



Bulletin

Winter 2015

Awesome achievements by Special Olympics Team Canada 2015


Special Olympics Team Canada returned home from the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games laden with hardware, having earned 144 medals and achieved many goals and personal-best performances.

"There is no better word to describe Team Canada's performance at the World Games than awesome. We shattered expectations, set a new standard for National Team excellence and represented our country with great class," said Johnny Byrne, Team Canada Chef de Mission. "I could not be more proud of our athletes and coaches and how they performed on and off the playing field. We return home knowing that we achieved our goals and honoured our great country."

Held July 25 to August 2, the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games saw more than 6,000 athletes from 165 countries converge to compete in Los Angeles.

Team Canada 2015 included 57 athletes and 18 coaches and mission staff members from B.C. The athletes thrived in their nine sports, earning 39 of the team's 144 medals and representing their province and country with great skill, sportsmanship, and dignity.

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Joanne Bunnin of SOBC – Chilliwack jumps for joy after successfully completing all of her World Games lifts.

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Celebrating 35 years of

In 2015, the Year of Sport in Canada, Special Olympics BC turned 35! We were excited to celebrate this birthday and are so grateful to the amazing athletes, coaches, volunteers, family members, sponsors, supporters, and fans who have helped SOBC change lives through sport for three and a half decades.

Back in 1980, Special Olympics was just a concept in B.C., with two annual track and field events in Prince George and Kamloops, an independent track team in Burnaby, and several floor hockey teams in Greater Vancouver, all operating separately from each other.

SOBC officially incorporated in November 1980, and 35 years later, we now provide year-round, high-quality sport programs and competitions for more than 4,400 athletes in 57 communities around the province, thanks to the vital efforts of more than 3,400 dedicated volunteers and the support of generous sponsors.

“We were for the most part young and keen and willing to do whatever it took to get programs established. We really learned from each other and many of the volunteers were teachers and Parks and Recreation personnel.”

– Marilyn McLean, one of the founding champions of Special Olympics in this province and current SOBC – Kamloops Local Coordinator.

“It was a cause Dave [“Tiger” Williams] was passionate about, and with Dave’s personality others wanted to get involved. He very much stepped up and said, ‘we’re doing great things with the athletes, come

with me,’ and that’s what guys did.”

– Colin MacKinnon speaking on then-Vancouver Canucks player Tiger Williams who started the Tiger Williams Golf Classic for SOBC in 1982 and hosted the fundraiser for 20 years. The tournament eventually became the Goldcorp Invitational Golf Tournament, one of SOBC’s most successful fundraisers today. MacKinnon has been a key member of the organizing committee for the fundraiser’s various incarnations since 1983, has worked tirelessly as the second-longest-serving SOBC Board member, and has served as Chair of the Board for both SOBC and Special Olympics Canada.

“People kept coming, and it seemed like it was meant to be. Some of those coaches are still involved, and some of those young student volunteers. I couldn’t have done it without all those people who coached and volunteered and travelled. There were always people there when I needed them. It was in the universe to happen.”

– Cherald Tutt, who gave much of her time and energy as the SOBC – Kelowna Local Coordinator getting the Local started in 1985 until 1990.

“The push came from the parents and relatives of Special Olympics athletes. I attended the first meeting they had in Campbell River in a little restaurant. There was about 50 people there. They wanted my help because I was doing broadcasting all over the country, and they wanted me to find a personality they could hang their hat on, who would be with Special Olympics for years to come, but everyone was busy.”

– Howie Meeker, who has been a staunch



The first-ever Team BC in 1981.

Special Olympics BC

supporter of SOBC – Campbell River for nearly three decades became that personality, giving his name and presence to the Special Olympics Howie Meeker Classic golf tournament, now in its 27th year. Meeker is the winner of four Stanley Cups and a Calder Trophy with the Toronto Maple Leafs, a member of the

Hockey Hall of Fame, and an inductee into the Order of Canada.

“We’ve come a long way, a long way indeed.”

– Anne Tilley, a member of SOBC’s first Board of Directors speaking at the 2015 SOBC Leadership Summit. ○



Tiger Williams with Special Olympics athletes.



Longtime supporters Marilyn McLean, Anne Tilley, and Marnie Carter at the 2015 SOBC Leadership Summit.

Government of B.C. a vital backer of SOBC youth, health programs, competition

Thanks to the support of the **Government of B.C.**, Special



Olympics BC is the place where young athletes such as Katie

Oliver can take centre stage.

“Special Olympics gives her the opportunity to train and compete as an athlete, just as she has watched her brother in his own activities. With Special Olympics, she feels like the star of her own show,” the Oliver family said after the 2015 SOBC Youth Sports Day.

The Government of B.C.’s longtime support has allowed SOBC to offer more life-changing experiences and programs to athletes of all ages. Financially, between the government’s funding of sport and funds received through Community Gaming Grants from the Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch, SOBC received more than \$445,000 in 2015. SOBC Locals also received gaming grants to support their year-round programs.

This significant level of funding is much appreciated and put to good use in expanding opportunities. Funds received help reduce costs of programs and competitions, host sport camps and events, transport athletes and coaches, and create new opportunities for Special Olympics athletes and coaches.

SOBC has also been able to expand its Healthy Athletes screenings with financial support from the B.C. government, helping address the unique health needs of people with intellectual disabilities.

The program has huge benefits for SOBC athletes like Corey Yee, who used to resist going to dental and medical appointments because of discomfort and unfamiliarity. At the 2015 SOBC Healthy Athletes Screening Day in Vancouver, Yee’s aunt was astounded to see him agreeably letting practitioners take his blood pressure, clean his teeth, and check his feet, encouraged by the positive environment and the practitioners trained to work with people with intellectual disabilities.

The Government of B.C.’s Sport Branch has also been a tremendous source of assistance and resources to SOBC. Understanding and supporting SOBC’s goals, Sport Branch staff have been working hard to open doors and inform us of other resources, contacts, and opportunities. This is invaluable as we grow programs, reach out to more athletes, increase the number and quality of competitions, and create opportunities.

SOBC is extremely grateful for the support of the Government of B.C. If you have a moment, thank your local MLA for this support as it truly makes a difference. ○

2015 Special Olympics BC award winners

Athletic Achievement Award

Special Olympics BC – Abbotsford athlete **Mike Palitti** has trained and competed hard to win medals on the track, and after an outstanding performance at the Special Olympics Canada 2014 Summer Games in Vancouver, Palitti earned a spot on Special Olympics Team Canada to race at the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games.

With a history of achievement in both summer and winter sports, Palitti is the deserving winner of SOBC's 2015 Athletic Achievement Award.

This all-around athlete has been involved with SOBC for 15 years and also participates in basketball, curling, floor hockey, softball. He always has a kind word for his teammates and coaches and is a winner with his modest, hardworking, courteous nature.

On the track, Palitti went up against the best athletes in the country at the 2014 National Games and ran the races of his athletic career. He won gold in the 100-metre, gold in the 200-metre, silver in the 800-metre, silver in long jump, and bronze in the 400-metre, and he achieved personal bests in each event.

After winning the 2015 Athletic Achievement Award, Palitti went on to win gold in the 4x400 men's relay, and to place fourth and fifth in the 400- and 500-metre runs respectively at the 2015 World Games.

Congratulations to Palitti and nominees Brogan Beliveau (SOBC – Grand Forks), Nicky Chow (SOBC – Richmond), Cory Duhaime (SOBC – Delta), Michelle Forberg (SOBC – Campbell River), Stuart Hawton (SOBC – Trail), Jake Hooper (SOBC – Courtenay/Comox), Sherri Lines (SOBC – Courtenay/Comox), Todd Moore (SOBC – Abbotsford), Alex Pang (SOBC

– Vancouver), Kellie Robertson (SOBC – Surrey), Ashley Rosenberger (SOBC – Abbotsford), Darien Tielemans (SOBC – Cowichan Valley), and Cullen Yee (SOBC – Richmond).

Grassroots Coach Award

Jeannie Cramer of Special Olympics BC – Smithers has been a dedicated Special Olympics coach for nearly 20 years. As her Local's 5-pin bowling head coach, Cramer is known for nourishing the ability in every athlete and finding creative ways for athletes to participate both within and outside of the SO community. She is the deserving winner of SOBC's 2015 Grassroots Coach Award.

Over the years Cramer has also coached athletics, bocce, floor hockey, and soccer. As the head coach for bowling, she plans and organizes competitions. Cramer is known for her excellent work in preparing athletes for practice and competitions, and has year-end awards to acknowledge each athlete's progress.

Cramer is tireless in her efforts to support athletes and is quick to address their concerns or those of their caregivers.

She has attended many professional development opportunities, and is a fully certified level 1 coach in theory, practical and technical, and Making Ethical Decisions, as well as a level 2 coach for 5-pin bowling.

Cramer also willingly goes above and beyond her sport role to help make Special Olympics

programs possible—on the weekends she can be found at fundraising events such as the Safeway campaign with the bowling team helping raise funds for needed items. The greatest gifts she gives are her time, her smile, and her ever-encouraging words to each athlete.

Congratulations to Cramer and nominees Collin Berdusco (SOBC – Trail), Greg Bodin (SOBC – Coquitlam), Brian Gaudet (SOBC – Abbotsford), Donny Gillanders (SOBC – Richmond), Michelle Goosen (SOBC – Grand Forks), Ann Jorgensen (SOBC – Campbell River), Alison Koyanagi (SOBC – Vancouver), Rod McKenzie (SOBC – Surrey), Dave Robson (SOBC – Quesnel), Susan Storry (SOBC – Powell River), and Bev Whitehead (SOBC – Comox Valley).

Howard Carter Award

Known for his exceptional sport experience, outstanding rapport with his athletes, and dedicated involvement with Special Olympics for more than 25 years, Special Olympics BC – Abbotsford coach **Tom Norton** is the deserving winner of SOBC's 2015 Howard Carter Award.

An RCMP member, Norton first got involved in the movement in 1990 as part of the Law Enforcement Torch Run, and has been a Special Olympics coach for the last 10 years. As an SOBC – Abbotsford athletics coach, he brings to bear more than 30 years of experience as a



Mike Palitti



Jeannie Cramer with SOBC – Smithers athletes



Tom Norton

former competitive athlete and coach.

Norton is an outstanding coach at the local level and as a member of nine Special Olympics regional and provincial teams (for both SO and generic Games), two Special Olympics national teams (2011 and 2015), and a local training coach for athletes going to Special Olympics Provincial and National Games.

In addition to coaching track and field and Club Fit with SOBC – Abbotsford, Norton is also responsible for the Local’s Performance Program athletes, with whom he works to develop and implement yearly training programs.

“Always being firm, fair, decisive, and most importantly instilling the desire to excel, he leads by example and doesn’t ask from his athletes what he doesn’t ask of himself. ... His insight and patience to orchestrate guaranteed success for an athlete not only builds their confidence and self-esteem but provides a huge sense of accomplishment,” his nominators wrote.

Congratulations to Norton and nominees Alan Prough (SOBC – Trail), Ben Postmus (SOBC – Trail), Garth Vickers (SOBC – Kelowna), George Maclagan (SOBC – Campbell River), Jessica Chapelski (SOBC – Vancouver), Michael Blaschuk (SOBC – Surrey), and Nikki Apps (SOBC – Comox Valley).

President’s Award

Special Olympics BC – Victoria Executive Committee members feel **Margot Tubman** has raised the bar for their Local, and this hardworking, organized, and energetic Volunteer Coordinator is the deserving winner of SOBC’s 2015 President’s Award.

In her five years with SOBC – Victoria, Tubman has made a significant impact through her dedication and willingness to step up and help when needed so the Local can run smoothly.

From supporting SOBC – Victoria’s team of 120-plus volunteers to helping at special events, recruiting volunteers, and planning the launch of a new FUNDamentals program,

Tubman does it all, helping to strengthen the Local and provide high-quality experiences for athletes and volunteers. She has also helped develop policies and implement and host annual strategic planning sessions for the Executive Committee.

While Tubman didn’t have a background with Special Olympics when she started, she “dove into her position with gusto,” her nominators wrote, and “applied her leadership skills, work ethic, and innate curiosity to grasp the working of the organization and then make it grow.” She has earned respect with the SOBC – Victoria community and treats everyone else with respect in turn.

“Our Local has successfully increased its number of sports and recruited quality volunteers, thanks to Margot’s commitment to excellence,” her nominators wrote.

Congratulations to Tubman and nominees Chuck Yee (SOBC – Richmond), Geoff Uttley (SOBC – Surrey), Jenny Wong (SOBC – Vancouver), Joanne Thom (SOBC – Kimberley/Cranbrook), Julie McIntyre (SOBC – Kelowna), Rick Stanley (SOBC – Nanaimo), Sandra Galletti (Regional Coordinator, Region 8), and Terri Stanko (SOBC – Cowichan Valley).



