



2016

Annual Report

**Special
Olympics**
Alberta



Mission

Special Olympics Alberta is committed to enriching the lives of Albertans with an intellectual disability through sport.



Vision

Our vision is that sport will open hearts and minds towards people with intellectual disabilities and create inclusive communities all over the world. Special Olympics will strive for this vision by providing better quality sports opportunities, supported through health initiatives. At the same time, we will step up efforts to use our work to 'tell the world' about the talents and abilities of people with intellectual disabilities.

Special Olympics is more than an event!

Special Olympics delivers world-class sport programs to people with intellectual disabilities of all ages and a wide range of abilities daily in communities across Alberta.

Special Olympics believes that people with intellectual disabilities can, and will, succeed when given the opportunity – we are leveling the playing field.

Special Olympics is a catalyst for social change. Our programs help:

- instill confidence, self-esteem and other life skills in our athletes
- contribute to healthier athletes with life-long physical fitness habits
- change attitudes and create a more inclusive society
- strengthen communities














Special Olympics Alberta offers sport programs:








Number of Athletes **3,178** | Number of Coaches **469** | Total Number of Volunteers (including coaches) **1,089**
Special Olympics Alberta is Athletes, Coaches and Volunteers in over 140 communities across Alberta.

Sports Offered

Summer

- | | |
|--|---|
|  5-Pin Bowling |  Rhythmic Gymnastics |
|  10-Pin Bowling |  Soccer |
|  Athletics |  Softball |
|  Basketball |  Swimming |
|  Bocce Ball | |
|  Golf | |
|  Powerlifting | |

Winter

- | |
|--|
|  Alpine Skiing |
|  Cross-Country Skiing |
|  Curling |
|  Figure Skating |
|  Floor Hockey |
|  Snowshoeing |
|  Speed Skating |

Healthy Athlete Fun Fact:

Team Alberta held a Healthy Athletes FUNfitness event where over 50 volunteers which included physiotherapists, rehab therapists, occupational therapists and physical education and recreation students from the University of Alberta conducted fitness screening tests for the team. Approximately 60 to 65 athletes took part in this FUNfitness event.

Airdrie and District
 Barrhead
 Brooks
 Calgary
 Camrose
 Crowsnest Pass
 Drumheller
 Edmonton
 Edson
 Foothills

Grande Prairie
 Hinton
 Lacombe
 Lakeland
 Leduc
 Lethbridge
 Lloydminster
 Medicine Hat
 Olds and District
 Red Deer

Rocky Mountain House
 St. Albert
 St. Paul
 Strathcona County
 Vegreville
 West Central
 Westlock
 Wetaskiwin
 Whitecourt





Message from Board of Directors Chair, Dale Ellert

I've been privileged to be a volunteer with Special Olympics for 17 years. It's been an interesting transition from coaching on the sidelines – which is still my first choice- to participating on the Calgary Affiliate Management Committee to becoming a director on the Special Olympics Alberta board and latterly the role as a board chair. Over the years, I have witnessed the growth and evolution of Special Olympics not only in Alberta, but across the country.

This past year Special Olympics Alberta sanctioned 65% more competitions increasing athlete participation in those competitions to over 6,000. And from my involvement as a coach, I know firsthand that when we provide opportunities and qualified coaches, our athletes respond with enhanced performance and an increased sense of self-esteem. As the head coach of the 2016 Team Alberta curling team, I saw each athlete take the opportunity to train and compete because they wanted to be as prepared as possible to perform at their best against the competition they knew they would face at the Canada Winter Games. Through their dedication and training opportunities, the team was able to walk away from the final game with a silver medal in their division which contributed to the 62 medals that Team Alberta won at the 2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in Corner Brook, Newfoundland.

We've also invested in youth programs and our newest program, Unified Sports, which takes inclusion to the next level by connecting athletes with and without disabilities on the same team. Our Youth Sports Days saw an increase in student participation of five-fold over the past year with over 240 students from 11 schools from Calgary and Edmonton taking part in the one day event. Our Unified Sports program was launched in partnership with the Alberta Schools' Athletic Association (ASAA). Through developing relationships and building an understanding of the program, we were able to offer basketball as a Unified Sport event in seven schools in Calgary and Edmonton. The program has been a great success already and we are looking forward to even greater success going forward.

We have been encouraged by the increased awareness of Special Olympics that we've cultivated this year. We saw more coverage of our athlete and volunteer achievements locally through both the traditional media and of course through social media. This was apparent with Motionball's Yellowcard campaign which kicked off at Edmonton's City Hall with a City Proclamation to end the use of the R Word. This proclamation spread to many other communities who in turn pledged their support for this initiative.

