



SPECIAL OLYMPICS CANADA PROUDLY PARTNERS WITH THE JOHN TAVARES FOUNDATION

Partnership to help grow Special Olympics Unified Sports® programs from coast to coast

April 26, 2021 – TORONTO, ON – Special Olympics Canada is thrilled to announce its partnership with The John Tavares Foundation. Through shared ideologies of inclusion, community and sport, the partnership will serve to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics Unified Sports® programs across Canada. Together, they hope to create a brighter future where individuals feel inspired and part of an inclusive social community with an equal path to realize their full potential in sport and in life.

A long-time champion of inclusion, John has been actively involved with Special Olympics in Canada since his Junior Hockey days. Together with his wife Aryne, they volunteered to help students with intellectual disabilities during their high school years. This shared experience brought them joy, and is the inspiration that set the partnership in motion.

“Aryne and I are very proud and excited to be partnering with Special Olympics Canada, an organization that is particularly close to our hearts” said **John Tavares**. “We look forward to helping grow the Unified Sports® program across Canada to offer all individuals the opportunity to play together as a united team.”

“We’re thrilled to announce our partnership with The John Tavares Foundation to continue our mission of enriching the lives of Canadians with an intellectual disability through sport” said **Sharon Bollenbach, Chief Executive Officer, Special Olympics Canada**. “We believe that The John Tavares Foundation is a true champion of inclusion, and we couldn’t be more excited for this collaboration.”

Special Olympics Unified Sports® integrates individuals with and without intellectual disabilities on teams for sport training and competition to promote social engagement and development. Primarily implemented through collaborations with schools, all athletes and partners are recognized as equal contributors and as such develop a sense of belonging, learn to interact meaningfully with others, and forge lasting and mutually rewarding relationships beyond the playing field.

About Special Olympics Canada

The Canadian chapter of this international movement is dedicated to enriching the lives of Canadians with an intellectual disability through the transformative power and joy of sport.

Operating out of sport clubs in 12 Provincial and Territorial Chapters, this grassroots movement reaches beyond the sphere of sport to empower individuals, change attitudes and build communities. From two-year-olds to mature adults, more than 41,200 athletes with an intellectual disability are registered in Special Olympics year-round programs across Canada. They are supported by more than 17,700 volunteers, including more than 12,000 trained coaches. For more information, visit www.specialolympics.ca or follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @SpecialOCanada.

About The John Tavares Foundation

To create a positive and lasting impact, we launched our foundation so every child can have an equal opportunity to realize their full potential and shape their own future. We are committed to inspiring the next generation to build a better world by championing the idea of wellness as a right, not as a privilege. Because a more inclusive world without limits is a world filled with possibilities.

For more information and interview opportunities, please contact:

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