, so all those interested in being part of this empowering event are encouraged to sign up today. There is a wide range of rewarding roles available, ranging from sport and food services to transportation and security. Particularly being sought are floor hockey referees (Special Olympics floor hockey training can be provided) as well as volunteers with medical and health-care backgrounds – such as nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, and care aides – who are needed for specific roles.

To register, please visit [www.sobcgamesvernon.ca](http://www.sobcgamesvernon.ca) to complete the form online, or visit the 2019 SOBC Winter Games office, located at VantageOne Credit Union, 3108 33 Avenue (The entrance to the office can be accessed using the VantageOne Leasing entrance, located on 31st Street.)

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the SOBC Games office at [games@specialolympics.bc.ca](mailto:games@specialolympics.bc.ca) or call 236-426-0109.

Provincial Games are exciting and empowering experiences for Special Olympics athletes. For many, these Games offer their first opportunity to experience the joy of travelling and being part of a team. The dedicated competitors will be shooting for personal-best performances, and they will also be chasing the opportunity to advance to national and international levels of competition. Top performers in Greater Vernon will qualify for spots on Team BC for the 2020 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in Thunder Bay, Ontario, which will be the national qualifier for the 2021 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Sweden.

Greater Vernon is already home to outstanding Special Olympics athletes, volunteers, and programs, as SOBC – Vernon runs 16 year-round sport, youth, and fitness programs, but this will be the first time that SOBC Provincial Games have been hosted here.

#### **Upcoming media opportunity**

On Saturday, January 26, some of the 2019 SOBC Games snowshoeing competitors and volunteers will be participating in training and demonstration races at Sovereign Lake Nordic Club, as part of a

Special Olympics BC [Performance Program](#) training camp. Interested media are invited to attend – please contact Megan Pollock and Teresa Durning Harker (details below) for information.

### **Sincere thanks to sponsors**

SOBC is very grateful to all of the sponsors who have stepped forward to help create life-changing experiences through these Games:

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### **About the 2019 Special Olympics BC Winter Games**

The 2019 SOBC Winter Games, set to be held in Greater Vernon February 21 to 23, will be the largest SOBC Winter Games to date, with more than 600 athletes with intellectual disabilities from all parts of the province and the Yukon expected to compete, supported by approximately 200 volunteer coaches and mission staff. The 2019 Games will feature exciting competition and inspiring displays of sportsmanship in the eight SOBC winter sports: 5-pin bowling, alpine skiing, cross country skiing, curling, figure skating, floor hockey, snowshoeing, and speed skating. The Opening Ceremony will be held on February 21, followed by competition throughout February 22 and 23. The Opening Ceremony will be streamed live on [Castanet.net](http://Castanet.net). A Closing Ceremony open only to Games competitors will be held on February 23, followed by a volunteer recognition breakfast on February 24.

Learn more at [www.sobcgamesvernon.ca](http://www.sobcgamesvernon.ca) and find SOBC on Facebook and Instagram @specialolympicsbc and Twitter @sobcsociety; the Games hashtags are #SOBCGames #GreaterVernon2019.

### **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 – Vernon, visit [www.sobcvernon.ca](http://www.sobcvernon.ca) or find them on Facebook @sobcvernon.

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