We saw true generosity and care from our sponsors and partners who still found room within their budgets to support our needs despite the difficult economic times being experienced by all Albertans this year and the crisis of the Fort McMurray fires. We are grateful to our supporters which this year also included contributions from the other provinces and territories who dipped into their revenues to assist Special Olympics Alberta knowing that our resources were being challenged as a result of the crisis of the Fort McMurray fires. We are not just a provincial organization but rather, we are a national family committed to our athletes – whether local or across the country.

This past May I had an opportunity to meet Mary Davis a few short days prior to her official appointment as the CEO Special Olympics International. Her passion and commitment to the movement and its objectives was palpable in every conversation I had with her and in her address to our meeting.

That same passion exists within our own organization. This past year has really demonstrated the passion and commitment of our volunteers and staff and the pride each has in being part of the Special Olympics movement.

Sincerely,

Dale O. Ellert

Board of Directors Chair
Special Olympics Alberta



Message from the President & CEO, Johnny Byrne

Imagine walking into a stadium of cheering and screaming fans who want nothing but to see you achieve!

That's how I started this year.

I proudly walked side by side my fellow Team Canada coaches, mission staff and our athletes into the opening ceremonies of the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles. To say we received a warm welcome, would be a bold understatement. The experience at these World Games really showed me that people wanted and needed to be part of the inspiring movement that is Special Olympics. That feeling from World Games stayed with me even when I returned home in Alberta. I knew that we needed to keep providing more opportunities for athletes and coaches in our province.

This year we focused in building our athlete leadership program and found a tremendous response to our Athlete Leadership Conferences which was held in Calgary and Edmonton. This past year we saw the attendance double to over 180 athletes who took part in workshops that covered safety awareness and nutrition.

Our athlete numbers have steadily grown with over 3,100 athletes in over 140 communities with affiliates and community programs taking initiative in providing specific local sport and social programs like fitness and walking programs and social clubs with a spike in growth of young athlete participation in programs like Active Start and FUNdamentals.

With the difficult economic shift in Alberta, I was astounded when we saw great success of our Polar Plunge fundraiser, an event we partnered with the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Alberta. The three plunge events raised over \$110,000, breaking past records by double which made it worth my pledge to jump in the coldest day in Edmonton this past winter.

The excitement continued with the great success of Team Alberta at the 2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games which saw many personal bests broken and a good medal haul of 62 medals.

And finally, we ended the year with our most ambitious program, Unified Sports. Our partnership with Alberta School Athletic Association proved to be an exceptional partnership which helped us reach seven schools in Calgary and Edmonton and gain 82 athletes with and without intellectual disabilities to bring inclusion to a new level.

All these accomplishments were fueled by our amazing volunteers and without them, I could not share all this impressive growth. I see more dedication and cooperation in the grassroots level to continue to push for advancing our movement.

It is the passion from all our supporters that will take Alberta from 3,100 athletes to 5,000 in the next five years. This is an exciting time and I'm confident that Alberta will meet this challenge.

Sincerely,



Johnny Byrne
President and CEO
Special Olympics Alberta



Advance Quality Sports & Competition

- 45 competitions were hosted this year across 19 communities *where 33 of the competitions were qualifying competitions for the upcoming Provincial Summer Games to be held in Medicine Hat.* Over 3,950 athletes and over 800 coaches took part in these competitions.
- The 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games was world phenomena that ignited the passion and inspiration from the 177 countries who competed. Team Canada, a 164 delegation, had a strong Alberta presence with nine athletes (four swimmers, two athletics, and three bowlers), one athletics coach, one mission staff and Special Olympics Alberta's President and CEO, Johnny Byrne as the Chef de Mission. From the 144 medals from Team Canada, our Alberta athletes earned five gold, nine silver and five bronze.
- Special Olympics Team Alberta, a 95 member delegation, had an outstanding performance at the 2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games which took place in Corner Brook, Newfoundland. Team Alberta battled hard and walked away with 62 medals with 10 members qualifying to be part of the Team Canada training squad for the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games taking place in Austria.
- From the 411 members of Team Alberta from the 2016 Western Canada Games, six athletes proudly represented Special Olympics Alberta in athletics and swimming and took home 11 medals.
- Youth Sports Days saw a 500% increase in participation with over 240 students and 50 teachers and support staff from 11 schools from both Calgary and Edmonton.
- 11 Special Olympics National Coaching Certification Programs were held within Alberta, certifying 126 coaches from 10 affiliates.
- Coach development days were held for floor hockey, golf and rhythmic gymnastics, reaching 65 coaches.

