



Special Olympics BC

Annual Impact Report

2020-21

Getting Back in the Game

Lonely. Sad. Lost. Bored. Missing friends. Lacking purpose.

These are the most common words that many Special Olympics BC athletes used to describe their feelings when the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to pause our in-person sport programs.

While the pandemic has been tough on everyone, it has been especially hard on people with intellectual disabilities. Many already knew the pain of isolation all too well. Without access to their in-person Special Olympics programs and events, athletes felt cut off from their friends and coaches. While Special Olympics BC volunteers, supporters, and staff worked hard to offer all the opportunities we safely could, many said it just wasn't the same.

Belonging. Acceptance. Happiness. Confidence. Activity and health. Friends. Family. Fun.

These are the most common words that athletes use to describe what they find in Special Olympics BC. These experiences matter now more so than ever.

Thanks to you, Special Olympics BC is safely and steadily reopening the year-round in-person sport, youth, and health programs and events that mean so much to our athletes, and to everyone involved.

The pandemic has a long-lasting, far-reaching impact that the Special Olympics family will be working to overcome for many years. There is a long road ahead to return to full operating capacity. But we can do it together. We will do it together. We must do it, in order to continue creating life-changing sport opportunities for athletes with intellectual disabilities who are still being left behind and forgotten far too often by the rest of the world.

Thank you for helping rebuild the Special Olympics BC programs and community that instill confidence in athletes, open hearts and minds to inclusion, and break down barriers for our friends and neighbours with intellectual disabilities.

Thank you for helping Special Olympics BC get back in the game.



Dan Howe

*Special Olympics BC
President & CEO*



Randy Smallwood

*SOBC Board of Directors Chair
Wheaton Precious Metals
President & CEO*



Donna Bilous

SOBC Leadership Council Chair



Matthew Williams

SOBC Athlete Input Council Chair

What We Do

Our Vision

Sport will open hearts and minds towards people with intellectual disabilities and create inclusive communities all across British Columbia.

Our Mission

Special Olympics BC is dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities through sport.

