



LAW ENFORCEMENT LACE UP FOR A SPECIAL CAUSE

On and around June 8, law enforcement personnel in nearly 30 communities across BC will be hitting the streets in support of Special Olympics BC (SOBC) as they take part in the BC Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR).

The BC LETR movement has been instrumental in raising awareness and funds for SOBC athletes and programs. Since 1990, the LETR in BC has raised more than \$3 million to support Special Olympics athletes and programs, helping SOBC grow to support 3,900 athletes in 55 communities around B.C. While law enforcement personnel organize a variety of events supporting SOBC throughout the year, the run is the highlight on the calendar.

From Burns Lake to White Rock, from Nanaimo to Cranbrook, law enforcement personnel will complete runs of three to five kilometres and/or join SOBC athletes and community members for fun games and festivities. The runners come from a variety of agencies including municipal police departments, the RCMP, the Transit Police Service and the Canada Border Services Agency.

For many law enforcement personnel, the opportunity to help support Special Olympics is a rewarding part of their job. “If anyone was to ask me what’s so special about Special Olympics, I would have to tell them that it is the extraordinary feeling you get when you meet and work with these remarkable athletes,” said Vancouver Police Department Superintendent Dean Robinson, a member of the BC LETR Executive. “I’ve been lucky enough to have had many proud moments in my law enforcement career and standing with the athletes of the Special Olympics is certainly the most special.”

“Hundreds of members of RCMP detachments all around the province will be running the streets in support of Special Olympics in this year’s Law Enforcement Torch Run. This province-wide support is a symbol of our dedication to Special Olympics BC and the athletes who inspire us,” said Norm Lipinski, Assistant Commissioner, RCMP E Division, also a member of the BC LETR Executive.

Community supporters are encouraged to come out to cheer on the law enforcement personnel and share the inclusive and inspiring spirit in their local runs. Details here: www.specialolympics.bc.ca/letr

Join the movement online – find SOBC on Facebook and Twitter:
www.facebook.com/specialolympicsbc / @sobcsociety.

Runners are collecting donations online in support of SOBC. Visit sobc.kintera.org/letr2012 to donate.

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About the Law Enforcement Torch Run:

The Law Enforcement Torch Run was started in 1981 in Wichita, Kansas, by Police Chief Richard LaMunyon. Chief LaMunyon saw an urgent need to raise funds for and increase awareness of Special Olympics. He proposed the idea of police officers running in support of Special Olympics athletes, while raising financial contributions from fellow police officers, private individuals, and the business community. From this modest beginning, the Law Enforcement Torch Run has developed into an inspiring international movement, with Torch Runs being held in more than 30 countries, including Canada. Last year, the LETR worldwide raised \$42.6 million for Special Olympics

More information on the BC LETR: www.specialolympics.bc.ca/letr

About Special Olympics BC:

Special Olympics BC is dedicated to providing individuals with intellectual disabilities opportunities to enrich their lives and celebrate personal achievement through positive sport experiences. In 55 communities around the province, we provide year-round training and competitive opportunities in 18 different sports to more than 3,900 athletes of all ages and abilities, thanks to the dedicated efforts of over 2,900 volunteers. For more information, please visit www.specialolympics.bc.ca. Find us on Facebook and Twitter:

www.facebook.com/specialolympicsbc / @sobcsociety.

For more information and interview opportunities please contact:

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