Margot Tubman

Spirit of Sport Award

As an active multi-sport athlete, a true team player, and a great advocate for Special Olympics, **Ryan Stewart** of Special Olympics BC – Richmond is the deserving winner of SOBC’s 2015 Spirit of Sport Award.

Stewart has been a Special Olympics athlete for more than 12 years, and has become known for his friendly, cheerful, and supportive nature and his dedication to Special Olympics. He is always one of the first to congratulate fellow athletes on their wins and accomplishments, and one of the first to step forward to volunteer at special functions.

While Stewart was initially disappointed that he did not qualify for the 2015 Special



Ryan Stewart (centre)

Olympics BC Winter Games, his reaction showed great sportsmanship. Then he was invited to join one of SOBC – Vancouver’s floor hockey teams to compete at the Provincial Games in Kamloops; he and his team won gold and have qualified to be part of Team BC for the 2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in Newfoundland and Labrador.

“At floor hockey, Ryan works hard and tries to improve his personal best each time,” his nominators wrote. “He is enthusiastic and hardworking. Ryan has increased his stamina and strength, and that has supported his efforts in all sports.”

Stewart is a great asset as a volunteer and advocate, helping out at fundraising and awareness events, serving as an active member and leader with the SOBC – Richmond Athlete Council, and assisting the SOBC – Richmond FUNDamentals program.

Congratulations to Ryan and nominees Charlie Kain (SOBC – Grand Forks), David Marsters (SOBC – Campbell River), Dawn Hadler (SOBC – Salt Spring Island), Derek Santema (SOBC – Abbotsford), Eddie Chen (SOBC – Vancouver), Glenda Melnychuk (SOBC – Quesnel), James Clifford (SOBC – Abbotsford), Jeremy Cheverie (SOBC – Victoria), Joshua French (SOBC – Abbotsford), Julie Black (SOBC – Cowichan Valley), Kelsey Thomson (SOBC – Richmond), Matthew Lai (SOBC – Richmond), Michaela Robinson (SOBC – Surrey), Nick Toner (SOBC – Nelson), Scott Jonasson (SOBC – Quesnel), Shelley Marinus (SOBC – Comox Valley), and Simone Myers (SOBC – Port Alberni) ○

Special Olympics Team Canada 2015 B.C. results

10-Pin Bowling

Athletes

Annabelle Davis Vancouver 10-pin bowling

- Gold - Bowling Doubles
- Gold - Bowling Singles
- Gold - Bowling Team (with Huff)

Jake Huff Penticton 10-pin bowling

- Gold - Bowling Team (with Davis)
- Silver - Bowling Singles
- 4th - Bowling Doubles

Austin Johnston Abbotsford 10-pin bowling

- Gold - Bowling Singles
- Silver - Bowling Team (with Renner and Summer)
- Silver - Bowling Doubles

Linda Renner Prince George 10-pin bowling

- Silver - Bowling Team (with Johnston and Summer)
- 5th - Bowling Doubles
- 6th - Bowling Singles

Kara Summer Cowichan Valley 10-pin bowling

- Silver - Bowling Team (with Johnston and Renner)
- Silver - Bowling Singles
- 5th - Bowling Doubles

Annabelle Davis of SOBC – Vancouver became a triple gold medallist at these World Games as she won gold in singles bowling as well as gold in team and doubles play. Every Team Canada bowler won a medal at these Games!

"It was amazing competition. Everybody was so friendly, and very skilled. I competed as best I could in my division," Davis told Breakfast Television Vancouver host Riaz Meghji in an on-air appearance after Team Canada returned home.

Athletics

Athletes

Robert Burns Comox Valley Athletics

- Gold - Standing Long Jump
- Silver - 50m Run

Jeneka Grief Kelowna Athletics

- Silver - 4x100 Relay (with Manzardo)
- Bronze - Shotput Women 3 kg
- 4th - 400m Run

Mandy Manzardo Coquitlam Athletics

- Silver - 4x100 Relay (with Grief)
- Bronze - 10,000m Run
- Bronze - 5,000m Run

Mike Palitti Abbotsford Athletics

- Gold - 4x400 men's relay
- 4th - 400m run
- 5th - 200m run



Jeneka Grief of SOBC – Kelowna charges toward the finish line at USC's Katherine B. Loker Stadium.



SOBC's Team Canada bowlers Austin Johnston, Kara Summer, Linda Renner, Annabelle Davis, and Jake Huff show off their World Games hardware.

Coaches

Aleila Miller, Head Coach

Deborah Carter

Tom Norton

Smithers

Surrey

Abbotsford

Jeff Leung

Alexander Pang

Alastair Singh

Matthew Williams

Sangeon Yoo

Vancouver

Vancouver

Langley

Langley

North Shore

Coaches

Jayne Baggott

Zak Klein

Jimmy Peterson

North Shore

North Shore

North Shore

SOBC – Coquitlam athlete Mandy Manzardo captured Team Canada's first medal of the Games by winning bronze in the 10,000-metre run at USC's Loker Stadium. She and teammate Maxime Duguay of Quebec made their mark as the first Special Olympics Canada athletes to compete in the 10,000-metre event at World Games.

Team Canada athletics built a moving relationship with Team Haiti during the World Games. Coach Deborah Carter of SOBC – Surrey, who adopted her daughter Alyssah from Haiti nearly 20 years ago, organized a Team Canada donation drive of clothing and goods that the athletes gave to Team Haiti.

"We have left a legacy for Team Canada, one we can all be proud of," Carter said.

Basketball: 4th Place

Athletes

Nicholas Bobek

Shane Carr

Casey Cochran

Michelle Forberg

Jacky Law

Vancouver

Vancouver

Vancouver

Campbell River

Vancouver



SOBC – Langley athlete Alastair Singh goes up for a big block against Belgium in the bronze-medal game.

Bocce: Bronze in team event

Athletes

Margaret Burnell Penticton
• Bronze - Bocce Doubles (with Kevin Ellis)

Chad Conlon Penticton
• Gold - Bocce Singles
• 6th - Bocce Doubles (with Lynden Hicks)

Kevin Ellis Penticton
• Bronze - Bocce Doubles (with Burnell)
• 5th - Bocce Singles

Lynden Hicks Penticton
• Gold - Bocce Singles
• 6th - Bocce Doubles (with Chad Conlon)

Ben Willms Kelowna
• Gold - Bocce Singles

Coach

Dona Cade Penticton

SOBC – Penticton athletes Margaret Burnell, Chad Conlon, Kevin Ellis, and Lynden Hicks teamed up with SOBC – Kelowna athlete Ben Willms and coach Dona Cade of SOBC – Penticton to be the first-ever Special Olympics Team Canada bocce team.

After winning bronze in team play made the athletes Canada’s first-ever World Games bocce medallists, the team members were thrilled. “I was so happy to win,” said Burnell, the eldest member of Team Canada at age 69. She felt she was “doing something for Canada.”

“I was just so happy to be up there,” Willms said. “Winning a bronze medal among 96 teams, that’s amazing. And I was thinking how proud I am of all of us.”



Team Canada bocce players Chad Conlon, Lynden Hicks, Margaret Burnell, Ben Willms, and Kevin Ellis beam after the four-player team won bronze.



The Team Canada soccer team from B.C.

Golf

Athlete

Kyle Grummett Kelowna
• Bronze - Golf Level 5

Coach

Ben Postmus Trail

The first golfers ever to represent Special Olympics Canada at a World Games had a strong showing on the Harding Course, with the five golfers earning four medals and one fourth-place finish in Levels 4 and 5 play. Kelowna’s Kyle Grummett was the team’s only Level 5 golfer playing 18 holes, and he came back on the final day to win a bronze medal in a tie.

All of the Team Canada golfers had their best round of the tournament on the final day, showing they can come through under pressure.



Kelowna’s Kyle Grummett goes for the green at the Harding Course.

Soccer: 4th Place

Athletes

Adam Advocaat Coquitlam
Liam Barry Mission
Tony Carter Mission
Jeremy Cheverie Victoria
Chris Hamilton Abbotsford
Tom Hanna Mission
Mitchell Howell Mission
Justin King Mission
Amanda Peebles Mission
Bryce Schaufelberger Mission

Coaches

Vincent Astoria Abbotsford
Stuart Coates Mission
John Scholtes Mission

The Team Canada soccer squad with players from Mission, Abbotsford, Coquitlam, and Victoria placed fourth after falling 2-1 in their hard-fought bronze-medal game. Making it all the way to the World Games was a joy, Head Coach John Scholtes said, and the players gave their all in every game and delivered performances to be proud of.

“They’ve had a blast, and they did the best they could,” Scholtes said. “I’m proud of the guys. Maybe next time we’ll do it again. ... But just to be here is fantastic.”

Powerlifting

Athlete

Joanne Bunnin Chilliwack
• Gold - Female Dead Lift
• Gold - Female Bench Press
• Gold - Female Combination B & DL

Coach

Ken Saunders Kelowna

SOBC – Chilliwack athlete Joanne Bunnin set a personal best in dead lift at 120 kilograms, rising above her intent weight of 117.5 kilograms that her coach bumped up to a personal best. She equalled her personal best in bench at 52.5 kilograms.

“Now I can go home with a gold and show everyone what I did!” a delighted Bunnin said after concluding her events.



Team Canada softball players Ryan Courtemanche, Brad Hogan, Chris Roberge, Andrew McIntyre, Richard Gillis, and Chris Harrington with coach Ian Olive (centre back) getting set for the Opening Ceremony.

Softball: Bronze

Athletes

Karl Anderson	Coquitlam
James Blacke	Kelowna
Ryan Courtemanche	Kelowna
Richard Gillis	Kelowna
Chris Harrington	Kelowna
Brad Hogan	Comox Valley
Jim Laitar	Surrey
Jonathan MacDonald	Kelowna
Jake MacFarlane	Kelowna
Andrew McIntyre	Kelowna
Dale Ramsden	Kelowna
Chris Roberge	Comox Valley
David Scott	Kelowna
Danny Sperling	Kelowna
Carl Willing	Surrey

Coach

Lorena Mead	Kelowna
Ian Olive	Kelowna
Dennis Richardson	Kelowna

The core of the team is comprised of members of the SOBC – Kelowna Grizzlies softball team, and many of these team members have previous experience with pivotal World Games moments.

Head Coach Lorena Mead and athletes James Blacke, David Scott, and Ryan Courtemanche have been with the team for more than 25 years and won gold at the World Games in North Carolina as well as silver in Athens 2011. Coaches Ian Olive and Dennis Richardson and several other players have been with the team for many years too, and were part of the silver-medal-winning squad in 2011.

"I'm so proud of you guys right now," Jake MacFarlane, one of the team's youngest players, shouted to his teammates while leaving the field after winning their bronze-medal game. "We started out down and we came back and won!"

Swimming

Athletes

Magnus Batara	Richmond	Aquatics
• Gold - 200m Breaststroke		
• Gold - 100m Butterfly		
• Gold - 100m Breaststroke		
• Gold - 4x100m Medley Relay		
Kelsey Wyse	Kelowna	Aquatics
• Gold - 4x50m Medley Relay		
• Silver - 800m Freestyle		
• Silver - 400m Freestyle		
• 4th - 200m Individual Medley		



Swimmers Avery Newton (left) and Amanda Schleppe (centre) of SOBC – Pentiction celebrate at the close of their relay team's medal-winning swim.



Ryan Courtemanche of SOBC – Kelowna relishes the moment with Team Canada on the cusp of capturing World Games bronze.

Carrie Dignan	Coquitlam	Aquatics
• Silver - 25m Freestyle		
• 6th - 25m Backstroke		

Joshua Low	Langley	Aquatics
• Gold - 25m Backstroke		
• 4th - 4x25m Freestyle Relay		
• 5th - 25m Freestyle		

Avery Newton	Pentiction	Aquatics
• Gold - 100m Freestyle		
• Gold - 200m Freestyle		
• Silver - 100m Butterfly		
• Silver - 4x50 Freestyle Relay (with Schleppe)		

Amanda Schleppe	Pentiction	Aquatics
• Gold - 50m Backstroke		
• Silver - 4x50 Freestyle Relay (with Newton)		
• Bronze - 50m Breaststroke		

Coach

Marie Telder	Sunshine Coast	Aquatics
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SOBC – Richmond athlete Magnus Batara was the only Canadian swimmer to win four gold medals, reaching the top of the podium in the 100-metre butterfly, 100-metre breaststroke, 200-metre breaststroke, and 4x100 men's medley relay. He recorded the fastest 100m butterfly time at the 2015 World Games, winning his heat in a time of 1:14.00.

SOBC – Langley swimmer Joshua Low pulled out all the stops to win Team Canada's first gold medal of the Games, winning his division in the 25-metre backstroke on the first day of competition.