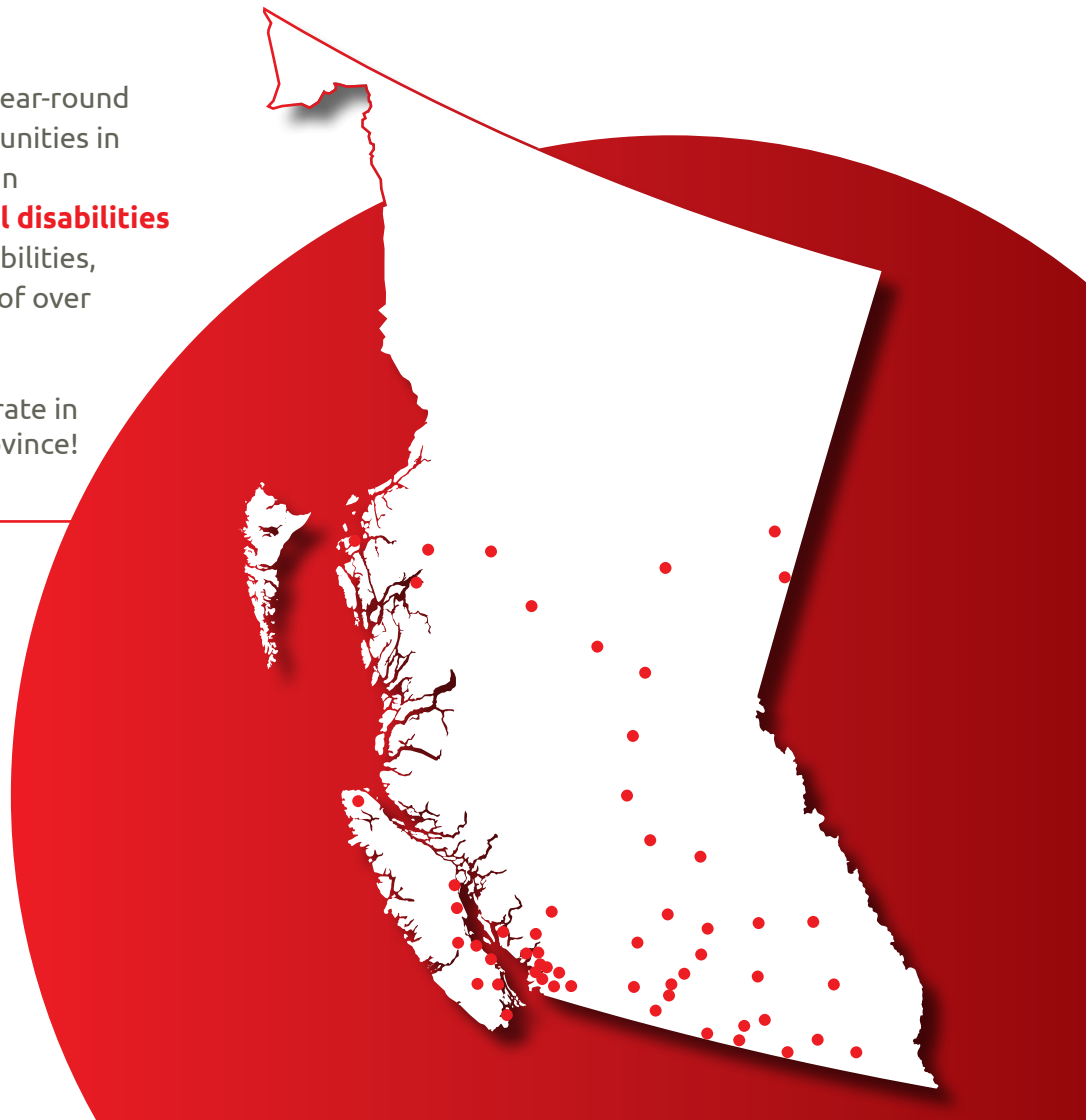
Our Values

- **Inclusion:** We foster inclusive communities.
- **Diversity:** We honour what is unique in each individual.
- **Empowerment:** We create opportunities to pursue full potential.
- **Respect:** We operate in an environment of cooperation, collaboration and dignity.
- **Excellence:** We elevate standards and performance.

Special Olympics BC provides year-round training and competitive opportunities in **18 different sports** to more than **5,200 athletes with intellectual disabilities** of all ages and a wide range of abilities, thanks to the dedicated efforts of over **4,300 volunteers**.

Our empowering programs operate in **55 communities** all over the province!

To learn more, please visit
www.specialolympics.bc.ca



Hazen Meade
Special Olympics BC – Campbell River athlete
2021 Special Olympics Canada Athlete of the Year



"Special Olympics is so important to me because it helps me to have a healthy lifestyle, to meet and know new people, and it allows all athletes to have fun as well as to go see new places. ... I would like to thank would like to thank my family and all of my coaches, and especially my coach and friend Maureen Hunter, and my caregivers Lori and Marvin Holmgren, for helping me. I would also like to thank all the supporters and sponsors of Special Olympics, because without your support, there wouldn't be Special Olympics."

Programs

With your support, Special Olympics BC is able to offer empowering year-round programming for athletes with intellectual disabilities, and lead awareness initiatives that increase inclusion in communities throughout our province.



Sport

- 10 summer sports and eight winter sports
- Local, regional, national, and international competitions
- Welcome athletes of a wide range of ability and experience levels
- Supportive and qualified volunteer coaches



Health

- Fitness, education, and advocacy programs for athletes
- Working with partners to end the health inequality faced by people with intellectual disabilities
- Equipping athletes for health and success in sports and in life



Awareness

- Working to end the hurtful and damaging exclusion of people with intellectual disabilities
- Special Olympics Global Week of Inclusion
- Spread the Word>>Inclusion
- Youth Engagement Project
- Inclusion Champion Schools



Youth

- Programs tailored for children with intellectual disabilities
- Teach vital motor, sport, and social skills
- Active Start (ages two to six), FUNdamentals (ages seven to 11), and Sport Start (ages 12 to 18)



