



Congrats Special Olympics Team Canada 2017

May 3, 2016 - Sending heartfelt congratulations to the 15 Special Olympics BC athletes, eight coaches, and one mission staff member who have earned spots on **Team Canada** for the [2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria!](#)

The hardworking team members earned their places through their performances at the 2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador. The team members from SOBC join the Special Olympics Team Canada roster of 110 athletes, 35 coaches and mission staff, two team managers, and one Chef de Mission, and will compete in Austria from March 14 to 25, 2017.

[Read the full Special Olympics Canada press release](#)

[Full roster](#)

This will be Austria's second time hosting Special Olympics World Games, as they previously hosted the global competition in 1993. The 2017 World Games will be hosted in three main locations throughout Austria: Graz, Schladming, and Ramsau. More than 3,000 athletes and 1,100 coaches from 110 countries will come together to compete in Austria, and 3,000 volunteers will help make the Games a reality.

The athletes from all over the planet will compete in nine sport disciplines; Special Olympics Team Canada athletes will compete in six of those sports, and SOBC athletes will be part of five of those sports.

Alpine skiing: 5 athletes, 2 coaches from SOBC

Erin Thom, SOBC – Kimberley/Cranbrook	
<i>Years with SO:</i>	25
<i>Fun fact:</i>	The 2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games were Erin's fifth National Games – she also competed in Calgary 1996, Ottawa 2000, Quebec City 2008, and St. Albert/Jasper 2012. Read more about Erin
<i>2016 National Games results:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giant slalom: silver, Advanced F1 division – time 1 min, 34.51 sec • Super G: bronze, Advanced F1 division – time 40.27 sec • Slalom: DQ – missed gate



Jonathan Robins, SOBC – Kimberley/Cranbrook	
<i>Years with SO:</i>	17
<i>Fun fact:</i>	When Jonathan competed in his first National Games in 2012, he made it all the way to the Republic of Korea for the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games.
<i>2016 National Games results:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giant slalom: gold, Intermediate M1 division – time 1 min, 1.85 sec • Super G: gold, Intermediate M1 division – time 41.09 sec • Slalom: silver, Intermediate M1 division – time 1 min, 45.29 sec

Michael Langridge, SOBC – Victoria	
<i>Years with SO:</i>	15
<i>Fun fact:</i>	Prior to the 2016 National Games, Michael’s most memorable Special Olympics moments were winning three gold medals at the 2015 SOBC Winter Games in Kamloops and scoring two hat tricks in floor hockey in the 2002-03 season. Read more about Michael
<i>2016 National Games results:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giant slalom: gold, Novice M1 division – time 56.96 sec • Super G: gold, Novice M1 division – time 27.93 sec • Slalom: gold, Novice M1 division – time 1 min, 8.5 sec

Roxana Podrasky, SOBC – Kimberley/Cranbrook	
<i>Years with SO:</i>	7
<i>Fun fact:</i>	The 2016 Special Olympics Canada Games were Roxana’s first National Games, and she earned her berth on Team BC 2016 by winning three gold medals at the 2015 SOBC Winter Games.
<i>2016 National Games results:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giant slalom: gold, Novice F1 division – time 52.01 sec • Super G: silver, Novice F1 division – time 27.8 sec • Slalom: silver, Novice F1 division – time 1 min, 4.12 sec



Susan Wang, SOBC – Surrey	
<i>Years with SO:</i>	5
<i>Fun fact:</i>	Susan loves new adventures, travelling, and meeting new people. Read more about Susan
<i>2016 National Games results:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giant slalom: gold, Intermediate F1 division – time 1 min, 13.47 sec • Super G: bronze, Intermediate F1 division – time 59.68 sec • Slalom: bronze, Intermediate F1 division – time 2 min, 5.04 sec

Head Coach: Randy Scott, SOBC – North Shore	
<i>Years with SO:</i>	27
<i>Quote:</i>	Randy's favourite thing about being involved with Special Olympics is "the athletes. What else can be said! They are the best, and they make the rest of us better people!"

