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Brave Plungers set to make big splash for Special Olympics BC

Anyone who is feeling ICE-olated can join fearless and fun-loving Plungers for the first-ever <u>Virtual Polar Plunge for Special Olympics BC</u>!

This fun and freezing event is open to province-wide participants. Plungers will register and fundraise to make a difference for SOBC, then get up close and personal with icy waters at home between February 20 and March 7. The Virtual Polar Plunge will raise vital funds and awareness to support Special Olympics BC's life-changing programs for people with intellectual disabilities.

"The Polar Plunge for Special Olympics BC is an absolute blast – and we can't wait to see participants from across British Columbia show their courage and creativity in this year's virtual event," SOBC President & CEO Dan Howe says. "Taking the Plunge is always an exhilarating experience, and it is wonderful to see so many people having such a great time while supporting Special Olympics athletes."

There are many ways to get freezin' for a reason with this year's event. Plungers can take an icy bath, face off with a hose, get blasted by water balloons, jump into powdery snow, and so much more. After completing the chilly challenge, participants can share videos and photos on social media to qualify for contests and prizes.

Watch <u>SOBC – Campbell River athlete Ashley Adie</u>, <u>SOBC – Abbotsford athlete James Clifford</u>, and <u>SOBC – Revelstoke athlete Terina Sessa</u> take the Plunge.

Polar Plunge for SOBC events are staged in partnership with the <u>Law Enforcement Torch Run</u> <u>for Special Olympics BC</u>. The Polar Plunge is a proud LETR tradition, and every year thousands of people get bold and cold for Special Olympics at events around the world.

In a typical year, courageous participants gather in large groups and charge into icy waves at Polar Plunge for Special Olympics BC events in Vancouver, Victoria, and Revelstoke. This year, SOBC supporters won't be plunging together in person, but will be together in spirit, taking individual icy dips to support this important cause.

"Police services across the province are proud to support Special Olympics BC and all the talented athletes who inspire us every day. Between February 20 and March 7, B.C. police services will be virtually freezin' for a reason! Virtually does not mean we stay warm and dry, instead we will find unique and safe ways to connect with very cold water and raise funds for Special Olympics. Please watch for Polar Plunge pictures and videos in the coming weeks and consider supporting our Plungers and athletes," says Abbotsford Police Department Chief Constable and BC LETR Executive Council member Mike Serr.





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Big thanks to Virtual Polar Plunge for SOBC Costume Competition Sponsor <u>Dueck Auto Group</u>, Live Show Sponsor <u>Prospera Credit Union</u>, Prizing Sponsor <u>Safeway</u>, Video Competition Sponsor <u>The Neal Estate Team at RE/MAX Alliance</u>, Television Sponsors <u>Citytv</u> and <u>OMNI</u> <u>Television</u>, and Radio Sponsors <u>JACK 96.9</u>, <u>KiSS RADiO</u>, <u>NEWS 1130</u>, and <u>Sportsnet 650</u> <u>Vancouver</u>.

All are welcome to register for the Virtual Polar Plunge as a team or an individual at <u>www.plunge4specialolympics.com</u>. Supporters can also <u>donate to SOBC through the Plunge</u>.

For Virtual Polar Plunge for SOBC videos and photos, please contact Michael Obendoerfer at <u>michaelo@specialolympics.bc.ca.</u>

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. 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 <u>www.specialolympics.bc.ca</u> and find us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, and <u>LinkedIn</u>.

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