"I'm the first person to win gold for Team Canada!" said Low, who never expected to win a gold at Games.

SOBC – Kelowna swimmer Kelsey Wyse raced with the Team Canada 4x50m medley relay team that set a new World Games best-on-record mark with their time of 2:48.61.

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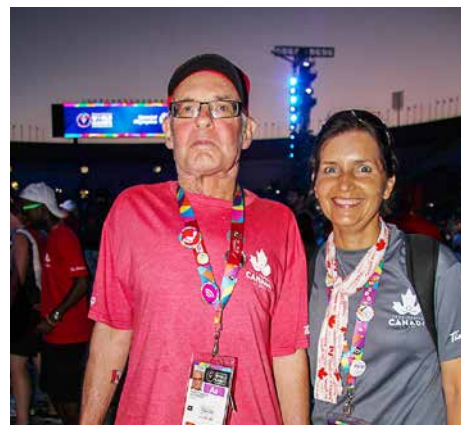
World Games Delegation Liaison

SOBC Region 6 Coordinator Jean Tetarenko took the time to apply to become a World Games volunteer, and happily she was assigned to be one of the Delegation Liaisons for Team Canada. With her inspiring dedication, intelligence, positive attitude, and calm under pressure, Tetarenko was a huge asset to Team Canada and a valued part of the team.

More Team Canada coverage

teamcanada.specialolympics.ca

www.specialolympics.bc.ca/news/Team%20Canada%202015



Team Canada track and field athlete Robert Burns of SOBC – Comox Valley and SOBC Region 6 Coordinator Jean Tetarenko enjoy the World Games Closing Ceremony.

Champions spreading the word to end the word

The **Spread the Word to End the Word** campaign is an inspiring movement for respect and dignity, calling on everyone to end derogatory use of the R-word, “retard” or “retard(ed).” Language affects attitudes and attitudes affect actions, so this is a starting point toward more accepting attitudes and communities for all people.

March 4, 2015, was the seventh annual Spread the Word to End the Word® Day, with an outpouring of calls to end the hurtful use of the R-word. While people all over the world shared their pledges and messages of support, many SOBC members and supporters championed the cause in their own social media channels and communities.

“For many years, people with intellectual disabilities have been verbally attacked with various medical terms turned euphemisms. ... To me, the Spread the Word To End the Word campaign shows everyone that this behavior needs to stop, and that people with intellectual disabilities should be given the respect they deserve as any other human being,” SOBC – Coquitlam athlete Adam Advocaat wrote in a letter.

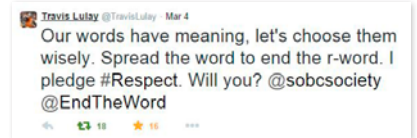
In addition to the support circulated in social media, SOBC had the amazing opportunity to advocate respect and an end to

the derogatory use of the R-word at the sold-out Vancouver Whitecaps FC season opener at BC Place on March 7.

SOBC was fortunate to be the ‘Caps community match partner for that exciting game. In the ‘Caps Kickoff, SOBC athletes and coaches connected with fans and encouraged them to pledge to end the R-word. Vancouver Whitecaps FC also provided the opportunity for the Special Olympics Team Canada and SOBC – Abbotsford soccer teams to show their skills in a halftime game in front of the sold-out crowd of thousands.

On March 26, University of British Columbia students advocated respect and inclusion at their popular Storm the Wall intramural race, hosting a Spread the Word to End the Word booth in the event’s festival area while SOBC athletes teamed up with UBC Thunderbirds varsity athletes to take part in the race.

Turn to page 14 to read about the SOBC



Youth Activation Council members who led campaigns in their communities to stop use of the R-word.

Read about *motionball*'s YELLOWCARD campaign to end the R-word on page 36.

Check out r-word.org and pledge today to use respectful, people-first language. ○



Caps fans taking the R-word pledge at a Whitecaps FC game.

Goldcorp Invitational helps change lives with Special Olympics

The **2015 Goldcorp Invitational Golf Tournament** was a great success again this year, attracting 250 of Vancouver's corporate and business elite to hit the links on June 16, 2015, in support of Special Olympics BC.

Held at Northview Golf & Country Club, this fully stocked golf experience includes two simultaneous tournaments followed by an evening of inspiration where participants enjoy a full dinner, entertainment, live and silent auctions, and powerful messages from SOBC athletes and supporters.

Ian Telfer, Chairman of the Board and Director of Goldcorp, said the value of supporting Special Olympics is clear.

"It's a great cause. You all know the stories; you all have friends or relatives in some of these programs. Goldcorp is so thrilled to be associated with Special Olympics. It's the main charity we support through the year, and we hope to do it for many, many years to come," Telfer told the tournament attendees.

Nat Mountain, accompanied by her son Ethan, spoke at the 2015 Goldcorp Invitational about their family's experience with Special Olympics.

"Every second since joining Special Olympics is a time where our son has made a connection, has experienced success wholeheartedly, has been justified in his determination, and cheered on by people like yourselves," Nat Mountain said.

Goldcorp has been the tournament's title sponsor for the past nine years in order to support Special Olympics BC, and is a significant ongoing partner of SOBC dedicated to bringing opportunities into the lives of children, youth, and adults with intellectual disabilities. Goldcorp has changed lives through two gifts of \$1 million to SOBC, the first in 2010-2014 and the second for 2014-2018.

Sincere thanks to Goldcorp and the generous tournament sponsors for their continued support of SOBC. ○

Right: *The Dueck Auto Group team displays their trophy with athlete Michaela Robinson.*



Below: *SOBC – Abbotsford athlete Scott Gaudet manned the 2015 Goldcorp Invitational Special Putt hole.*



SOBC Past Chair Pam Keith, SOBC athlete Michaela Robinson, and Goldcorp President & CEO Chuck Jeannes at the Goldcorp Invitational.



SOBC athlete Ethan Mountain's inspiring story was shared during the evening's presentations.

Thank you to the supporters of the 2015 Goldcorp Invitational

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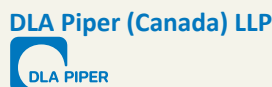
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SOBC inducts six new members into

The Special Olympics BC **Hall of Fame** recognizes significant, long-lasting contributions that individuals and groups have made to our movement. Induction into the Hall of Fame celebrates the most outstanding achievements and contributions, and is one of the highest honours bestowed within the Special Olympics BC organization.

This year, Special Olympics BC is celebrating six new members of the Hall of Fame. These deserving individuals and organizations were inducted in a ceremony at the SOBC Leadership Summit on October 3.

Athlete Inductee: Kelowna Grizzlies softball team

The **Kelowna Grizzlies** are the only B.C. team to ever compete and win medals in three Special Olympics World Games. They have been playing together for nearly 25 years, and while some members have stepped away, the core group has remained the same. In 1999, they became the first Special Olympics BC softball team to make it to World Games. They went on to win a gold medal! This team continued to work hard, and in 2010, they won the right to represent Canada at the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Greece. They tied for gold, but were awarded silver based on runs for and against.

The Kelowna Grizzlies set a B.C. record by representing Canada for the third time at a World Games when they competed in the 2015

Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles, capturing the bronze medal in the process.

Local Builder Inductee: Jo Osborne

Since 1986, **Jo Osborne** has made significant contributions to Special Olympics BC. She started volunteering with SOBC – Victoria and over the years has held many positions, including Local Coordinator. But her efforts and influence did not stop with the Victoria

Local; Osborne held the position of Regional Coordinator for Region 6 for 15 years, served as the Chair of the SOBC Leadership Council, and was a member of the SOBC Board of Directors.

Osborne also acted as Chef de Mission for Region 6 to at least six Provincial Games and was mission staff on two provincial teams to National Games. Osborne has been a friend to all, knew every athlete's name, and attended as many events, training sessions, and meetings as she could in order to bring the Region, and later the province, together.

When the volunteers in her Region were asked why she would be a good candidate for the SOBC Hall of Fame, they said that Osborne's communication skills helped them build the Region. They felt she worked as diligently at the provincial level as she did at the regional level to represent the views of volunteers.

"It has been a great pleasure to see all the improvement and all the work everyone does," Osborne said at the induction ceremony.



Jo Osborne receiving her Hall of Fame induction plaque from Ted Hirst, Chair of the SOBC Board of Directors

Provincial Builder Inductees: Doug Holtby and Blair Shier

Doug Holtby volunteered for 15 years as a member of the Special Olympics BC Board of Directors, serving from 1996 to 2011. During his time on the Board, Special Olympics BC refocused its efforts on growth, quality and sustainability, and Holtby's guidance during this entire process was invaluable. Holtby introduced Special Olympics BC to many of our major sponsors and helped build those relationships.



The Kelowna Grizzlies receiving their Hall of Fame induction plaque.



Doug Holtby receiving his Hall of Fame induction plaque from Ted Hirst

Hall of Fame

Blair Shier served on the Special Olympics BC Board of Directors from 1996 to 2000. During his time on the Board, the Special Olympics organization underwent a very involved rebranding and Shier's guidance during this entire process was invaluable. He also provided critical assistance in building our base of contacts and helped Special Olympics BC develop new sources of revenue.

Since 1998, both Holtby and Shier have provided leadership and direction for the Sports Celebrities Festival, which has become a cornerstone for providing funds and exposure for Special Olympics while fostering awareness and inclusion for SOBC athletes. The SCF has now raised \$4 million for its charities, including \$2 million for Special Olympics BC alone.

Shier and Holtby have both made a significant impact on Special Olympics BC, benefitting the organization not only over the past 20 years, but long into the future.

"It's the Special Olympics athletes and volunteers who are the heroes, so Blair and I thank you," Holtby said at the induction ceremony.



Blair Shier receiving the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal from SOBC President & CEO Dan Howe and Vice President, Fund Development & Communications, Christina Hadley

Sponsor Inductees: Goldcorp and Staples

Goldcorp began their support as a major sponsor of the Final Fore Golf Tournament in 2005. To acknowledge their significant support, in 2010 the tournament was renamed the Goldcorp Invitational Golf Tournament. Close to \$1.8 million has been raised through these events for Special Olympics BC.

In 2010, Goldcorp made a \$1 million commitment to Special Olympics BC over four years to assist with the development of youth programming. This gift from Goldcorp allowed SOBC to more than double the number of youth programs offered around the province. Now many more children with intellectual disabilities as young as two years old are

learning vital social and motor skills and becoming active in sport.

In 2015, Goldcorp renewed their support, and pledged an additional \$1 million over four years to continue their support of Special Olympics BC, enable further growth of youth programs, and help with the establishment of new program offerings that will increase opportunities for SOBC athletes to train, compete, and improve their health. Goldcorp is passionate about making a difference for Special Olympics athletes.

"We're very proud of this relationship, and we hope it will be a very long-lasting relationship," said Goldcorp President and CEO Chuck Jeannes, the Vice Chair of the SOBC Board of Directors.



Staples became a national sponsor in 2000 and has raised over \$766,000 for Special Olympics BC in this 15-year partnership. Additionally, their efforts have built considerable awareness for Special Olympics.

Over and above the annual Give a Toonie Share a Dream campaign, Staples has supported the Sports Celebrities Festival as a national partner and provided gift cards for office purchases to help offset the budget. They also host an annual staff softball tournament where Special Olympics BC athletes are invited to participate on every team.

Staples has made a significant impact on Special Olympics BC over their 15-year involvement.

"We'd like to thank you very much for the opportunity to work with you," Richard Foster, Staples Regional Vice President Sales and Operations Western Canada, said at the induction ceremony. Staples has 98 stores in western Canada, and there's nothing they get more excited about than raising funds and awareness for Special Olympics athletes, he added.

"Special Olympics BC is a remarkable organization because of the truly remarkable people involved. We have long been inspired by and grateful to this year's Hall of Fame inductees, and we are so glad to celebrate these deserving individuals and organizations," SOBC President & CEO Dan Howe said. ○



Thank you

Special Olympics BC thanks the following individuals, foundations, and corporations for their generous donations throughout the year to assist us in supporting SOBC athletes.

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- Grace Battiston
- Michael Campbell
- Milton Carrasco
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Home Hardware helps enrich lives of Special Olympics athletes

Special Olympics BC is grateful for the generous support of **Home Hardware**, whose dedication to Special Olympics helps enrich the lives of more than 4,400 athletes across the province and thousands more across the country. In 2015, Home Hardware celebrated 15 years as a National Partner of Special Olympics Canada. Their generous funding is supplemented by marketing support such as mentions in TV commercials.

Home Hardware is the National Sponsor of both the Goldcorp Invitational Golf Tournament supporting SOBC, and the Sports Celebrities Festival presented by Silver Wheaton benefitting SOBC and the Canucks for Kids Fund, two of SOBC's most successful and prestigious annual fundraising events.