Coach: Mark Schnurr, SOBC – Coquitlam	
<i>Years with SO:</i>	27
<i>Quote:</i>	"Every day with Special Olympics athletes is a great one."

Cross country skiing: 4 athletes, 2 coaches from SOBC

Dennis Lynch, SOBC – Nanaimo	
<i>Years with SO:</i>	29
<i>Fun fact:</i>	Dennis loves getting to know other people and getting to be with his family at the games.
<i>2016 National Games results:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500M Classic: gold, M3 division – time 03:45.60 • 1KM Classic: silver, M4 division – time 07:35.30 • 2.5KM Classic: silver, M5 division



Francis Stanley, SOBC – Kelowna	
<i>Years with SO:</i>	7
<i>Fun fact:</i>	Francis loves speed and loved winning his races at the 2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games.
<i>2016 National Games results:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1KM Classic: gold, M1 division – time 04:09.40 • 2.5KM Classic: gold, M1 division • 10KM Freestyle: gold, M1 division

Justin Sigal, SOBC – Vernon	
<i>Years with SO:</i>	6
<i>Fun fact:</i>	Justin is friendly and likes golf, chess, and skiing both downhill and cross-country.
<i>2016 National Games results:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.5KM Classic: gold, M3 division • 5KM Classic: silver, M3 division – time 30 min, 16.40 sec

Tracey Melesko, SOBC – Kelowna	
<i>Years with SO:</i>	27
<i>Fun fact:</i>	A dedicated athlete with multiple National and World Games appearances to her credit, Tracey was the first athlete to be inducted into the Special Olympics BC Hall of Fame. Read more about Tracey
<i>2016 National Games results:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1KM Classic: silver, F1 division – time 05:15.50 • 2.5KM Classic: silver, F1 division • 5KM Classic: gold, F1 division – time 21 min, 27.70 secs

Coach: Ray Huson, SOBC – Penticton	
<i>Years with SO:</i>	22
<i>Fun fact:</i>	The 2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games were Ray's fourth National Games appearance in three sports – he was also a Team BC



	coach for snowshoeing in 2008, cross-country skiing in 2012, and bocce in 2014.
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Wax technician: Garth Vickers, SOBC – Kelowna	
<i>Years with SO:</i>	18
<i>Fun fact:</i>	An outstanding coach and mentor, Garth is the 2016 winner of the SOBC Howard Carter Award and Special Olympics Canada Male Coach of the Year award.

Figure skating: 3 athletes, 1 coach from SOBC

Alexander Pang, SOBC – Vancouver	
<i>Years with SO:</i>	8
<i>Fun fact:</i>	At just 18 years old, Alex has already represented Canada at two previous Special Olympics World Games – he was a member of Team Canada 2013 for figure skating and Team Canada 2015 for basketball.
<i>2016 National Games results:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singles Level 4: gold • Ice Dance Level 2: silver

Darlene Jakubowski, SOBC – Fort St. John	
<i>Years with SO:</i>	
<i>Fun fact:</i>	This multilingual athlete medalled in both the 2009 and 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games for figure skating.
<i>2016 National Games results:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singles Level 6: gold • Ice Dance Level 5: gold

Marc Theriault, SOBC – Surrey	
<i>Years with SO:</i>	21
<i>Fun fact:</i>	Marc is one of only four Athlete Inductees in the Special Olympics BC Hall of Fame. In 2001 he landed the first double jump at a World



	Games in Special Olympics history. The 2016 Special Olympics Canada Games were his ninth National Games. Read more about Marc
<i>2016 National Games results:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singles Open: gold • Ice Dance Level 5: gold • Level 3 Pairs with partner Tamika Broere-Shaw: gold

Coach: Elizabeth Roman, SOBC – Surrey	
<i>Years with SO:</i>	20
<i>Fun fact:</i>	Elizabeth is ready for her third World Games experience, having coached figure skating teams to four Special Olympics Canada Winter Games and two previous Special Olympics World Games.