Build Communities

- Special Olympics celebrated reaching over 1.2 million Unified Sports participants with Alberta helping lead the charge in Canada after launching a successful first year of bringing the Unified Sports program in Canada. With a partnership with ASAA, Special Olympics Alberta opened the doors for high school students to take part in Unified Basketball which operated in seven high schools in Edmonton and Calgary and culminated in two Unified Sport Basketball Jamboree events.
- Special Olympics Alberta welcomed the creation of two new community programs in Lac La Biche and Sylvan Lake, providing more sport opportunities to these cities and surrounding areas.
- Athlete Leadership growth explodes with the creation of two conferences (north and south) with over 180 athletes attending. The conferences focused on safety and awareness with members of CPS, EPS and transit officers delivering presentations along with a nutrition component with registered dietitians.

Connect Fans & Funds

- Over \$660,00 invested in community development
- Alberta saw a successful Polar Plunge Season, breaking the records and raising over double from the previous year to \$110,000 which engaged over 400 people plunging in Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge.
- Motionball's Yellowcard Day was launched successfully in partnership with LETR. The one day event received great public attention and awareness on the call to action to end the use of the r-word. Edmonton's City Hall event garnered public and media attention with a proclamation of Yellowcard Day.
- Special Olympics throughout Canada and Staples Canada generously raised over \$60,000 through the Give a Toonie Share a Dream campaign in the face of the provincial crisis from the Fort McMurray wildfires. The campaign only raised the amount through the generous support from other provinces and territories donating a portion of their own provincial and national funds to Alberta.

Movement Leadership

- Affiliate Development Conference continues to grow and received positive feedback from 25 attendees representing 13 affiliate and community programs across Alberta
- A new mentorship program has been installed to provide greater support and guidance for new members of the Athlete Leadership Committee

“Special Olympics has changed my life forever. I’ve met new friends, and I’m not alone anymore.” - Kim Evanochko, 30 year old Special Olympics Alberta athlete



Volunteers- Drive the Movement

Volunteers are the backbone of the Special Olympics movement. Special Olympics would not exist today- and could not have been created- without the time, energy, commitment and enthusiasm of our volunteers.

Special Olympics Alberta would like to celebrate the milestones reached by our volunteer across Alberta in 2015-16.

35 Years

Stanley Addley, Strathcona County
Emelie Addley, Strathcona County
Jerry Tennant, Red Deer

30 Years

Tina Van Rooyen, Calgary
Cora Kanna, Calgary
Faye St. Onge, Calgary
Tony St. Onge, Calgary
Irene Watson, Calgary
Joan Fitzpatrick, Calgary

Richard Cooke, Calgary
Kelly Edwards, Calgary
Karen Hurley, Calgary
Barb Pharis, Lethbridge
Arlene McTeer, Red Deer

25 Years

Gladys Richardson, Calgary
Pauline Stringer, Calgary
Kelly Zackodnick, Calgary
Andy Cuthbertson, Red Deer
Ray Dunham, Red Deer

20 Years

Gordon Richardson, Calgary
Mary Riddell, Calgary
Chris Turnbull, Calgary
Joan Turnbull, Calgary
Cherie Birch, Lethbridge

Terry Birch, Lethbridge
John Ondrus, Lethbridge
Rob Dykes, Strathcona County
Gordon Fenwick, Red Deer

15 Years

Jack Gregory, Calgary
Andrew Kryzan, Calgary
Laura May, Calgary
Garry McCulloch, Calgary
Bob Miles, Calgary
David Adams, Strathcona County
Alex Weatherby, Strathcona County

10 Years

Cynthia Annett, Edmonton
Greg Annett, Edmonton
Terry Fizer, Calgary
Doug Janzen, Calgary
Robert Lang, Calgary
Justin Lee, Calgary
Kevin Marjoram, Calgary
Monique Martin-Parent, Calgary
Teri Ruttan, Calgary

Susan St. Amand, Calgary
William Townshend, Calgary
Spencer Seright, Drumheller
Brenda Dewar, Lethbridge
Virene French, Lethbridge
Kristen Sept, Medicine Hat
Brenda McNair, Red Deer
Crystal Sudgen, Red Deer

5 Years

Robyn Alford, Calgary
Laszlo Anda, Calgary
Daryl Clark, Calgary
Mary Goodwin, Calgary
Bev Hansen, Calgary
Shawn Jesse, Calgary
David Jesse, Calgary
Diana LeBlanc, Calgary
Hayley Levinson, Calgary
Caryn Liberman, Calgary
Sean McDonough, Calgary
Emma Meyer, Calgary

