

2017-2018 President's Report

At this time each year, we reflect on the past twelve months and what the organization has accomplished. This year, we had the additional significance of recognizing the 50th anniversary of Special Olympics. Celebrations have been happening across the country during this significant milestone with PEI kicking off the celebrations with the National Bowling championships that were held in Charlottetown, Summerside and Tyne Valley in May of this year.

Our athletes, coaches and volunteers achieved many successes on personal, regional and national levels. These achievements occur on a daily basis in practices, competitions and social events. There are too many to list but, a few of the highlights include:

- Hosting the 2018 National Bowling Championships
- A strong showing of all our athletes at National Games in Antigonish, NS
- And Roy Paynter being named to Team Canada for the 2019 World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi.

SOPEI continues to be in a strong financial position. This is largely thanks to the numerous fundraising successes and the support of our corporate partners. The Enriching Lives Gala continues to grow and set new fundraising records with tremendous support from Dion Phaneuf and Elisha Cuthbert and the business community. The fundraising success did not end there. The Polar Plunge, Motionball Marathon of Sport and Draft an Athlete each generated significant funds for SOPEI. We truly appreciate the efforts by all involved.

The organization would not be the success that it is without the tireless efforts of its staff. Charity, Matthew, Sarah, Genna and Kristen all show their passion for Special Olympics everyday they come to work. I would like to take this time to thank all our staff for their continued hard work.

SOPEI's Board of Directors are a dynamic, hard-working group that contribute a great deal of time to help the organization achieve its mission:

Special Olympics PEI exists so that the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities will be enriched through sport

My personal highlight for the year was being able to participate in the Opening Ceremonies for this year's National bowling Championships at UPEI. The energy and excitement in the building was second to none and the work of the games committee provided a world class event for all athletes, coaches, mission staff and fans.

I am very proud to be a member of this group and of this great organization and want to thank everyone in the SOPEI family.

Jamie Arsenault, President