Snowshoeing: 1 athlete, 2 coaches from SOBC

Tony Wilkinson, SOBC – Kelowna	
<i>Years with SO:</i>	13
<i>Quote:</i>	"I have learned so much through Special Olympics like good sportsmanship and teamwork, commitment, and the importance of fitness and nutrition. Plus I have gained confidence and independence in my daily life."
<i>2016 National Games results:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100M: gold, M2 division – time 00:16.90 • 200M: silver, M2 division – time 00:34.90 • 400M: silver, M2 division – time 1 min, 18 sec

Coach: Maureen Hunter, SOBC – Campbell River	
<i>Years with SO:</i>	32
<i>Fun fact:</i>	Maureen has served as a Special Olympics Team Canada coach at four previous World Games – Toronto/Collingwood 1997, Dublin 2003, Nagano 2005, and the Republic of Korea 2013. In 2008, Maureen and her husband Harvey were inducted into the Special Olympics BC Hall of Fame as Local Builders . Read more about Maureen



Coach: David Wilkinson, SOBC – Kelowna	
<i>Years with SO:</i>	11
<i>Fun fact:</i>	David’s motto is, “Do your best – but have <u>fun</u> .” The 2016 Special Olympics Canada Games were his first National Games experience.

Speed skating: 2 athletes, 1 coach from SOBC

Matthew Williams, SOBC – Langley	
<i>Years with SO:</i>	11
<i>Fun fact:</i>	The 2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games were Matt’s fourth National Games after previous appearances in athletics, basketball, and speed skating. He competed in basketball in the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games and is a member of the Special Olympics International Board of Directors. Watch his powerful TEDxVancouver talk
<i>2016 National Games results:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1500M: gold, M2 division – time 03:39.117 • 777M: silver, M1 division – 01:28.621 • 1000M: silver, M1 division – time 01:56.758 • 500M: bronze, M1 division – time 00:55.764

Paige Norton, SOBC – Abbotsford	
<i>Years with SO:</i>	13
<i>Fun fact:</i>	Paige medalled in speed skating at the 2009 World Winter Games in Boise, Idaho. She has competed in four National Games in speed skating and athletics.
<i>2016 National Games results:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500M: gold, F2 division – time 01:11.249 • 777M: gold, F2 division – time 01:52.152



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1000M: gold, F2 division – time 02:30.043 • 333M: 4th, F2 division – time 00:49.654
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Head Coach: Donna Bilous, SOBC Region 3 Coordinator, Abbotsford resident	
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<i>Years with SO:</i>	13
<i>Quote:</i>	“In 2009 at the World Winter Games in Boise, I was so honoured to be selected Head Coach for Team Canada and the wonderful group of athletes I worked with, and I was so proud to watch my daughter [Paige Norton] receive Canada’s first gold medal.”

1 Mission Staff from SOBC

Darren Inouye, SOBC Region 5 Coordinator, Burnaby resident	
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<i>Years with SO:</i>	13
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Coach: Ray Huson, SOBC – Penticton	
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<i>Years with SO:</i>	22
<i>Fun fact:</i>	The 2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games were Ray’s fourth National Games appearance in three sports – he was also a Team BC coach for snowshoeing in 2008, cross-country skiing in 2012, and bocce in 2014.

Coach: Ray Huson, SOBC – Penticton	
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<i>Years with SO:</i>	22
<i>Fun fact:</i>	The 2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games were Ray’s fourth National Games appearance in three sports – he was also a Team BC coach for snowshoeing in 2008, cross-country skiing in 2012, and bocce in 2014.

[Read about team members from the Okanagan in the Kelowna Capital News](#)



[The Now \(Surrey\) story on Marc Theriault and Susan Wang](#)