Mackenzie Meyer, Calgary
Don Ouellette, Calgary
Josie Price, Calgary
Susan Sawka, Calgary
Ben Spademan, Calgary
Eduardo Strappazzon, Calgary
Laura Teterenko, Calgary
Radim Vesely, Calgary
Ken Krossa, Lacombe
Patricia Jackson, Lethbridge
Taylor Dixon, Lethbridge

Andrew Astrom,
Strathcona County
Nancy Ouwerkerk,
Strathcona County
Trevor Popik,
Strathcona County
Catherine Friesen,
Strathcona County
Tara Duduman, Red Deer
Bill Holden, Red Deer
Roger Neufeld, Red Deer



Volunteer Fun Fact: *University of Calgary created its first volunteer group, Students For Special Olympics, dedicated to promoting awareness for Special Olympics.*





Special Olympics
Unified Sports®

Spotlight

It all smiles and net when we Play Unified!

“Any opportunity to bring communities together that don’t always get to play together is really exciting,” said Mayor Don Iveson, who took part in the first Unified Sports event in Edmonton.

“I’m really excited that this has come to Edmonton and students are getting a chance to play together on mixed teams. I think it’s phenomenal,” he said.

“I think this helps build relationships, particularly for people who wouldn’t necessarily interact with persons with disabilities. I think it really helps break down barriers and stigma.”

City of Edmonton’s Mayor, Don Iveson, with students from Bev Facey Community High, L.Y. Cairns School and J.H. Picard proudly launched the first Unified Sports Basketball Jamboree.

Special Olympics Unified Sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities as teammates in the same sport. Shanna Kurylo, program coordinator of Unified Sports with Alberta Schools’ Athletic Association (ASAA), says the program was inspired by a simple principle.

“Training, competing, and playing together is a quick path to understanding, acceptance, and friendship,” she said.

“We’re hoping the #playunified campaign will mobilize and inspire youth across the world to play and ultimately live unified.”

Special Olympics Alberta has developed Unified Sports to bring people with and without intellectual disabilities together, because

when you connect athletes with others, hearts and minds are open and misunderstandings and negative attitudes disappear.

“We are implementing this strategy in schools and communities worldwide, creating youth leaders and a unified generation who will create a world of respect and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities.”

Jaret McFadyen, a Grade 11 student from École J.H. Picard School, said it was really fun to share in the opportunity to play basketball with so many students from different walks of life.

“It’s always good to give back,” he said. “And basketball is just such a great sport to be able to share with people who don’t have the opportunity to play competitively or who don’t get out as much. It’s great to give back and give everyone the opportunity to play basketball.”

McFadyen’s sentiments were echoed by fellow competitor Clifton Rain, a Grade 11 student from L.Y. Cairns School, who said today was “all about having fun and playing basketball.”

Unified Sport was a slam dunk at the end of the season with an additional Unified Sport Basketball Jamboree held in Calgary with students from Lester B. Pearson, Bishop McNally and Bert Church High school and a demonstration Unified track 4 x 50m event at the ASAA Provincial Championship.

More Unified Sports events are expected in the coming year with the addition of bocce. Special Olympics Alberta is proud to bring Unified Sports to Alberta and challenges everyone to get out and #playunified!





Athlete Profile: Elliott Moskowy, Team Canada Swimmer

Determined and focused, Elliott is a shark in the water.

Training all year round with Special Olympics and Red Deer's Master Swim Club, Elliott is dedicated to be the best swimmer he can be. His personal motto is "It's better to finish dead last, than to not finish at all."

With this unwavering drive, Elliott was far from finishing last at the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games bringing home three gold and one silver in his swimming events. He even surprised himself in his achievements being a first time competitor on a world stage.

"It was great! Just grand. I got to represent our country, our province and our community," says Moskowy.

Out of the water, Elliot is compassionate, demonstrates sportsmanship and respect towards his fellow athletes, coaches and officials. At every opportunity, Elliot encourages and motivates his teammates and jumps at the opportunity to represent Special Olympics as a speaker at events and fundraising engagements. Elliott has blossomed as a speaker and advocate for Special Olympics and never forgets to acknowledge all the supporters he has in his life.

"Without coaches, I don't know where I would be right now. I don't even think I would have been at Worlds. An athlete, even a champion, is nothing without his coaches, his friends or his family," says Moskowy.

