



## Virtual Torch Run for Special Olympics BC set to raise funds and heart rates

Runners and walkers across the province are ready to step up and make a difference for Special Olympics BC.

The [Virtual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics BC](#) is coming June 7 to 20. Participants from all over British Columbia will run and walk in their communities to raise vital funds and awareness for Special Olympics athletes and programs. Though the pandemic prevents them from coming together in person, they will come together in spirit to reach the event's distance and fundraising goals.

Led by champions from law enforcement agencies throughout the province, the Virtual Torch Run is open to anyone who wants to support Special Olympics BC's empowering year-round sport, youth, and health programs for people with intellectual disabilities.

"The annual Torch Run is a vital fundraiser for Special Olympics BC's year-round programs and competitions, thanks to our law enforcement friends who work hard to provide athletes with life-changing opportunities. We're so fortunate that they have successfully converted into a virtual Torch Run that still manages to continue the connections and camaraderie between law enforcement members, SOBC athletes, and many other participating supporters," SOBC President & CEO Dan Howe said

During the two-week event, participants will run and walk as many times as they can, while maintaining physical distancing. They will log their kilometres and fundraising totals online, working together to reach the event's targets: raising \$75,000 and logging 40,000 kilometres.

Inspired by all the athletes who have accepted the challenge of competing in the first-ever [Special Olympics BC Provincial Challenge Games](#), the 2021 Virtual Torch Run challenges participants to raise \$75,000 in order to beat last year's fundraising total of more than \$66,000.

The 40,000-kilometre target honours the 40th anniversary of the global Law Enforcement Torch Run movement. Started in 1981 in Wichita, Kansas, the global Law Enforcement Torch Run has raised more than \$900 million for Special Olympics programs around the world.

"On behalf of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics BC, I'm excited to announce and build momentum for this important event. This virtual run/walk will allow us to raise vital funds and awareness for SOBC, and it will be very rewarding for everyone who participates. This is an opportunity for us all to put our best foot forward for Special Olympics athletes, so I encourage everyone to get involved and make a difference for SOBC!" said Chief Superintendent Warren Brown, North District RCMP Commander.

Everyone can sign up for the Virtual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics BC at [www.specialolympics.bc.ca/letr](http://www.specialolympics.bc.ca/letr). Supporters can make a difference with their donations here.



For Virtual Torch Run for SOBC photos, please contact Michael Obendoerfer at [michaelo@specialolympics.bc.ca](mailto:michaelo@specialolympics.bc.ca).

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

For 40 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 \$900 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](#).

### **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 5,200 athletes of all ages and a wide range of abilities, thanks to the dedicated efforts of more than 4,300 volunteers. For more information, please visit [www.specialolympics.bc.ca](http://www.specialolympics.bc.ca) and find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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