SOBC is extremely grateful for the year-round support of Home Hardware. ○



Youth leaders strengthen support for Special Olympics

In 2015, youth leaders from B.C. sought to raise awareness about Special Olympics in their home communities and helped build the national and global movement of youth support for Special Olympics.

Youth Activation Council members are young people without intellectual disabilities who engage with their schools and communities to raise awareness about Special Olympics and advocate for and with people with intellectual disabilities.

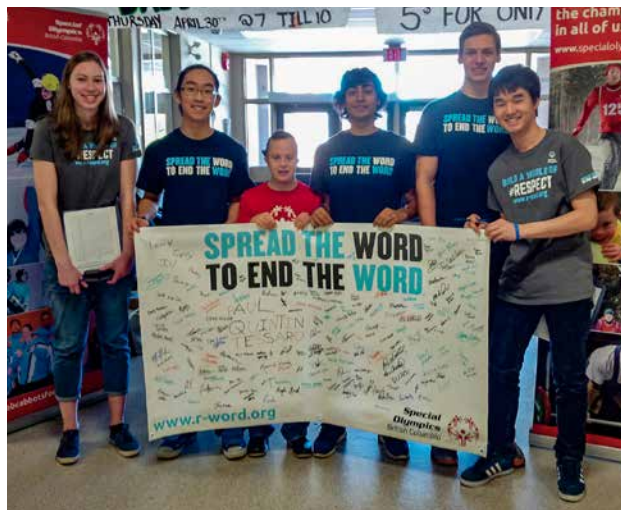
Labour Day weekend saw five youth leaders from B.C. join 25 colleagues from across the country in Calgary for the first-ever national **Youth Activation Conference**, hosted by Special Olympics Canada.

The national conference was organized by SOC's new Youth Activation Council, with six young volunteers from across the country including Danielle Kiselbach from Coquitlam.

SOBC YAC members Kiselbach, Roshan Gosal from Abbotsford, Sonja Kreuzkamp from Surrey, Sarah MacDonald from Victoria, and Ava Ready from Vernon participated in sessions about intellectual disabilities, leveraging social media, and the structure of Special Olympics.

"Meeting individuals from all over Canada with the same goals and appreciation for Special Olympics made me feel part of a strong and significant movement, one in which everyone's participation is valued and ideas are supported.," said Gosal, a Grade 12 student at Yale Secondary School in Abbotsford and an SOBC – Abbotsford coach.

Gosal organized a highly successful **Spread the Word to End the Word** campaign in Abbotsford high schools in April 2015. Nearly 2,000 people took the pledge to end use of the R-word, joining the global movement.



Campaign booths were staffed by local SOBC athletes and volunteers who inspired everyone with their passion and stories.

In January, SOBC – Prince George and YAC member Joel Seifert helped run a Spread the Word booth at a University of Northern British Columbia Timberwolves basketball game, raising awareness about ending the R-word while SOBC – Prince George basketball players showed their great abilities and sportsmanship in hitting the court for a halftime game. This year also saw Vernon's Ready teaming up with SOBC – Vernon athletes and volunteers to host Special Olympics awareness booths in local schools.

When 120 youth leaders from 30 countries came together in Los Angeles for the **Special Olympics GenUin Social Impact Summit** at the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games, one of the inspiring young participants was Fort St. John's Ashley Roblin.

Roblin, a member of the SOBC Youth



Above: SOBC Youth Activation Council member Sonja Kreuzkamp and Mark Tewksbury at the Youth Activation Conference.

Left: Volunteers and athletes spreading the word to end the R-word in Abbotsford.

Activation Council and SOBC – Fort St. John volunteer, was selected to participate after submitting a proposal to the global conference held in July.

The summit brought together youth leaders who are ready to activate, to help equip them to generate change around the pressing issues facing people with intellectual disabilities.

"It was amazing, I learned so much," Roblin said after returning home from the whirlwind experience. "You feel so inspired because everyone has these great ideas, and a little overwhelmed because it's a lot of great information and you really want to make a difference with that information. ... It was an amazing experience."

We are grateful to the inspiring YAC members who give their time and energy to create change and make a difference for people with intellectual disabilities. ○

Great experiences for SOBC groups with Jim Pattison Hyundai, Lulay and BC Lions

Big thanks to **Jeff Rae** and **Jim Pattison Hyundai** as well as **Travis Lulay** and the **BC Lions** for providing amazing Lions game experiences again for our athletes and coaches this season!

Rae and Jim Pattison Hyundai generously donated six tickets to every Lions home game for SOBC athletes and volunteers, and the groups have had a terrific time cheering on Lulay and the Lions in person. ○



Travis Lulay greeting a QB Crew group of SOBC – Vancouver athletes and volunteers pregame.

Young athletes get in the game with growing SOBC youth programs

Special Olympics is a leader in helping kids with intellectual disabilities learn vital motor and sport skills. Since 2011, the number of Special Olympics BC youth programs around the province has more than doubled, growing from 30 to 79.

In 2015, almost 900 children with intellectual disabilities participated in the 23 **Active Start**, 30 **FUNDamentals**, and 25 **Sport Start** programs offered by SOBC Locals. Program participants ages two to 18 have the opportunity to learn vital motor, sport, and social skills and get active in a fun, friendly environment.

Many of these children come to feel left behind and isolated in traditional sport and activity programs. Special Olympics is the place where they belong and thrive—and have so much fun.

The power of Special Olympics youth programs was on display in abundance at SOBC's **2015 Youth Sports Day**, hosted at the amazing EA Sports complex in Burnaby with great support from EA staff volunteers and SOBC volunteers.

With 68 awesome young athletes taking part with their families, the 2015 Youth Sports Day was SOBC's biggest yet. The fun day gave children with intellectual disabilities who are new to Special Olympics the chance to experience the engaging activities that are part of SOBC's year-round youth programming. The event also welcomed current youth program participants to join the fun and celebrate the end of another season.

Katie Oliver, a young **FUNDamentals** athlete with Down syndrome, spent the day "meeting new friends, trying new activities, and realizing



Participants having fun and developing skills at the 2015 Youth Sports Day.

her potential," wrote family members Katie, Kieran, Lisa, and Sean Oliver.

FUNDamentals helps youth ages seven to 11 transition to basic sport skills in a fun and supportive environment.

"It is so valuable to us, as her parents, to have the opportunity to meet other parents, and to see the breadth of activities available to our daughter. ... We can't underestimate the value of Youth Sports Day, too, for the siblings of the Special Olympics athletes. Each of them had the opportunity to see other youth with disabilities participating at their own levels, and had the chance to interact with each other, sharing experiences and making connections," the Oliver family wrote.

For SOBC – Delta parent Sheryl Gray and her son Nick, Youth Sports Day was a followup to a fun first **Active Start** season. **Active Start** teaches kids ages two to six vital motor and social skills.

"The **Active Start** program provided both of us with a comfortable environment: no big deal if Nick wanted to sit out part of an activity or do his own thing, and I got to

Youth programs supported by

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meet some other parents of kids with special needs. We're looking forward to the fall session," Gray wrote in an email. "I just need to show Nick his yellow [Active Start athlete] T-shirt and he gets excited for 'ball.' He even took his shirt for show-and-tell to preschool, and apparently, pulled the shirt right on and tossed a balloon around."

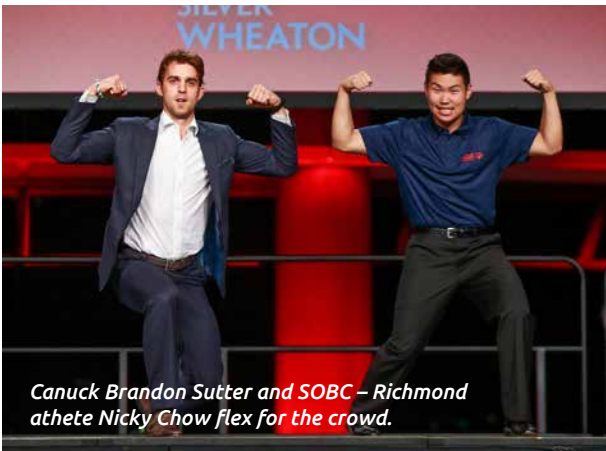
SOBC and Locals are pursuing growth opportunities to help more children with intellectual disabilities get involved in these fun and valuable programs. SOBC – Surrey offers **Sport Start**, and in January 2015 the Surrey FC All-Stars launched a Surrey FC Adapted Soccer program supported by Special Olympics BC to offer new opportunities to help youth with intellectual disabilities learn sport and life skills.

In January, SOBC teamed up with School District #68 in Nanaimo to host try-it days for their students with intellectual disabilities. Young athletes had the opportunity to test the waters in fun, friendly sessions of basketball, bocce, Club Fit, floor hockey, golf, rhythmic gymnastics, soccer, softball, and track and field.

Our thanks to Goldcorp, the Government of British Columbia, and the Government of Canada for their significant support of youth programs and athlete development throughout B.C. ○



Young athletes enjoy Active Start and FUNDamentals in Richmond.



Canuck Brandon Sutter and SOBC – Richmond athlete Nicky Chow flex for the crowd.



Canuck Ryan Miller and SOBC – Vancouver athlete Shane Carr shoot for the stars.



Canuck Bo Horvat and SOBC – North Shore athlete Tamika Shaw are quick on the draw.



SPORTS CELEBRITIES FESTIVAL

Sports Celebrities Festival supports 'ceiling-breaking' power of Special Olympics

The "ceiling-breaking" power of sport and Special Olympics was on full display at the **2015 Sports Celebrities Festival presented by Silver Wheaton**.

Held on October 20 at the Vancouver Convention Centre, the 17th annual gala benefitting the Canucks for Kids Fund and Special Olympics BC brought together more than 650 supporters along with SOBC athletes, the entire Vancouver Canucks roster, and other

top B.C. sports celebrities for an inspiring evening that raised more than \$350,000.

Vancouver Canucks forward Chris Higgins, whose sister Jeanne is a longtime Special Olympics athlete in New York, made the audience laugh with his gentle teasing of his teammates and tugged heartstrings with his vivid description of the power of Special Olympics.

"Special Olympics is a ceiling-breaking

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Hosts James Cybulski and Caroline Cameron of Rogers Sportsnet get their game faces on.



Jeff Vinnick-Vancouver Canucks

SOBC – Chilliwack athlete Joanne Bunnin, Vancouver Canucks alternate captain Daniel Sedin, and guests enjoying the evening entertainment.



Canuck Chris Higgins and SOBC – Kamloops athlete Dallas Gilchrist ready to star as the event speakers.



Canuck Jake Virtanen and SOBC – Abbotsford athlete Chris Hamilton give the SCF two thumbs up.



Canuck Adam Cracknell marvels at the muscles of SOBC – Abbotsford athlete Paige Norton.

organization, and I've seen it firsthand. To see the impossible made possible makes you look at challenges in a whole different way," he said.

Higgins introduced sharp-dressed Special Olympics athlete speaker Dallas Gilchrist of SOBC – Kamloops, a dedicated swimmer who was a highlight of the evening for many attendees.

"When I'm racing, I feel strong and powerful. I want to make people proud and not give up," Gilchrist said.

Watch Gilchrist and Higgins speak at the 2015 SCF: <https://vimeo.com/143198065>

Gilchrist closed with his own great advice from the heart.

"I have learned lots from Special Olympics. But most of all, I have learned you need to have heart in everything you try. Don't give up! Be yourself—be who you are. But most of all—have fun!"

Over the last 17 years, the Sports Celebrities Festival presented by Silver Wheaton has had a significant impact for its charitable causes. The event has raised \$4 million to support the life-changing work of the Canucks for Kids Fund and Special Olympics BC. The funds help empower athletes with intellectual disabilities to gain confidence, acceptance, and pride through sport, and also provide vital opportunities, resources and much-needed care to children and families throughout B.C.

This year's inspiring and interactive gala saw the entire Vancouver Canucks roster come out in style along with alumni, coaches, and management. They were joined by members of the BC Lions and Vancouver Whitecaps FC icons Bob Lenarduzzi and Carl Valentine generously giving their time to the event, and BC Lions alumni Tommy Europe and Angus Reid brought added star power.

In addition, the roster of SOBC athletes who took part in the SCF included several members of Team Canada who competed with pride in the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles, as well as members of Team BC gearing up for the 2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in Corner Brook, Newfoundland.

The event also featured Sportsnet Central hosts Caroline Cameron and James Cybulski as the engaging MCs, Brent Butt bringing the laughs with his standup set, and up-and-coming new group V who delivered a beautiful vocal and piano performance. Throughout the night, guests also bid on auctions and enjoyed games and activities while mingling with the celebrities, and TSN Radio conducted live broadcasting from the event.

We thank all of the Sports Celebrities Festival sponsors, attendees, and supporters who give so generously each year. ○



Palladio Jewellers President Jason Bosa (right) and Burnaby RCMP Auxiliary Constable Erin McElroy (left) present the Rolex to the lucky winner of the raffle sponsored by Palladio.