Leadership

- Public speaking workshops to help athletes share their stories
- Health education and advocacy courses
- Training to be a committee member and program mentor
- Empowering athletes to lead our movement

Our Pandemic Journey

Through the 2020-21 season, the pandemic forced the closure of the majority of Special Olympics BC's in-person sport and youth programs. Many athletes described life without in-person Special Olympics programs as lonely, sad, confusing, lacking purpose, and hard to stay active on their own. "It was rough," said Ashley Adie, SOBC – Campbell River athlete and member of the SOBC Board of Directors. "That was my social life. I found myself falling into a depression, and my motivation went down the toilet. I found myself really fighting to keep running and keep training."

With your support, Special Olympics BC volunteers and athletes were able to maintain connections and support training using virtual platforms, and in-person pilot programs when safely possible. While the virtual events weren't the same, they were valued by many, and opened new doors for expanding connections and reach throughout the province.

"I was able to participate in some online programs, and that was great. Up here we don't get to participate in as many different things as athletes in bigger communities. But it is not the same thing as really seeing a person. ... I love Special Olympics because I am a part of a group that values me, and my friends and my coaches believe in me. Because of this, I succeed in my sports. I am a happier person and I feel like miracles can happen."

*-Torben Schuffert, SOBC – Smithers athlete and
SOBC Athlete Input Council Region 7 Representative*



500+

More than 500 athletes took part in virtual Athlete Leadership and health education workshops that Special Olympics BC was able to offer thanks to your support. Athletes gained leadership and advocacy skills as well as education on physical and mental wellness topics; the sessions also created important social connections in these trying times.

With your support, Special Olympics BC increased our website resources to help athletes and volunteers access virtual programming, at-home training support, and Return to Sport safety protocols. These pages were viewed 48,672 times in 2020-21.

48,672

400+

Thanks to your support, Special Olympics BC continued to offer our coach development events and resources through the pandemic. SOBC's dedicated volunteer coaches regularly access these opportunities in order to provide top-quality support to their athletes. More than 400 coaches participated in 40 Coach Development Webinars in 2020-21.



Special Olympics BC Provincial Challenge Games



1000 athletes
and volunteers



40
communities



49 days
of challenges

The pandemic forced the cancellation of the Provincial Games that Special Olympics BC had intended to host in July 2021. With your support, SOBC athletes and volunteers developed a new way to compete and connect. Nearly 1,000 athletes and volunteers from 40 communities accepted the challenge to compete with their Regions in the first-ever **Special Olympics BC Provincial Challenge Games**. From May 1 to June 18, 2021, the Challenge Games athletes completed 49 days of at-home challenges including sport training sessions, workouts, and wellness activities. They showed remarkable dedication as well as creativity in the range of ways they stayed active. They made their Regions, Locals, schools, and province very proud!

They had inspiring support and motivation from their fellow athletes and dedicated volunteers in their training groups, Regional teams, and Locals. There was incredible sportsmanship throughout the province as the athletes and volunteers cheered each other on! They also benefitted from the encouragement from our valued sponsors and partners, and from celebrity supporters including Vancouver Canucks icons Henrik and Daniel Sedin and Darcy Rota, Whitecaps FC legend Carl Valentine, Rick Campbell and Lemar Durant of the BC Lions, Hall of Fame broadcaster Bernie Pascall, and two-time Canadian soccer Olympian Emily Zurrer.

Thank You for Powering Our Pandemic Recovery

Throughout the fall and winter of 2021, Special Olympics BC volunteers, athletes, and supporters around the province are working hard to safely reopen our empowering year-round programs and competitions. It's critical that Special Olympics continue to re-engage and recruit athletes, volunteers, and facilities for the return to sport. Your support has a deep and lasting impact on thousands of lives in 55 communities throughout our province.

Special Olympics is "like a big happy family," athlete and Director Ashley Adie says. "When we're doing the in-person stuff, we feed off each other with motivation and pushing each other to go further and train harder. It gives me purpose, a sense of belonging, something to continually strive for and has me push myself to the limit."

