



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS ALBERTA**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Saturday, October 16, 2021 at 10:00AM**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE:** Airdrie, Brooks, Camrose, Calgary, Edmonton, Foothills, Lacombe, Lakeland, Leduc, Lloydminster, Olds & District, Red Deer, St. Albert, Wetaskiwin, Wood Buffalo

**REGRETS:** Bow Valley, Crowsnest Pass, Drumheller, Grande Prairie, Lac La Biche, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Spruce Grove & District, St. Paul, Strathcona County, Vegreville

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**1.0 Call to Order**

The Special Olympics Alberta Annual General Meeting is called to order at 10:11 AM

Quorum is confirmed with 15 of 26 Affiliates & Community Programs in attendance, representing 732 of 1003 Athletes.

Welcome to the 2021 AGM for Special Olympics Alberta. We're so glad you could join us. My name is Deb MacPherson, and I am Chair of the Board of Directors of Special Olympics Alberta.

Before we get started, I will run through a few technical considerations. The AGM should last less than 30 minutes. We have a lot of people joining us today on this Zoom call, so we've muted participant lines to reduce noise disruptions.

Delegates should seek recognition to speak by causing the "hand" to be raised, or by typing "QUESTION", "COMMENT", in the chat box.

All voting during the AGM will be conducted by voting delegates who have been selected by their affiliates and community programs. They have already been briefed on the processes for voting. Motions will be considered decided once a majority in favour or opposed is achieved.

**2.0 Roster of Affiliates in Good Standing**

We are pleased to report that 17 Affiliates and 7 Community Programs are in good standing for the purpose of voting at this meeting.

These Affiliates will not be included on the roster of Affiliates in Good Standing. The

communities of Drumheller and Lakeland are not in Good Standing and are not to be included as a part of weighted voting roster for the purposes of this meeting.

I would like to call for a motion from an Affiliate and or Community Program delegate to accept the affiliate roster as presented.

**Motion:** To accept the roster as presented.

**Moved: Leduc**  
Second: St. Albert **CARRIED**

### 3.0 Approval of Agenda

I would like to call for a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

**Motion:** To approve agenda as presented.

**Moved: Aidrie**  
Second: Red Deer **CARRIED**

### 4.0 Approval of 2020 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Copies of the minutes from the 2020 Annual General Meeting were distributed  
Are there any revisions?

Seeing none, can I ask for a motion to approve the minutes as presented?

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

**Moved: Edmonton**  
Second: St. Albert **CARRIED**

### 5.0 Honouring Members

Special Olympics is a family, and we are deeply saddened by the loss of our members.

Name	Position	Affiliate/CP
Richard Casebeer	Athlete	Olds

Are there any other individuals that we wish to honour?

Please let us share a moment of silence in honor of these members.

## 6.0 Annual Report

### 6.1 Chair's Report

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone for once again joining us virtually for our AGM. We are hopeful that we will be able to meet in-person for next year's AGM, but we want to thank you for logging in and joining us on Zoom.

The past two years have presented unique challenges for all of us and therefore we have had to adapt and develop new programs for our athletes. We have improved our online presence and created some extremely successful opportunities that we will be able to offer athletes in complement to in-person programs in the future.

Over the past year, we have had 218 volunteers and 125 coaches help deliver virtual and/or hybrid programming to 868 athletes from 26 affiliates and community programs across the province.

With in-person programs suspended, we were able to adapt and create the PEAK (Provincial Exercise and Knockout) Program. PEAK is a virtual program that ran three times over the past year in eight-week intervals. Each week, athletes are challenged to hit their selected fitness goals, attend three virtual sessions for your body, your mind, and your health, complete their BINGO card, participate in bonus events, and a variety of fun activities.

The program also ran in a non-digital format called the PEAK Paper Program for athletes without access to the internet.

The program has been a massive success with Special Olympics International even praising it as one of the best virtual programs around the globe. 466 athletes from across Alberta have made the climb in at least one of the three seasons and in total they have accumulated more than 600,000 minutes of physical activity. Our coaches and volunteers have remained active in offering 76 virtual sessions throughout this time. To put it into perspective the average weekly engagement of this group is around 1750% in comparison to our Facebook that averages around 25%.

PEAK just started its fourth season and athletes can sign up to participate using the PEAK website.

Over the past year we have been able to stay connected online through campaigns,

programs, training, and more. For National Volunteer Week we honoured our volunteers with an online landing page on which members could write messages to volunteers sharing thanks. The landing page featured profiles and virtual opportunities for our volunteers. We had our first-ever Virtual Awards that featured Special Olympics Champions and Ambassadors presenting awards to our winners in a ceremony that was watched by 700 people on YouTube.

Speaking of YouTube, this year we dedicated time to improve our video presence online from uploading virtual sessions to highlighting athletes through PEAK Performer videos. Through this our video views increased by over 240%, our viewership increased by 275%, and our video impressions increased by over 400%.

Calgary young athlete, Benjamin Millington was selected as the face of the annual Sobeys Check stand campaign here in Alberta and because of the success locally, Sobeys featured Benjamin on the cover of their annual report!

Lastly, we supported the Spread the Word campaign with a dedicated landing page where members could write a message that we used to generate individualized images for them to print off.