BC Lions Travis Lulay and Emmanuel Arceneaux ready to roar.

Thank you to the supporters of the 2015 Sports Celebrities Festival

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And all of the celebrities who generously took time to attend the event

Government of Canada funds vital training and competition for SOBC athletes

The **Government of Canada** has been a crucial supporter of Special Olympics Canada and Special Olympics

BC, providing funds to develop new and existing sport programs and competitive opportunities. Without this significant support, we could not offer the full range of opportunities that make such a difference in the lives of Special Olympics athletes and their families.

With the support of the Government of Canada, SOBC's Performance Program is helping elevate performance by enhancing the skills of coaches and through them, all athletes of SOBC.

"I learned many useful strategies, how other coaches can engage just a couple of athletes when there is not enough for a game, and I learned a few new warm-up exercises that I was very impressed with and could see the benefit of with our athletes in many different sports," said Special Olympics bocce coach Debbie Roblin after a 2015 Performance camp. "I left there feeling like I know I can coach this sport with no second thoughts. I am ready."

The federal government supported the 2015 SOBC Winter Games in Kamloops, Canada's Tournament Capital. More than 700 athletes, volunteer coaches, and mission staff came together from across the province and the Yukon to compete with pride and put the

Canada

athletes' abundant abilities on display.

The Government of Canada also funded all training and travel expenses for the 115

athletes, 32 coaches, and 11 mission staff on Special Olympics Team Canada 2015 that included 57 athletes, and 18 coaches and mission staff from B.C. This support helped give athletes the life-changing experience of representing Canada at the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles.

The federal government's support of the 2015 SOBC Leadership Summit allowed 100 SOBC volunteers, athlete and youth leaders, and staff from across the province to come together in October for a weekend of inspiring expert speakers and networking opportunities. Participants were able to take new tools and ideas back to their communities.

Through federal government funding, SOBC has also been able to hire new program staff to support the great work being done by volunteers throughout the province. We have also been able to fund new training opportunities for coaches and develop new guides and resources.

SOBC is extremely grateful for the support of the Government of Canada. If you have a moment, thank your local Member of Parliament for this support as it truly makes a difference. ○

2015 anniversary celebrations for SOBC Locals

Special Olympics BC is so fortunate to have incredible athletes and volunteers in 57 communities around the province. While we continue to grow, and have some very exciting new developments coming up on the horizon, we are continually grateful for the long-standing volunteer dedication that makes programs possible all over B.C.

As SOBC celebrated its 35th anniversary in 2015, we recognized the Locals who also marked anniversary seasons as a testament to their dedication to helping athletes and being part of this incredible movement. We would like to share these anniversary celebrations so everyone can join in recognizing the achievements of these Locals!

In 2015, the following Locals marked anniversary years:

Happy 30th anniversary – established in 1985

- SOBC – Burnaby
- SOBC – Creston
- SOBC – Kelowna

Happy 25th anniversary – established in 1990

- SOBC – Squamish

Happy 5th anniversary – established in 2010

- SOBC – Invermere

Thank you to all the athletes and volunteers who make their Locals so remarkable, and who make Special Olympics BC such an inspiring, welcoming, empowering, and fun place to be! ○

Progress Club's fun summer fundraisers support SOBC

The Canadian Progress Club of Greater Vancouver

is a long-standing supporter of Special Olympics BC, and we're so grateful for their annual summer fundraisers. The **Plywood Cup** set sail on the waters of Vancouver's False Creek on June 6, with teams raising funds and competing to build and race ships with little more than plywood and nails.

The **20th Annual Slo-Pitch Tournament** held in North Vancouver in July was a big hit that once again emphasized participation, sportsmanship, and fun. The tournament raised \$10,000 thanks



to the teams who took part. Player Glen Hadley received an award for his longtime support, as he has participated in the tournament every year since it began.

Our thanks to the Progress Club and all the generous Plywood Cup and softball teams and donors! Thanks again to the Progress Club for providing additional financial and volunteer support throughout the year. ○

SOBC – Vancouver athletes Allan Hunter and Annabelle Davis volunteering at the Plywood Cup.



SOBC skaters shine at 2015 Canada Winter Games

At the **2015 Canada Winter Games** in Prince George, Special Olympics BC figure skaters turned heads with both their on-ice abilities and off-ice sportsmanship.

Stephanie Divin of SOBC – Surrey, Matthew Lai of SOBC – Richmond, Eric Pahima of SOBC – Vancouver, and Emily Walzak of SOBC – Victoria were outstanding representatives of Special Olympics at the Canada Games February 22 to March 1, along with their dedicated coaches Jessica Chapelski of SOBC – Vancouver and Martin Newham of SOBC – Victoria.

“It was amazing. I felt like a real athlete,”

Walzak said. “The whole atmosphere was incredible. Everyone was in their team gear and you really saw the relationships between the athletes. It was really nice to see everyone come together and cheer for each other. It was something I’ll never forget.”

In addition to their grace and generosity of spirit off ice, the SOBC athletes had great success in their performances on ice, where they matched up well competing against talented Special Olympics skaters from across the country.

In the Special Olympics Men’s Level 2 division, Lai captured gold and Pahima skated



Kevin Bogetti-Smith

Eric Pahima in action at the 2015 Canada Winter Games.

to a silver medal, finishing 1-2 next to skillful Yukon skater Michael Sumner. In the packed Special Olympics Ladies Level 2 category, Divin won bronze and Walzak earned a fifth-place finish, with nine strong skaters in the division.

Participating in BC and Canada Games gives Special Olympics athletes the chance to show their abundant abilities alongside generic-sport athletes and be part of regional and provincial teams with them. Walzak said she feels energized by the 2015 Canada Games experience.

The athletes benefitted from the incredible support and dedication of SOBC coaches Chapelski and Newham, who also gave time to their Regional teams at the 2015 Provincial Games. ○



Jessica Chapelski

The SOBC Canada Games athletes and coaches at the Closing Ceremony.

Park’N Fly Vancouver helps Special Olympics athletes soar

Park’N Fly Vancouver has a long history of providing cost-effective and well-supported parking for Vancouver International Airport passengers; for many years they have also given generously to help Special Olympics athletes thrive.

Park’N Fly Vancouver has supported Special Olympics BC by donating auction items for fundraising events and providing parking for staff and key volunteers when travelling for SOBC.

The company also stepped up to help with transportation for VIPs at the Special Olympics Canada 2014 Summer Games in Vancouver, and they make a point of hiring SO athletes and people with disabilities.



Park’N Fly Vancouver offers a range of parking and transportation services and solutions at Vancouver International Airport, including wheelchair-accessible transportation between their lots and the airport.

Park’N Fly Vancouver is now extending a special discount offer to members of the SOBC community, giving lower-than-web rates for business and leisure travel. Quote the number 787911 when you contact Park’N Fly to receive the SOBC discount. ○



Sixteen Special Olympics BC track athletes were thrilled to race at the internationally recognized Vancouver Sun Harry Jerome International Track Classic on June 8, 2015, at Burnaby’s Swangard Stadium. This year marked the first time the famous meet included Special Olympics events alongside the races involving 400 generic athletes from 16 countries, including 32 Olympians and elite athletes seeking to finalize qualification to race in the 2015 Pan Am Games in Toronto.

John M. Sims Fund

John Sims was a longtime member of the Special Olympics BC Board of Directors and a tremendous supporter who passed away in 2014 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Sims was a true champion of Special Olympics, believing wholeheartedly in the goals and ideals of this organization.

In 2013, to honour Sims' dedication to SOBC, his commitment to the community, and to recognize his recent retirement, his friends initiated the **John M. Sims Fund** in support of Special Olympics. This endowment fund will continue Sims' association and support of Special Olympics BC in perpetuity.

Big thanks to Milton Carrasco for his two very successful fundraisers in 2015 benefiting the John M. Sims Fund. Carrasco ran in the GoodLife Fitness Victoria

Marathon, raising more than \$6,000 in the Charity Challenge, and held a fundraising drive with staff at his company Transoft Solutions Inc. His company matched donations for both events. ○

To make a donation to the John M. Sims Fund:

Online: Donation form at specialolympics.bc.ca (Please check the Tribute option, select the "In Tribute Of" button, and enter "John M. Sims Fund")

By phone: 604-737-3180/1-888-854-2276 toll-free

By mail: The John M. Sims Fund
c/o Special Olympics BC, #210 – 3701
Hastings Street, Burnaby, BC V5C 2H6

SOBC flies high with Pacific Coastal Airlines

For staff, volunteers, and athletes of Special Olympics BC, the cost of flying to an event or function could be prohibitive. Fortunately for us, we have the generous support of **Pacific Coastal Airlines**.

Throughout the year, Pacific Coastal Airlines provides air travel for our athletes, coaches, and volunteers to attend events all over the province, including Team BC 2016 training and Performance Program camps, Athlete Leadership conferences, and the 2015 SOBC Leadership Summit.

Quentin Smith, President and CEO of Pacific Coastal Airlines, has supported SOBC for many years. He has attended our fundraising events in person and provided significant support by donating highly valued travel packages as auction items.

SOBC is honoured, proud, and grateful to be supported by Quentin and Pacific Coastal Airlines.

Pacific Coastal Airlines was founded nearly 40 years ago and provides regular schedule, charter, and cargo services to 65-plus destinations in B.C. Make sure to check out their schedule if you're flying to a community they service. ○

Pacific Coastal
AIRLINES



Pacific Coastal helped Team BC 2016 floor hockey players from Burnaby get to their training camp in Grand Forks in July 2015.

Darren Inouye



Thanks to Manning Elliott LLP for raising funds to support Special Olympics BC through the John M. Sims Fund! They raised \$1,000 through an office contest for an autographed Vancouver Canucks hockey stick, won by Manning Elliott Partner Navroz Janmohamed.

Raising awareness at World Outlook Financial Conference

For 25 years, the **World Outlook Financial Conference** has been bringing together top-quality financial analysts together with Canadian investors to share world-class information and analysis.

The 2015 WOFC was held on January 30 and 31 in Vancouver. We are grateful that Special Olympics BC once again had

a presence at the conference, accepting donations from attendees and sharing stories of our athletes and programs.

Our thanks to Stockscores Analytics Financial Services Inc. for their generous donation from promotional book sales at the conference.

The 2016 WOFC will be held January

WORLD OUTLOOK
FINANCIAL CONFERENCE

29 and 30 in Vancouver. Sincere thanks to conference founder Michael Campbell for this event's amazing support of SOBC.

Please see www.moneytalks.net/outlook for more information. ○

Team BC 2016 pumped to perform

With the **2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games** coming up next March, the 181 athletes, coaches, and mission staff on the **Team BC 2016 Training Squad** have been hard at work preparing to be at their best in Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador.

The 129 athletes earned their spots on Team BC 2016 based on their performances in the 2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games in Kamloops. They have been training diligently to be ready to give their all in alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, floor hockey, snowshoeing, and speed skating at the first Special Olympics Canada Games ever to be held in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The journey to the National Games is a long and exciting one for the members of Team BC 2016. These athletes have worked hard to advance through Regional Qualifiers and Provincial Games to earn the opportunity to

compete at the National Games level.

Over the last year, not only have they been training hard in their sports, they have also been working diligently to improve their overall fitness by participating in SOBC Club Fit programs, Team BC at-home training exercises, functional testing, and a variety of cross-training opportunities. Team members have also shown impressive commitment to healthy eating in order to be in tip-top shape at National Games.

Longtime Special Olympics athlete David Baxter has made huge changes: Between June and his Team BC training camp in October, he lost 60 pounds! Team BC and SOBC – Surrey curling coach Sheila Snell worked with Baxter and his mother to set goals, and Baxter has delivered with the help of his dedication, supporters, and meal plans. He trains twice a week and works with his

mother on nutrition once a week.

Baxter's improved fitness has had a great impact on his curling form and his ability to get into the delivery position. He is committed to being a good athlete, and he loves scoring for his team and winning medals.