After he completed his schooling a few years ago, he began working at his parents sign shop and enjoys contributing and giving back to the community. Each year as his confidence and skills grow, Elliott shows the world that people with intellectual disabilities can succeed when given the guidance and opportunity from the community.



2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games

From the star-studded evening of the opening ceremony that started with chanting “Go Canada! Go!” with Justin Bieber to an inspiring closing ceremony that honoured the spirit and personal best of each athlete, Team Canada represented the country with humble pride and inspiring courage.

The 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games took place in sunny Los Angeles, California where over 7,000 athletes from 177 nations competed in 26 sports from July 25 to August 2, 2015.

Team Canada was made of 164-person delegation of athletes, coaches and mission staff- the largest Canadian team for a World Summer Games. They competed in 10 summer sports: athletics, basketball, bocce, bowling, golf, powerlifting, rhythmic gymnastics, soccer, softball and swimming and took home 144 medals. Our nine athletes from Alberta battled hard and took home five gold, nine silver and five bronze medals with four coaches and mission staff which included our own president and CEO, Johnny Byrne as Team Canada’s Chef de Mission and our Special Olympics Canada Champion’s Network chair, Mark Tewksbury as an honorary coach.

No other organized event in the world has the emotional and social impact of the Special Olympics World Games. For the athletes and their families, it opens doors to unimagined possibilities. For those who volunteered, supported and sponsored the Games, it inspired unprecedented pride and hope for a brighter future.

“Special Olympics has changed my life both physically and mentally and I am more confident in myself, not only in my sports, but my day to day life.”
– Katie Saunders, Special Olympics Team Canada athlete.

World Games Fun Fact: *The 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles, California is the largest sports and humanitarian event in the world to date. The event attracted over 80,000 spectators which included an opening address from First Lady, Michelle Obama.*



2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games & Team Alberta

"I'm going to run hard, try my best. Win or lose, I am just going to give it all I have from my 10 months of training."- Peter Arsenault, Special Olympics Team Alberta snowshoer.

A year of conditioning, hard work and sweat culminated into a fierce week of competition at the 2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in Corner Brook, Newfoundland. As a first time host of Special Olympics Canada national games, Newfoundland pulled out all the stops to show friendly east coast hospitality and warmth with over 600 volunteers making sure that trails were groomed, teams were fed and slopes had enough snow.

From March 1 to 5, 2016, over 950 athletes from 10 provinces and two territories competed in alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, floor hockey, snowshoeing and speed skating. Alberta had strong representation with 95 athletes, coaches and mission staff from across the province. Athletes as old as 15 to 54 years, competed with passion, humility and grace. They displayed their true talents while making sure they represented Alberta proudly and with true sportsmanship.

"What an amazing year it has been! Thank you to each and every one of you. I've enjoyed this unbelievable experience."- Jill Moore, Team Alberta's Chef de Mission.

Team Alberta walked away with 21 gold, 24 silver and 17 bronze medals with 10 members qualifying to be part of the Team Canada training squad in preparation for the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria.

Team Alberta Fun Fact: *Team Alberta members learned to sign "Go Alberta" and wave hands instead of clapping to cheer for hearing impaired alpine skier, Jamie Goad.*







Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Alberta

The Law Enforcement Torch Run © (LETR) for Special Olympics Alberta continues to bring awareness and raise funds for our athletes. Without the efforts of LETR there would not be as many programs available for our athletes. LETR's signature event Free the Fuzz was rebranded this year to Free Our Finest, fully encompassing the large variety of first responders involved in these events province wide.

From taking the Plunge in three different cities, sitting on scaffolding for days in seven cities, selling raffle tickets for Harley bikes, serving breakfast at Cora's or pizza at Boston Pizza, and participating in the World's Largest Truck Convoy, our officers have continued to show their dedication to Special Olympics athletes over and over. Our freezing daredevil event, Polar Plunge, shattered past fund raising records by raising over \$110,000. This momentum continued in March which was dedicated to serving communities with breakfast and lunch through the event, Cora's Cops and Crepes raising over \$49,000. Overall, dedicated officers across Alberta have helped raise over \$400,000 for Special Olympics programs this year!

Even though LETR is committed to raising funds and awareness for Special Olympics it is the relationships that these first responders develop with the athletes that makes the real difference in the lives of both athletes and officers. From coaching to mentoring, LETR members have continued to foster the bonds they have made with Special Olympics athletes across the province. LETR representatives took part in the largest awareness relay race across United States by participating in the Unified Relay Race Across America and LETR Final Leg for the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games.