We support and applaud the 23 athletes and 16 volunteer coaches and mission staff from B.C. who qualified for spots on the Special Olympics Team Canada 2022 Training Squad. These dedicated individuals continue to work hard toward representing their country and achieving their goals at the Special Olympics World Winter Games Kazan 2022, which have been postponed to January 2023.

39

3,094

More than 3,094 athletes and volunteers – and counting – had successfully returned to in-person sport programs as of winter 2021. That's a joy, but it's also only about a third of the way back to pre-pandemic capacity. There is a long road ahead to a full recovery. To volunteer and help athletes get back in the game, please visit www.specialolympics.bc.ca and click Get Involved/Volunteer.

A virtual ceremony this summer celebrated the five deserving winners of the annual Special Olympics BC provincial awards. Hosted by Hall of Fame broadcaster Bernie Pascall, the ceremony recognized Hazen Meade, Vincent Li, Ellen Martz, David Wilkinson, and Susan Foisy. Meade and Wilkinson went on to win national awards as 2021 Special Olympics Canada Athlete and Coach of the Year, respectively.

5



"When I first returned to in-person programs, everybody was happy to see each other, including the coaches. Although I had an opportunity for virtual fitness classes along with other athletes, it cannot replace the joy of in-person programs. The first day of practice felt like a huge relief as we all hadn't seen each other in two years. Being unable to attend live practices, in my case curling or floor hockey, can take a toll on one's own mental health. That's why I believe sport is the most important tool for one's wellbeing."

-Mathew Schmiing, SOBC – Vancouver athlete,
SOBC Athlete Input Council Region 5 Representative

Our Team

SOBC Board of Directors

- Randy Smallwood, Chair
- Colin Yakashiro, Vice Chair
- Ted Hirst, Past Chair
- Michael Campbell, Secretary
- Ryan Hoag, Treasurer
- Ashley Adie
- Brent Bergeron
- Donna Bilous
- Grenville Finch-Noyes
- Devinder Gill
- Pamela Keith
- Nicola Lambrechts
- Richard J. Lucy

SOBC Leadership Council

- Donna Bilous, Chair
- Joanne Thom, Region 1 Coordinator
- Seeking Region 2 Coordinator
- Mark Schnurr, Region 3 Coordinator
- Karen Theriault, Region 4 Coordinator
- Darren Inouye, Region 5 Coordinator
- Jason Yan, Region 6 Coordinator
- Tina Giesbrecht, Region 7 Coordinator
- Tracy Heartt, Region 8 Coordinator
- Ashley Adie
- Roshan Gosal
- Steve Oliver
- James Sutherland
- Matthew Williams

SOBC Athlete Input Council

- Matthew Williams, Chair
- Kendall Salanski, Region 1 Representative
- Chris Harrington, Region 2 Representative
- Susan Wang, Region 3 Representative
- Vincent Li, Region 4 Representative
- Mathew Schmiing, Region 5 Representative
- Jake Hooper, Region 6 Representative
- Torben Schuffert, Region 7 Representative
- Marinka VanHage, Region 8 Representative
- Ashley Adie, Board of Directors