SOBC Board of Directors Member Randy Smallwood, President & CEO of Silver Wheaton, has been named Team BC 2016 Honorary General Manager, and he has gone above and beyond to support and encourage the team. He will travel to the National Games to cheer on the team, as is traditional for this role, but he has also taken the time to attend Team BC curling, speed skating, and snow sports training camps in 2015. ○

Follow Team BC 2016's journey:

www.soteambc2016.ca

2016 National Games information:

www.cornerbrook2016.com



Darren Inouye



Annabel Stanley

Team BC 2016 members at work in training camps and local efforts.

in Corner Brook

Alpine Skiing

Athletes

Cory Duhaime	Delta
Erin Thom	Kimberley/ Cranbrook
Jesse Price	North Shore
Jonathan Robins	Kimberley/ Cranbrook
Kelsey Wyse	Kelowna
Michael Langridge	Victoria
Neil Rye	Kimberley/ Cranbrook
Roxana Podrasky	Kimberley/ Cranbrook
Susan Wang	Surrey
Torben Schuffert	Smithers

Coaches

Randy Scott - Head Coach	North Shore
Mark Schnurr	Coquitlam
Molly Evanshen	North Shore
Steve Norton	Kimberley/ Cranbrook
Tom Advocaat	Coquitlam

Cross-Country Skiing

Athletes

Barb Conway	Prince George
Brian Whitfield	Prince George
Chantal Chan	Vancouver
Cory Melnychuk	Quesnel
Danny Lafreniere	Prince George
Dennis Lynch	Nanaimo
Francis Stanley	Kelowna
Josh Pudney	Prince George
Justin Sigal	Vernon
Katarina Gerhardt	Kelowna
Kelly Hein	Prince George
Kelvin (Casey) Westerman	Prince George
Kirk Gawryluk	Kelowna
Neil Melesko	Kelowna
Rita Cavenaile	Prince George
Sean Beddows	Surrey
Shelly Poland	Golden
Tracey Melesko	Kelowna

Coaches

Garth Vickers - Head Coach	Kelowna
Annabel Stanley	Kelowna
Calvin Dyck	Prince George
Joanne March	Kelowna
Karen Zawortny	Vancouver
Ray Huson	Penticton

Curling

Dale Wright	Surrey
Danny Pace	Victoria
David Baxter	Surrey

Steven Dew	Surrey
Jay Laitar	Surrey
Dwayne Wright - Coach	Surrey
Sheila Snell - Coach	Surrey
Dale Eckert	Powell River
Lance Barker	Powell River
Michele Lacroix	Powell River
Richard Lang	Powell River
Thomas White	Powell River
Bill Scobbie - Coach	Port Alberni
Susan Storry - Coach	Powell River

Alfred Schotel	Quesnel
Dean Cake	Quesnel
Glenda Melnychuk	Quesnel
Martin Scriver	Quesnel
Travis Burt	Quesnel
Richard Lindstrom - Coach	Quesnel
Rick Prosk - Coach	Quesnel

Ken Davidson	Comox Valley
Cody Booth	Port Alberni
Michael Booth	Port Alberni
Shelley Marinus	Comox Valley
Sherri Lines	Comox Valley
Art Peck - Coach	Nanaimo
Cheryl Clay - Coach	Campbell

Figure Skating

Athletes

Alex Pang	Vancouver
Alexandra Magee	Surrey
Arianna Phillips	Nanaimo
Darlene Jakubowski	Fort St. John
Laura Dale	Terrace
Marc Theriault	Surrey
Michael Phillips	Nanaimo
Stephanie Divin	Surrey
Tamika Broere-Shaw	Vancouver

Coaches

Elizabeth Roman - Head Coach	Surrey
Janice Chan	Richmond
Jessica Chapelski	Vancouver
Kailee Bowman	Victoria

Floor Hockey

Andrew Swindlehurst	Powell River
Bill Polz	Nanaimo
Bobby Bolen	Comox Valley
Brad Hogan	Comox Valley
Chris Harrington	Kelowna
Colin Wells	Comox Valley
Jake Hooper	Comox Valley
Jason Mills	Nanaimo

Joe Grubweiser	Comox Valley
Keven Breland	Comox Valley
Matthew Cadwell	Comox Valley
Max Porcher	Comox Valley
Richard Gillis	Kelowna
Robert Lang	Powell River
Tanya Norman	Powell River
Terry Daniels	Comox Valley
Ed Houlihan - Coach	Comox Valley
Larry Cagna - Coach	Comox Valley
Randy James - Coach	Comox Valley

Alison Rodrigues	Vancouver
Dallas Stager	Vancouver
Edward Ng	Vancouver
Gordon Balderstone	Vancouver
Greg Jung	Vancouver
John Chen	Vancouver
Ken McLean	Vancouver
Mathew Schmiing	Vancouver
Matthew McRae	Vancouver
Nellie-Jo Kurta	Vancouver
Nick Chan	Vancouver
Ottavio Campese	Vancouver
Raymond Mabayo	Vancouver
Richard Louis	Vancouver
Ryan Stewart	Richmond
Sandra Malku	Richmond
Craig Hikida - Coach	Vancouver
Elise Bulla - Coach	Vancouver
Vanessa Ho - Coach	Vancouver

Brogan Beliveau	Grand Forks
Charlie Kain	Grand Forks
David Wong	Burnaby
Dominic Inacio	Burnaby
Doug Birdsall	Burnaby
Jacob Raschpichler	Grand Forks
Jake Miller	Trail
James Warman	Creston
Joey Conrad	Burnaby
Kathy Schmidt	Creston
Macleon Brown	Creston
Matthew Milburn	Burnaby
Mike Windsor	Grand Forks
Steven Stirling	Creston
Cathy Chlopecki - Coach	Creston
Derek Taylor - Coach	Grand Forks
Richard Chlopecki - Coach	Creston

Snowshoeing

Athletes	
Alex Evanshen	North Shore
Chase Caron	Prince George
Cherie Swaan	Quesnel
Danny Dodgson	Quesnel
Deborah Broadley	Vancouver

Hazen Meade River	Campbell
Jennifer Germann	Prince George
Katie Little	Burnaby
Krista Meikle	Victoria
Patrick Campbell	Victoria
Steven Seminuk	Coquitlam
Tegan Raines	Prince George
Terri Carelius	Victoria
Tony Wilkinson	Kelowna
William Thatcher	Trail

Coaches

Maureen Brinson - Head Coach	Campbell
David Wilkinson	Kelowna
Kim Perkins	Victoria
Ron Aarstad	Coquitlam
Tina Giesbrecht	Burns Lake
Wilma Van Hage	Prince George

Speed Skating

Athletes

Brad Laforce	Coquitlam
Chris Hamilton	Abbotsford
Eric Bruneau	Coquitlam
Karl Anderson	Coquitlam
Mark Hamblett	Victoria
Matthew Williams	Langley
Nicky Chow	Richmond
Paige Norton	Abbotsford
Rene Girard	Coquitlam
Sarah Maxwell	Victoria
Sean Casey	Coquitlam

Coaches

Donna Bilous - Head Coach	Abbotsford
Don Bruneau	Coquitlam
Logan Litz	Coquitlam
Rosella Infanti	Coquitlam

Mission Staff

Leslie Thornley	SOBC staff
Shawn Fevens	SOBC staff
Darren Inouye	Region 5 Coordinator
Emma Woo	SOBC staff
George MacLagan River	Campbell
Georgina McIntosh	Elk Valley
Jean Tetarenko	Region 6 Coordinator
Jill Harris	SOBC staff
Morgan Hunter	SOBC staff
Tom Norton	Abbotsford

2016 Regional Qualifiers restart summer-sport competition cycle

We're excited about the 2016 season of summer-sport **Regional Qualifiers**, where Special Olympics BC athletes all over the province will give their all while competing to qualify for the 2017 Special Olympics BC Summer Games.

In the 2017 Provincial Games, athletes will compete for the opportunity to advance to the 2018 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games, the qualifier for the 2019 Special Olympics World Summer Games.

For SOBC athletes, it all starts right here with the Regional Qualifiers. A significant number of Locals around the province will host

these exciting competitions, and 2016 will see many firsts. The first Basketball Regional Qualifiers to be held on the Island and in the North will be hosted by SOBC – Campbell River and SOBC – Prince George, respectively, and Kelowna and Fort St. John will be hosting their first-ever rhythmic gymnastics qualifiers.

Big thanks to all the volunteers and supporters who make these important opportunities possible, and best of luck to all competitors!

Please check specialolympics.bc.ca/2016-regional-qualifiers for the most up-to-date information. 

Sport	Date	Location	Regions Participating
5-Pin Bowling	April 9-10, 2016	Trail	1
5-Pin Bowling	May 7, 2016	Kamloops	2
5-Pin Bowling	February 21, 2016	Mission	3
5-Pin Bowling		Delta	4
5-Pin Bowling			5
5-Pin Bowling	March 12, 2016	Port Alberni	6
5-Pin Bowling	February 7, 2016	Smithers	7
5-Pin Bowling	April 16, 2016	Dawson Creek	8
10-Pin Bowling		Kelowna	2
10-Pin Bowling		Surrey	3
10-Pin Bowling		Vancouver	5
10-Pin Bowling	April 9, 2016	Nanaimo	6
10-Pin Bowling	February 27, 2016	Prince George	8
Athletics	June 11-12, 2016	Langley	2,3,4,5,7,8
Athletics	June 18, 2016	Nanaimo	6
Basketball	March 19-20, 2016	North Shore	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Basketball		Campbell River	6
Basketball	May 1, 2016	Prince George	7, 8
Bocce	May 28, 2016	Nelson	1
Bocce	June 11-12, 2016	Oliver	2
Bocce	May 28-29, 2016	Langley	3
Bocce		Vancouver	5
Bocce	July 9 or 10, 2016	Oceanside	6

Sport	Date	Location	Regions Participating
Golf	May 14, 2016	Creston	1
Golf	June 18, 2016	Kamloops	2
Golf	July 10, 2016	Sunshine Coast	3, 4, 5
Golf		Victoria	6
Golf	June 25-26, 2016	Quesnel	8
Powerlifting	March 20, 2016 (Winter Open)	Richmond	All
Rhythmic Gym.		Kelowna	1, 2
Rhythmic Gym.	April 30, 2016	Abbotsford	3
Rhythmic Gym.	April 24, 2016	Richmond	4, 5
Rhythmic Gym.	March/April 2016	Victoria	6
Rhythmic Gym.	May 7-8, 2016	Fort St. John	7, 8
Soccer	June 25-26, 2016	Abbotsford	1, 2, 3, 4
Soccer	June 25, 2016	Cowichan Valley	6
Soccer	June 4-5, 2016	Quesnel	8
Softball	June 4-5, 2016	Coquitlam	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Softball	May 28-29, 2016	Campbell River	6
Swimming	June 12, 2016	Cranbrook	1
Swimming	April 9, 2016	Kelowna	2
Swimming	March 13, 2016	Coquitlam	3
Swimming		Burnaby	4
Swimming		Vancouver	5
Swimming	April 16-17, 2016	Comox	6
Swimming	May 15, 2016	Smithers	7
Swimming	April 9, 2016	Fort St. John	8

If you have any questions, please contact Shawn Fevens by phone at **604-737-3055 / 1-888-854-2276** toll-free or sfevens@specialolympics.bc.ca

Safeway nourishes Special Olympics champions

From October 16 to November 1, the 2015 Special Olympics Canada and **Safeway** Nourish Champions campaign raised significant funds and awareness for Special Olympics programs in communities across western Canada. This year's campaign, which raised \$520,084 nationwide, had an emphasis on nourishing champions and supporting Special Olympics

athletes, coaches, and parents in their pursuit of proper nutrition in order to perform their best.

Safeway customers were invited to make a donation of \$2 at any Safeway store and in return receive 5 AIR MILES Reward Miles. The campaign featured an awareness day on October 24, where Special Olympics BC athletes and volunteers visited Safeway stores throughout the province.

In 100 Mile House, the local athletes greeted Safeway customers at the door and pointed them to coffee and cake in the floral department. Safeway donated a wooden bird house and SOBC – 100 Mile House fundraising



coordinator Pat Oldershaw made a beautiful placemat set for a draw. Local Coordinator Denise Thiessen said the support from Safeway and their community is so appreciated.

"We had a great day, met some wonderful people, and the awesome support from the community is overwhelming!" Thiessen said. "We enjoy doing this each year as it gets my athletes mingling with the community, and it's wonderful to see the smiles on their faces, but also on the customers' faces!"

Safeway staff go to great lengths to deliver strong campaigns in their stores to benefit Special Olympics. In the Surrey Fleetwood store, Produce Manager Jason Purnell challenged the staff to don the jerseys of the Montreal Canadiens—the team their store manager most hates—and they couldn't take them off until the store raised \$1,000 in donations that day!

Also in Surrey, the Strawberry Hill store staff worked hard to promote the campaign and recruited local Princess Margaret Secondary School students to assist, while SOBC – Surrey volunteers and athletes had the opportunity to chat with local families and distribute information about their programs.

Hundreds of SOBC athletes and volunteers around the province provide terrific support for the efforts of their local Safeway stores and do a wonderful job of generating awareness.

In November 2015, Special Olympics Canada and Sobeys Inc. announced an expanded national partnership through the Sobeys Better Food Fund, taking their significant support of Special Olympics coast to coast. The partnership will centre on providing increased access to nutrition education for Canadians with intellectual disabilities.