With 18 agencies in 17 communities across Alberta. LETR continues to grow and strengthen the fundraising and awareness efforts of Special Olympics. This year ends off with preparation for LETR members to deliver the Special Olympics Flame of Hope™ to the opening ceremony of the Summer Provincial Games in Medicine Hat in 2017, promising to be a true highlight of the coming year!

LETR Fun Fact: *10 LETR teams composed of international members who ran to 120 cities throughout California to provide awareness and carry the Flame of Hope to the opening ceremony in the Final Leg Run for the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles California.*

Special Olympics Alberta Awards



**Male Athlete
of the Year**

Doug Hutt | **Affiliate:** Grande Prairie **Sports:** Basketball, 5 and 10 Pin Bowling, Floor Hockey, Soccer

Doug Hutt is committed to Special Olympics. From attending extra practices to following strict healthy eating routines, he is always thinking about how he could better his game. Last year, Doug was chosen to go to the World Games in LA. It was a great experience for him where he really shone throughout the entire process. Leading up to L.A., he would train often on his own, given the limited resources he had available. He is always willing to help out a fellow athlete. In LA, he would often be called upon to be the “go to guy” for other athletes. He would mentor them and always tried to keep them positive. He was always conscious of making sure that other athletes felt supported. Doug is always a team player, regardless of medal standings.



**Female Athlete
of the Year**

April Lam | **Affiliate:** Edmonton **Sports:** 5 Pin Bowling, Softball, Swimming

April has an inherent love of the sports, never seeking external recognition or success. When she is swimming, she displays focus and commitment to her goals as a swimmer which parallels that of a professional athlete. Throughout the years, you can really see how much she has grown through her relationships with other athletes and coaches. She has become more confident and social. She supports her team mates with constant words of encouragement and support. Her frequent trips away from home for training camps and swim meets have resulted in her being an independent young woman. Last year she was chosen to go to World Games in LA where she brought home a gold and a bronze medal.



**Male Coach
of the Year**

Tanner Mack | **Affiliate:** Edmonton **Sports:** Assistant Coach of FUNdamentals, Head Coach of Swimming

Tanner took on the role of Head Coach of the swimming program his first year with Special Olympics, even when he wasn't exactly sure what the role entailed. He embraced the role and was very encouraging to the swimmers and other coaches. He always comes with a positive attitude and quick smile for everyone. Since he started, the program has grown from approximately seven coaches and volunteers to 18 coaches and volunteers. The coaches feel comfortable with him and he encourages people to take more of a role if they are comfortable. He is open to suggestions and is very willing to explore new ideas that people suggest that will help the athletes achieve their goals. With his direction and coaching, the athletes all have improved in their times in their events and many have received multiple ribbons from swim competitions.



**Female Coach
of the Year**

Jodie Schreiner | **Affiliate:** Calgary **Sports:** Head Coach of Softball, Coach of Floor Hockey, Program Volunteer of Softball

Jodie Schreiner is one of Special Olympics Alberta-Calgary's key volunteers and has been actively involved since 2014. She coaches in two sports, floor hockey and softball. She is currently an associate coach with a floor hockey intermediate team and is also a head coach of an intermediate softball team in her first year. In the time Jodie has been a coach, she has demonstrated superb leadership and organizational skills ensuring Special Olympics goals are achieved. Her level headed approach to problems as they arise makes her a valuable asset to any program that she is involved with. Jodie also attended the 2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in Corner Brook, Newfoundland as an associate coach for one of Team Alberta's floor hockey teams. Her dedication to the team as they prepared and played at the games, help to lead them to success.

**Team of the Year**

Calgary Roughnecks | **Affiliate:** Calgary **Coaches:** Shane Bolen, Bill Clark, Jodie Shreiner
Athletes: Dustin Allsopp, Tommy Bolen, Rene Cameron, Bill Hurley, David Johnstone, Nicholas Lilly, Ashley Nickel, Richard Pepler, Jeffrey Price, Lynndsay Smeltzer, Trevor Taylor, Jonathan Willby

The Calgary Roughnecks trained hard and took their required nutrition and training prep very seriously, in preparation for Nationals in Corner Brook. The team is a true mix of athlete skills ranging from divisioning levels A through D. With only 11 athletes and a broad mix of skills among them, there were not high expectations that this team could medal at National Winter Games. Even one injury or illness at Corner Brook would have made them ineligible for participation as a team. Nevertheless, they conducted themselves properly and proudly represented Alberta and in the end took home a bronze medal.