Law Enforcement Torch Run was able to keep our members active, while continuing to raise funds and awareness for our movement. They held their first Virtual Plunge, or PlungeX (celebrating 10 years), that featured a Virtual Launch Party with participants submitting videos of their creative plunges from home.

Also, the first-ever Virtual Summer Series took place and was free for all Special Olympics athletes. The event had three legs: running, walking, and biking where participants were challenged to create both fundraising and distance goals. It was a huge success and kept law enforcement engaged and connected with Special Olympics.

We plan to celebrate the amazing things that happened this year at our Virtual Awards Ceremony on November 18.

Although our plan is to return to programs in a few weeks, we know that there will be challenges. As we have outlined since the beginning, our priority will always be the safety of our athletes and volunteers. Thank you for your continued support and for continuing to be an incredible team of volunteers, athletes and staff that will help reignite the movement here in Alberta.

Lastly, Johnny Byrne resigned on June 30 as CEO of SOA. I would like to thank Johnny for his years of support for SOA and we wish him well in the next phase of his career. We are currently in the midst of a search for our new CEO with interviews of a very strong shortlist of candidates commencing next week. Until our new CEO is in place, which we expect to take place before the end of the year, the senior leadership team and board members have been ensuring that the organization continues to run smoothly. A huge thanks to all of those individuals who have stepped up during this period.

And now it's my pleasure to turn the virtual podium over to Board Athlete Representative, Dallas Sorken to give the Athlete Report.

## 6.2 Athlete Report

Good morning everyone,

My name is Dallas Sorken and I sit on the Board as the Athlete Representative.

Even during the Pandemic, it's been a busy year for Athlete Leadership. We started the year with 2 virtual course options for athletes:

Photo and Video Course, which trained 36 athletes and Connecting and Sharing Online, training 33 athletes.

Following those courses, a Mentorship and Onboarding Training was developed by athletes and volunteers for athletes interested in joining AMCs and those currently sitting on AMCs. The first training took part in June, training 9 athletes.

Over the past year, 14 athletes became Provincial Health Messengers through our Virtual Health Messenger Training. Following this training, some of our Health Messengers became involved in our PEAK Program! Some shared their health and safety tips, some led workouts and some athletes led nutrition sessions – it was definitely a highlight having athletes lead our sessions.

Our goal is to host an ALIC election in 2022 and my hope is to get new and interested athletes a part of this council.

Thank you! I will now pass it back to Deb.

Thank you, Dallas.

The role that Dallas plays on our Board and the Athlete Leadership Input Council is critical. Through engaging with other athletes he is able to provide a unique perspective and present topics to the Athlete Input Council should the board require specific feedback or direction on a topic.

Are there any questions for Dallas?

Thanks again Dallas for the very important role that you play in our organization.

Next, I would like to introduce Melissa Klebeck, our Board Treasurer to give the Financial Report.

### 6.3 Financial Report

Present the financial report for 2020/21.

Melissa: Provide overview of financial information

Are there any questions about the financial report?

### 7.0 Approval of 2020/2021 Audited Financial Statements as of June 30, 2021

I would like to call for a motion to approve the 2020/2021 Audited Financial Statements as presented

**Motion:** To approve 2020/2021 Audited Financial Statements as presented.

**Moved: Red Deer**

Second: Wood Buffalo

**CARRIED**

### 8.0 Appointment of Auditors for 2021/2022 year

I would like to call for a motion to appoint Ernst & Young as auditors for 2021/2022 fiscal year

**Motion:** To appoint Ernst & Young as Special Olympics Alberta's auditors for 2021/2022 year.

**Moved: Edmonton**

Second: Airdrie

**CARRIED**

### 9.0 Nominating Committee Report

The Board goes through an extensive nominating process and is always open to potential candidates. The Board's goal is to seek out a diverse group of members who will bring different skill sets, expertise and networks to the table in the goal of strengthening the organization.

You have been provided with a slate of nominations to the Board of Directors. In

accordance with bylaws, nominations are not accepted from the floor and the slate is closed.

Additions this year are: Kimberly Brocanier, Mark Powell & Jon Cornish

I would like to call for a motion to accept the slate of nominees as presented in its entirety and elect these individuals to the Board of Directors.

**Motion:** To accept the slate of nominees as presented in its entirety and elect these individuals to the Board of Directors.

**Moved: Edmonton**  
Second: Wood Buffalo

**CARRIED**

At this time, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of 3 Board Members who will not be returning to the Board this year. On behalf of the entire Board, I would like to express our sincere thanks to: **David Findlay, Maria Borges & Walter Brettton** for their service to the Organization.

## 10. Bylaw Changes

Changes to bylaws are made by a special resolution in accordance with Article 20, Section 20.1. A Special Resolution is passed by a vote of not less than seventy five percent (75%) of the votes cast by those members who, if entitled to do so, vote in person.

The amended Bylaws have been attached. The proposed changed have been listed below.

- Use of gender-inclusive language
- Removed Article V – Membership Fees
- Renumbering Articles
- 4.5 Members in Good Standing
- 10.4 Terms of Office
- 18.2 Standards
- 18.5 Use of Name or Logo

**Motion:** To accept the bylaws as presented.

**Moved: Edmonton**  
Second: Calgary

**CARRIED**

## 10.0 Meeting Adjournment

Having concluded the business of the 2021 Annual General meeting, I would like to call for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 AM.

Motion: To adjourn meeting.

Moved: Wood Buffalo

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 AM