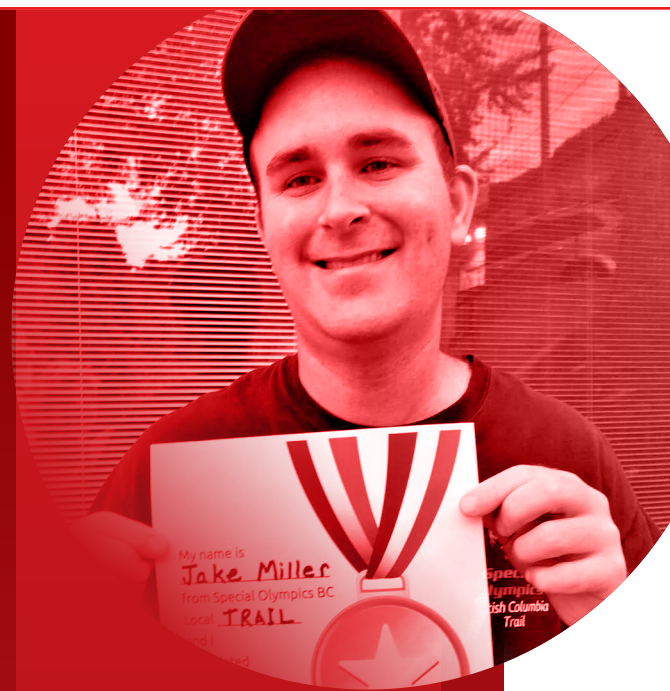
SOBC Communities and Staff

Find full contact details at www.specialolympics.bc.ca

Join our joyful community on social media:

f | i | o | v | @specialolympicsbc

t | @sobcsociety



Financial Summary

The generosity and commitment of Special Olympics BC's sponsors and donors allowed our organization to remain steadfast in our dedication to creating connections and opportunities for athletes with intellectual disabilities, throughout these unique times. With your life-changing support, we raised \$2.865 million to make a difference province-wide. We could not be more grateful to all those who supported Special Olympics BC's inspiring community and empowering programs, showing that people with intellectual disabilities matter and cannot be forgotten.

20%

Admin

Expenses

80%

Program Operations

4.5%

Interest + Other

64.5%

Grants and Donations

Revenues

31%

Events



Signature Event Sponsors



Presenting Sponsor

Gold Sponsor



Bronze Sponsors



Cart Sponsor

Beverage Cart Sponsor

Media Sponsors



Presenting Sponsor

Major Sponsors



Event Sponsors



Media Sponsors



Silent Auction Sponsor

Vehicle Donors



\$5,000 Cash Donors

Media Sponsors



Provincial Sponsors



\$1000+ Donors

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- Barbara Sims
- BC Association of Chiefs of Police
- Belron Canada
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- Bill Falk
- Bill Mitchell
- Blair Shier
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- Cadillac Fairview Corporation Ltd.
- Catherine Tegelberg
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- Chris Adams
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- Clive Johnson
- Colin Yakashiro
- Cool Air Rentals Ltd.
- Dan VanLeeuwen
- Dave Macfarlane
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- Dean Shillington Charitable Foundation
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- Doug Holtby
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- Eric Coffin
- Eric Jordan
- Fields Stores
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- Glen and Terry Wyse
- Glenn Antony Ives Professional Corporation
- Gord Kelly Scholarship Fund
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- Jasmine Allen
- Jeffrey Fawcett
- Jeffrey Ho
- Jen Hansen
- Jennifer Traub
- Jim and Janet Bond
- Joanne Wild
- Joy May
- Kappa Beta Gamma - Alpha Xi
- Karnel Jawl
- Kellie Dale
- Kim Schumacher
- Knights of Columbus - Supreme Office
- Ladner Village Market
- Leo Bruneau
- Majormaki Foundation
- Marie Holtby
- Matt Fargey
- Michael Campbell
- Michael Hirst
- Mike Valente
- North Vancouver Recreation & Culture
- Ozzie Jurock
- PACE Spin Studio
- Pamela Keith
- Patrick Drouin
- Paul Jones
- Police Mutual Benevolent Association of Vancouver
- Prairie Lily Fund
- Provincial Employees Community Services Fund
- Ralph Tieleman
- Ramona Bleuler
- Randy Smallwood
- RBC Foundation
- Richard Hoogendoorn
- Robert Barker
- Ron Roddick
- Ronald Goulet
- Rotary Club of North Delta
- Royal Canadian Legion #88 - Maple Ridge
- Scott Ellis
- Sharon Taylor
- Simona Antolak
- Sport Invy Inc.
- Stefan Merkal
- Tanis Stamatelakis
- Tanya Zakkour
- Ted Hirst
- The Range Langley
- Tiny Capital
- Tom McLean
- Tony Neumeyer
- Vancouver Police Community Fund
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- Versaterm Inc.
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