**Volunteer Leadership Award**

Carol Wideman | **Affiliate:** Camrose **Roles:** Affiliate Chairperson, Coach of 5 Pin Bowling, Fitness, Softball

As the long-time chair of the Camrose affiliate, Carol has gathered together and supported a core group of volunteer members to ensure the administration and sustainability of Special Olympics in Camrose. Her passion is contagious and she motivates others to jump on board to accomplish a number of fundraising and marketing initiatives that, without her leadership, might fail to come to fruition. Carol is also involved directly with the sports programs. She not only coaches a number of sports, but advocates for all of our Special Olympics athletes. She is in attendance at the majority of practices, games, and out of town tournaments including chairing every tournament that Camrose has held. It is because of Carol's determination, vision, skill set and compassion that the Camrose program is very successful. She refuses to accept any accolades for her leadership and commitment but, instead, heaps praise and appreciation on all of the volunteers that she recruits. Without question, Carol Wideman is the backbone of Special Olympics in Camrose.

**Rising Star Volunteer Award**

Joey Mah | **Affiliate:** Calgary **Role:** Head Coach of Floor Hockey

Joey takes his head coaching role very seriously. He brings great skill and experience to the table and is always willing to learn. He consults with other coaches and gets different ideas and perspectives for his practice plans. Even though he has only been coaching for a year, he shows no signs of stopping and is fully committed to each and every athlete. Every once in a while, he will also step into the role of referee when needed.

**Athlete Spirit Award**

Gloria Rice | **Affiliate:** Calgary **Sports:** Basketball, 5 Pin Bowling, Golf, Soccer, Swimming

Gloria has been involved with Special Olympics for over 10 years. She is always in a good mood and is always willing to help her fellow athletes. She never misses a day of basketball and is right there ready to play and have fun. When she is playing basketball, she helps by passing the ball and showing the other athletes her techniques. She is always making sure her teammates are playing together as a team and are passing the ball to each other.



Lester B. Pearson High School, Calgary

Spearheaded by athletic director, Morgan Fraser, Lester B. Pearson High School was one of the first schools in the province to create a Unified Basketball team in the 2015/16 pilot year. With a total of 22 students at the Unified Basketball Jamboree in Calgary, the Lester B. Pearson Patriots had the largest team at any event to date. The high school demonstrated support and pride for the Pearson Patriots with a high-five line as they headed off for the jamboree. The energy radiating from the students and coaches make it evident that all team members are encouraged to participate and that the partners and athletes work together. It is immensely clear that Lester B. Pearson High School embraced the spirit of Unified Sports by their teamwork and enthusiasm both on and off the court.



Paul Manuel | Affiliate: Calgary Role: Event Volunteer, Head Coach of Powerlifting

Paul Manuel was a police officer in Calgary for 34 years, retiring in 2011. He first became involved with Law Enforcement Torch Run in 1988 as a runner in the local Torch Run and then in various fundraising events. Paul is also one of Calgary's key volunteers in Special Olympics Alberta-Calgary. He began volunteering in an administrative role and for the last 13 years Paul has been the head coach of the powerlifting program. He has taken the powerlifting program from 10 athletes to 42, making it the largest powerlifting program in Alberta. During the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Paul was selected to be a Canadian representative of LETR for the Final Leg and helped carry the Flame of Hope to the opening ceremony at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

LETR Community Spirit Award | St. Albert

The community of St. Albert has made significant contributions towards Special Olympics in the last several years through their continued support of many LETR events. Not only did St. Albert host their own roof sit at Walmart in 2015, but they also hosted the 2016 Free Our Finest event at the North Edmonton Cabela's location. Always willing to jump in and help out, the Special Olympics Alberta- St. Albert provides many athletes and volunteers for events within and outside their own area. Over the last several years, they have hosted several Torch Runs including the 2011 National Winter Games, making the National Games Torch Run a memorable event. This city demonstrates what true collaboration with community, athletes and law enforcement can accomplish when they work together.

Murray Koch Youth Development | Edmonton

Edmonton's Active Start and FUNDamentals programs have shown consistent growth year to year, growing from 15 athletes in 2014/15 to 21 athletes in 2015/16. The program leaders have taken the initiative to host Active Start summer camps over two different weeks this past summer. Program leaders identified the need for Active Start activities to continue through the summer and not only took initiative, but also took time out of their summer to run these camps. The volunteers in the program go above and beyond expectations to ensure our Young Athletes experience the best program possible. Edmonton also hosted a Youth Sports Day where 130 children attended where the children were able to try various sports and activities throughout the day.