Proudly Canadian, with headquarters in Stellarton, Nova Scotia, Sobeys has been serving the food shopping needs of Canadians for 108 years. Sobeys owns or franchises approximately 1,500 stores in all 10 provinces under retail banners that include Sobeys, Safeway, IGA, Foodland, FreshCo, Thrifty Foods, and Lawton's Drug Stores as well as more than 350 retail fuel locations. Sobeys and its franchise affiliates employ more than 125,000 people. The company's purpose is to help Canadians *Eat Better, Feel Better and Do Better*. More information on Sobeys Inc. can be found at sobeyscorporate.com.



Nelson



Powell River



Smithers



Vancouver

New Car Dealers making a difference

B.C.'s New Car Dealers have been making a difference with Special Olympics BC for more than 30 years. The **2015 New Car Dealers Foundation of BC / Special Olympics Auction** showed the relationship is going strong, as Dealers and supporters donated the greatest number of items yet

in order to raise funds for Special Olympics and the work of the New Car Dealers Foundation. The 2015 auction raised nearly \$187,000, bringing the three-decade total to nearly \$4.4 million.

The highly successful annual auction is powered by a dedicated committee

comprised of volunteer members working with Special Olympics BC and New Car Dealers Foundation staff. The volunteer members have given countless hours to the auction in order to support the charities. They generously seek out auction items, encourage bidding, and provide strong guidance and insights that have made the event succeed and grow over the last 28 years.

Five cars were generously donated by the BC Honda Dealers Association, BC Jeep Dealers, BC Ford Dealers, Chevrolet Buick GMC Dealers of BC, and Toyota BC Dealers.

The longtime annual auction is open to New Car Dealers members who bid generously in support of Special Olympics and the New Car Dealers Foundation. Auction items were solicited or donated by New Car Dealers from communities throughout British Columbia—from Northern B.C. to Greater Vancouver, from Vancouver Island to the Kootenay-Rockies.

In addition to providing vital support to SOBC, the auction also enables the New Car Dealers Foundation of BC to support a wide range of community initiatives, including local charities, sports teams, community events, and scholarships for young people entering the automotive industry.

We are so grateful for the ongoing support of the New Car Dealers who make the auction happen and who bid for the betterment of the charities.

Our relationship with the **New Car Dealers of B.C.** is a much-appreciated partnership that has played a critical part in SOBC's significant growth over the last three decades.

Over the last 30 years, New Car Dealers Association of BC staff members have pursued many and varied ways to support the athletes and help them succeed in their sports and in life. Like the New Car Dealers they represent, the association staff generously commit themselves to raising funds and awareness for Special Olympics, and go above and beyond in finding other ways to help athletes around the province.

Supporting Special Olympics

THANKS TO OUR VEHICLE DONORS



2015 Honda Fit



DONATED BY
BC Honda Dealers
Association



2015 Jeep Cherokee Sport 4x2



DONATED BY
BC Jeep Dealers



2015 Ford Fiesta S Hatch



DONATED BY
BC Ford Dealers



2015 Chevrolet Trax 1LT FWD



DONATED BY
Chevrolet Buick
GMC Dealers of BC



2015 Toyota Yaris 3 Door CE Hatchback



DONATED BY
Toyota
BC Dealers

THANKS TO THOSE DEALERS WHO SUPPORTED THE AUCTION WITH A CASH PLEDGE OR BY DONATING AUCTION ITEMS



Clarkdale



Brian Jessel



Harbourview
Volkswagen



with SOBC

BC is one of the two primary charitable endeavours of the New Car Dealers Foundation of BC, along with supporting education for those wishing to enter or advance within the industry. New Car Dealers are truly community minded, focused on the places where they've built their businesses and on giving back. Supporting Special Olympics has been a powerful and rewarding way to do that, says New Car Dealers Association of BC President and CEO Blair Qualey.

Whenever there is the opportunity to bring New Car Dealers Board of Directors members and Special Olympics athletes together, "everyone always walks away feeling totally inspired, often with tears in their eyes," Qualey says. "It's happened many times at our Board meetings. ... We are very fortunate to work with such a group of people who work so hard, who come back from so many challenges."

SOBC and the New Car Dealers Foundation extend sincere thanks to the auction committee and to everyone who supported the 2015 auction. We look forward to continued success in 2016. To get involved, please contact Christina Hadley, SOBC Vice President, Fund Development & Communications, at **604-737-3073 / 1-888-854-2276 toll-free / chadley@specialolympics.bc.ca.**

Special thanks to the Auction Committee:

Manse Binkley, *Harmony Honda & Harmony Acura*

Doug Bower, *The Vancouver Sun & The Province*

Marnie Carter, *Carter Auto Family*

John Chesman

Christina Hadley, *Special Olympics BC*

Dan Howe, *Special Olympics BC*

Pam Keith, *Dueck Auto Group*

Dave Meyerink, *Harris Auto Group*

Joe Mitchell, *Carter Auto Family*

Blair Qualey, *New Car Dealers Association of BC*

John Wynia, *Harbourview Volkswagen*

and to all the other dealers who made cash pledges, solicited auction items and bid on items. ○

WOLSELEY



Wolseley Canada has been a valued partner of Special Olympics since 2004. In 2015, Wolseley became the official sponsor of the Special Olympics Canada Draft an Athlete national program, drafting 20 athletes for 2015 World Games, including several SOBC athletes.

During the year, Wolseley staff hosted a variety of fundraisers and events, and met Team Canada athletes in branches and at SO events. Pictured here at the SOBC – Langley January Jam basketball tournament (left to right) are Alex of the Langley Wolseley branch, Mike Heeps, Wolseley Branch Area Manager – BC Lower Mainland, SOBC – Langley and Team Canada basketball athletes Alastair Singh and Matthew Williams, and Wade Iannacone, Wolseley Langley Branch Manager.

Special Olympics Canada is delighted that Wolseley has confirmed they will continue their work with SOBC and the Draft an Athlete program.

Signature Authentics seals their support for Special Olympics

Signature Authentics

Easel Auction Partners

Signature Authentics supports Special Olympics across the country and right here in British Columbia, with funds generated from sealed-bid auctions in this province going to Special Olympics BC initiatives. Signature Authentics operates in 75 locations throughout the province.

Signature Authentics started in 1993, primarily as an art publisher and distributor. With the success of the Toronto sports franchises at that time, SA created and distributed limited editions of authentically

autographed Blue Jays and Maple

Leafs art prints. Now, with nearly 20 years in the industry and having had the privilege to work with sports icons like Wayne Gretzky, Maurice Richard, Gordie Howe, and many more, Signature Authentics has become one of the most respected names in the sports memorabilia and marketing business.

Our thanks to Signature Authentics for their support, and to all those who bid in their sealed auctions. ○



Rhythmic gymnastics has taken off across the province in 2015, with new programs for SOBC athletes in Chilliwack, Cowichan Valley, Dawson Creek, Keremeos, Salt Spring Island, and the Sunshine Coast. The sport was given an additional boost from development and competition events with experts brought in to work with SOBC athletes in Castlegar, Surrey, and Victoria.

Stories from Special Olympics BC

News from SOBC – 100 Mile House

By Denise Thiessen, Local Coordinator

We had an awesome year this year! The Safeway day was a great success, our short golf season wasn't rained out even once, and at the end of this year we looked forward to a "tree hunt" fundraiser. Mr. Myhill-Jones from Timbermart invited us all out to his acreage to cut down trees to sell by donation at the store. This is the second year we have done this.

Last year was a trial run with not a huge turnout, but we raised just over \$1,000. This year we were at 30 people by mid-November! We have a bonfire, chili, hotdogs, hot chocolate, and of course Christmas treats for the athletes!

Our 5-pin bowling on Tuesday nights is in full swing and continues until April. We had three new athletes join up this year and all else is good! ○

Story from SOBC – Campbell River

From a speech composed by Tye Cranton and read by his mother Terri Cranton.

My name is Tye Cranton and I am a powerlifter. Special Olympics has let me have the opportunity to be someone extraordinary, to be an athlete, to be a role model, to be a good friend, and to just be me. I am in a few different sports including 5- and 10-pin bowling, curling, powerlifting, and I am beginning track and field in the spring.

I have had lots of opportunities to meet wonderfully nice and incredibly generous people. I have made countless friends, and I have great respect for everyone who is involved with Special Olympics.

Our biggest event is the Howie Meeker Charity Golf Classic tournament. That is the one day out the 365 days that really is the undisputed heart and soul of Special Olympics BC – Campbell River.

So to wrap this all up, I would like to turn your attention to my wonderful mom, who is reading this to you all for me. My mom has supported me, been with me, cheered the loudest for me, and without her I really do feel like there would be no Tye Cranton in Special Olympics. I am glad to say I am Tye Cranton, and I am an athlete. I respect the original Special O Athlete's Oath, and I would like to create my own personal one here as well: Please God give me all the strength and power to do my best in every sport I'm involved in.

I would also like to personally thank all

the coaches, volunteers, and our wonderful sponsors. I am thankful I have all this help walking with me on this extraordinary path to greatness. I would like to say again from the bottom of my heart, thank you for all of your great sponsorship, help, and wisdom. ○



SOBC – Campbell River athlete Tye Cranton and mother Terri Cranton at the 2015 Howie Meeker Charity Golf Classic.

News from SOBC – Castlegar

By Deb Hartland

It has been a tremendously successful year for SOBC – Castlegar, mainly due to the efforts of a motivated and strong executive who have given 100 per cent to help develop and sustain Special Olympics sports in Castlegar.

The executive have been able to introduce competitive rhythmic gymnastics and soon will be establishing a Club Fit program. In addition, our enthusiastic and encouraging swim coaches Megan, Tweyla, Courtney, and Samantha have added a second-choice practice time, which ensures more athletes can be involved in swimming. Over the past year, our swim team has completely doubled in size. The athletes all returned from competitions this year with first-, second-, or third-place ribbons.

The success of Special Olympics sports is also sustained by the support of our athletes who are proving to be real leaders in life. In particular, Chris Paulson's strong swimming and floor hockey skills have encouraged other athletes to become involved and work to become the best they can be.

Chris is a Special Olympics athlete, an

exceptional swimmer, and a leader in Castlegar. His confidence is a gift that he naturally passes along to other athletes. His example has encouraged athletes like Anne Allen. Last year at this time she was terrified of water and never wanted to swim in deep water. Chris's example has affected Anne so much that she swam in two competitions, attaining first and second place. This has built a confidence in Anne that can be readily seen in all aspects of her life.

So we applaud you Chris, Anne, and all our athletes as you push hard to become the best you can be. And we applaud the executive and volunteers in Castlegar who are supporting our amazing athletes in Castlegar. ○



A great day with the SOBC – Castlegar crew.

News from SOBC – Chilliwack

By Val Monty, Co-Local Coordinator

One of our Executive Committee members, Kathy MacDonald, was given a Sports Hero Award by the City of Chilliwack this year for her volunteer contributions with Special Olympics Chilliwack over the years.

Joanne Bunnin, one of our powerlifters, won three gold medals at the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles this summer.

In addition, we have expanded our programs and increased the number of athletes that we have participating this year. We are looking forward to continued expansion. ○

Locals

News from SOBC – Kelowna

SOBC – Kelowna has had a wonderful year, including the Kelowna Grizzlies softball team being inducted into the SOBC Hall of Fame and the Local's amazing successes with the Safeway and CrossFit24 fundraising events. In addition, Grizzlies Head Coach Lorena Mead shared the following tribute.

Dennis Richardson has been a coach with Special Olympics for 15 years. He has coached 10-pin bowling, powerlifting, and softball. As one of the coaches for the last 11 years with the Special Olympics BC – Kelowna Grizzlies, Dennis has been to two Regional Qualifiers, and two Provincial, National, and World Games.

Dennis goes above and beyond the usual aspects of coaching. He has taught the athletes the importance of exercise and eating healthfully as part of a lifelong skill. Dennis treats the athletes with respect, and they respect him. Dennis has made a difference in the lives of the athletes by supporting them both on and off the softball field with his knowledge, humor, positive attitude, and dedication to them and their sport. Dennis mentors and encourages the athletes to be the best that they can be. All of this is done while he is having fun.

With the help of Dennis, the other coaches, and the softball players, the Kelowna Grizzlies have been named to the Special Olympics BC Hall of Fame as the only team in B.C. to

represent Canada and win medals in three World Games. When coaching and being around the athletes, Dennis can often be heard saying, "It doesn't get any better than this." ○

Snapshot from SOBC – Salmon Arm



Salmon Arm Observer

SOBC – Salmon Arm bocce players and coach Jacquie Bolen after winning first place in Division C at the June 2015 tournament hosted by SOBC – South Okanagan.

News from SOBC – Quesnel

By Rick Prosk, Program Coordinator

We're heading to National Games! 2016 will mark the first time that Special Olympics BC – Quesnel athletes have qualified to attend the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games.