MDA Community Leadership Award | Lakeland

The number of athletes in the Lakeland region has steadily grown over the last few years. As their program grows, Special Olympics Alberta-Lakeland continues to hold successful fundraisers and events, such as their bingo, to support their athletes. Lakeland also has a very passionate Affiliate Management Committee (AMC). Andrea, the chairperson, puts in countless volunteers hours for her community, but also for programs around the province. As a member of the Affiliate Representative Council (ARC), she is happy to share her experience and stories with other volunteers around the province. Lakeland is a great champion for Special Olympics and is great at promoting the resources it has to offer to other affiliates.

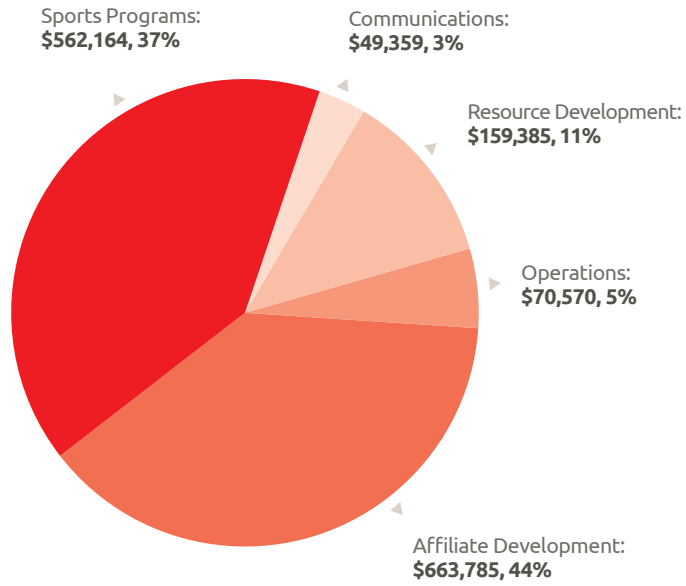


"Let me win. But if I cannot win,
let me be brave in the attempt."

Special Olympics
Athlete Oath

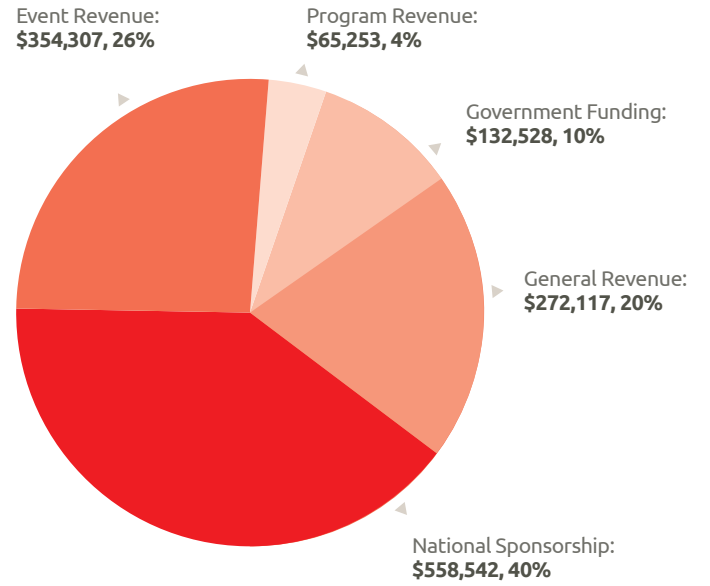


Where Does Your Money Go?

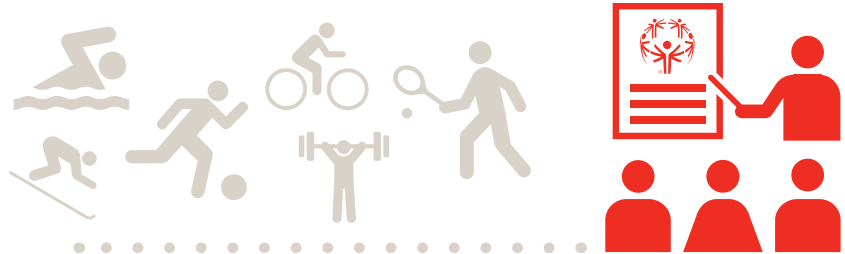


Actual 2015/2016 Total Expenses \$1,505,263

Sources of Funding



Actual 2015/2016 Total Revenue \$1,382,747



Major Donors *Thank you for supporting sports for individuals with intellectual disabilities*

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Young Athletes Fun Fact: *Alberta has the third largest Active Start and FUNdamentals programs in Canada.*



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