In February 2015, Quesnel sent eight curlers, three snowshoers, and one cross-country skier to the SOBC Winter Games in Kamloops. One curling team finished third in the B Division, while the other went undefeated in C Division and has since been selected to move on to National Games. These athletes are Glenda

Melnychuk, Travis Burt, Martin Scriver, and Dean Cake. Alfred Schotel has since been added as a fifth member.

The other athletes also performed well, most notably Danny Dodgson, who won the 100- and 200-metre snowshoeing races with provincial-best times of 16.25 and 30.25 seconds. Cherie Swaan and Cory Melnychuk will join Danny on the provincial team.

SOBC – Quesnel marked another milestone this year with the registration of our 60th athlete. Our 13 sport programs—alpine skiing, athletics, basketball, bowling, Club Fit, cross-country skiing, curling, floor hockey, golf, rhythmic gymnastics, soccer, snowshoeing, and swimming—fill out a year-round schedule. This year, we hosted competitions in bowling, soccer, and golf. Typically, our other sport programs involve travel to competitions, and we headed to Smithers, Fort. St. John, Kelowna, Burnaby, and Prince George.

Fundraising has been and continues to be a top priority. We've had great community support, either through grants or corporate donations, and have partnered with organizations to take advantage of fundraising opportunities. Our fourth annual ticket raffle last year raised over \$8,000.

We also give back to our community. We supported the Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Campaign. For the fourth year, our Relay for Life team raised money for cancer research. This year's total of \$4,735 brings our grand total to more than \$15,000.

In September, we launched a new program called Make Quesnel Proud, which focused on our past accomplishments but also served to motivate the athletes for the year to come, the National Games, and the summer 2016 Regional Qualifiers. The program reminds athletes that they should always strive to represent their community well, both when competing here and elsewhere, and in their everyday lives.

SOBC – Quesnel began quietly back in 1992 in order to enter a group of athletes into the Northern BC Winter Games being hosted in Quesnel the following February. Several volunteers from that time are still involved in the organization either as coaches, Executive Committee members, or both.

It is this dedication that has allowed Quesnel to continue growing and developing. All of our sport programs are currently headed up by coaches who've now put in several years of service. The commitment they've shown, along with other hard-working volunteers and Executive members, has allowed SOBC – Quesnel to become a well-known and respected volunteer organization in our community. ○



SOBC – Quesnel athletes and coaches ready to roll in the 2015 SOBC Winter Games.

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News from SOBC – Sunshine Coast

By Mike Oswald, Athlete Reporter

Hello everybody! 2015 was full of accomplishments for Special Olympics on the Sunshine Coast. Fifty-six athletes, several coaches, and even more volunteers ushered in a season of personal bests, skill improvement and friendly competition, fabulous fundraising, and of course, who can forget World Games in Los Angeles! Swimming Head Coach Marie Telder travelled there and athletes on her team won the first gold medal for Canada and broke the World Games record for a relay!

Other travel adventures included swimmers Genny Verge and Michael Beckman who attended a skills camp at Simon Fraser University, and our whole team travelling to Vancouver for a meet. The Gibsons basketball team went to a tournament in Coquitlam, returning as first in their division! Our softball team, the Ravens, travelled to Coquitlam, the soccer team headed to Delta, and the curling team travelled to Abbotsford.

Floor hockey athletes Dustin Archer, Gus Vaughn, Brandon Lacey, and Chris Walker took part in the skills competition at the SOBC – Vancouver Annual Jon Baillie Invitational Floor Hockey Tournament along with Assistant Coach Darren Lane. Although they were unable to compete because they do not yet have a large enough travel team, the rush of seeing high-level games played was treat enough.

Archer, Vaughn, Lacey, Bryan Ware, Lindsey Pearson, and Derrick Pye along with coaches Chuck and Annette Bertrand travelled to Eaglequest Golf in Surrey for a fun tournament

with their team.

We have been fortunate enough to have athletes from off-coast come visit us. The Coquitlam Tigers played softball in the sun against the Ravens, and a team of Vancouver bocce players enjoyed the quiet game with our athletes.

Douglas College's women's basketball team held a skills camp at Elphinstone Secondary School and taught us a whole new way to look at the game!

Even on the Coast, we are lucky to have teams in both Sechelt and Gibsons that visit each other for games of basketball and soccer.

Our local RCMP likes to get involved with our Special O teams as well. They have played floor hockey with our Bears and basketball with the Sechelt team, and had planned to participate in a soccer game with the Sechelt and Gibsons teams. We are confident we will see the officers on the field next season.

One of the highlights of the year is the SOBC – Sunshine Coast volunteer appreciation banquet. In 2015, five-year service pins were awarded to Bertrand, Telder, Robert Wotton, Tania Flynn, and Randy Youngusband, with a 10-year pin going to Jeannie Barwise.



Darren Inoué

The Sunshine Coast Ravens hold high the 2015 World Games Circle of Inclusion.

Inspiring new video shows power of Special Olympics

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to show everyone what I can do."

In 2015, Special Olympics BC reteamed with talented writer-director Naim Sutherland to create a new video showcasing inspiring athletes and the impact of our movement. Working with producer Diana Donaldson of Allude Entertainment, a valued film crew, and a terrific team of athletes, Sutherland created a powerful PSA showing the confidence and abilities that athletes develop through Special Olympics.

The video stars rhythmic gymnast Danielle Juilfs, golfer Chelsea Kaake, figure skater Matthew Lai, softball player Jaykob Low, powerlifter Todd Moore, and alpine skier Jesse Price as the visual actors, and athletes Lindsey Aarstad, Adam Advocaat, Shane Carr, James Clifford, Chelsea Kaake, Mandy Manzardo,

and Derek Santema as the voiceover actors.

Sutherland, who previously created a moving PSA featuring the story of SOBC – Campbell River athlete Bryan Jorgensen, said he wanted to "showcase some of the wide variety of sports that Special Olympics athletes participate in ... while showing the personal growth someone might experience by participating in Special Olympics."

Sutherland's vision and filmmaking features SOBC athletes in a striking, high-quality manner that makes them look like the powerful people they are.

"I hope people who watch the video are



Alpine skier Jesse Price makes movie magic in studio with director Naim Sutherland and dolly grip Paolo Maola.

inspired by the amazing athletes. I hope they're inspired to become a Special Olympics athlete themselves, or participate by becoming a coach, volunteer or donor," Sutherland said.

Watch the video on SOBC's YouTube channel: youtube.com/specialolympicsbc
Direct link: <https://youtu.be/wOYQ9MksDFo>

Building mastery and empowerment through meaningful competition

The opportunity to compete means so much to Special Olympics athletes, and plays a huge part in skill development for both athletes and coaches. In 2015, Special Olympics BC launched a renewed emphasis on developing and strengthening competition opportunities for athletes throughout the province.

In order for Special Olympics athletes to truly master their sports, they need to do more than just practice. SOBC athletes have shown time and again that they can achieve excellence in their sports, but they—and their coaches—need competition in order to stimulate and demonstrate development.

“Our athletes want to be treated as real athletes. They want to master skills, they want to perform those skills, they want to be recognized for having done well in those skills, and they want to compete in those skills, which means they want to test themselves. They want to test themselves against other people, they want to test themselves in front of an audience, and they want to determine whether they’ve done as well as they might,” says Special Olympics Chairman Tim Shriver.

We are on a mission to ensure meaningful competitions and opportunities for all athletes to develop and empower themselves through competing. We are working with outside

groups to run competitions, redefining what competition looks like, and encouraging high-quality competitions.

We want to ensure athletes in all Regions have access to competition, including in the Kootenays and northern B.C., areas where travel costs and small populations make it particularly difficult to hold meaningful competitions. So SOBC is investing funds and time to develop opportunities for athletes in the North and Kootenays, covering the costly travel to ensure athletes and teams can have meaningful competitions, and working with other sport organizations to expand opportunities for SOBC athletes.

Sport performance at a high level is possible for many Special Olympics athletes, and improved access to meaningful competition helps challenge what we think is possible for our athletes and show all that they are capable of.

Leadership Council member James Sutherland, parent of SOBC – North Shore athlete Oliver, has watched his son grow from a five-year-old Active Start participant to an 11-year-old athlete who ran in his first-ever track meet in June 2015. Sutherland said Oliver proved to be determined and diligent in his training, and experienced great joy as he



Oliver Sutherland pictured at left as a five-year-old Active Start participant and at right as an 11-year-old athlete running in his first track meet.

crossed the finish line in his first race.

“Essentially he spontaneously combusted with happiness in that moment,” Sutherland said.

Through his first taste of competition, Oliver was successful in his training, goal setting, and sport performance, and also in helping his parents get over their fear that competition would be another area in his life where he feels he doesn’t measure up, Sutherland said.

Instead, he said, “it’s empowering. Now Oliver is goal setting.” ○

Staples campaign a success for Special Olympics province and nationwide

2015 was another record-breaking year for Staples Canada’s annual **Give A Toonie. Share A Dream.** campaign in support of Special Olympics athletes across Canada.

Staples raised \$630,000 across the country, with Staples Langley raising the highest amount in B.C.

During the campaign, which ran from May 2 to 24, Staples staff across Canada invited customers to donate at the till to help make dreams happen. In addition to the fundraising, the campaign was also a chance for Staples staff and customers to meet hometown athletes and learn about Special Olympics.

Patty Holland, a Cranbrook Staples Services Manager, said she looked forward to having athletes in the store every day.

“It was the best part of the day for me,” Holland said. “The athletes’ interaction with customers made the biggest difference to donations. It’s a pleasure to have them.”

One of those athletes, Special Olympics BC – Kimberley/Cranbrook athlete Erin Thom, has been an enthusiastic volunteer with the Give a

Toonie. Share a Dream. campaign for the past 10 years and a Staples employee for seven years.

Thank you to Staples staff and customers, and to all the athletes and volunteers across the province who gave their time and energy to this significant campaign now in its 15th year.

This year’s **Staples Canada/Special Olympics BC Softball Tournament** saw more than 20 SOBC athletes join Staples staff softball teams in a day of cooperation and fun in Burnaby on July 11. Volunteers from the Burnaby Softball Association made sure the fields were ready, umpired, kept score, and even joined in the play. The Burnaby Lougheed Lions Club held a delicious hotdog barbecue and there were great raffle prizes. The event raised \$1,140 for SOBC.

“It was great to see so many players bring their kids and family members out to play and cheer,” said Eva Faith, Human Resources Administrative Assistant—Western Region for Staples Canada.

Thank you, Staples! ○



Supportive Healthy Athletes screenings empower athletes

In 2015, Special Olympics BC held popular **Healthy Athletes** screening events in Vancouver, Kamloops, and Nanaimo, and worked year-round to empower athletes to be as healthy as possible for their sports and throughout their lives.

SOBC – Vancouver athlete Corey Yee used to resist going to dental and medical appointments because of discomfort and unfamiliarity. At the SOBC Healthy Athletes Screening Day in Vancouver in April, Yee astounded his aunt Judy Yee by agreeably letting practitioners take his blood pressure, clean his teeth, and check his feet.

At Fit Feet, an examination by volunteer podiatry professionals revealed an ingrown toenail on his right foot, shocking his aunt who diligently supports him in all his care. The understanding volunteers reassured her that such issues can develop very quickly, and they connected her with a podiatrist near their home so they could get an appointment right away.

“I can’t tell you how wonderful it was” to have the issue discovered and addressed so quickly, Judy Yee said. “At this point you could have blown me away.”

The Special Olympics Healthy Athletes program addresses the fact that many people with intellectual disabilities have unique issues around health care and communicating their needs. Many have trouble realizing or expressing their health concerns, and many



Healthy Athletes in Kamloops

Special Olympics **Healthy Athletes**[®]



Opening Eyes in Nanaimo



FUNfitness in Vancouver

health professionals have not received specific training, or are not familiar enough with this population, to know the best questions to ask.

International Special Olympics research has found that people with intellectual disabilities have a 40 per cent higher risk for health problems.

The professionals who lead Healthy Athletes screenings have received training to help them ask the right questions, and their interactions with Special Olympics athletes lead to referrals back into the health care system that ensure the individuals will get the treatment they need.

Healthy Athletes traditionally includes screenings and support in Fit Feet (podiatry), FUNfitness (physical therapy), Health Promotion (better health and well-being), Healthy Hearing (audiology), Special Olympics-Lions Club International Opening Eyes (vision), and Special Smiles (dentistry).

At the 2015 SOBC Winter Games in Kamloops, 260 athletes from around the province had the opportunity to participate in Healthy Athletes screenings. The screenings resulted in new prescription eyewear for 23

per cent of the participating athletes, and showed 15 per cent had diseases of the gums and 12 per cent had at least one of eight different eye diseases.

In October, the first-ever Healthy Athletes Screening Day in Nanaimo was a great success, with 150 people with intellectual disabilities participating in at least one discipline. The event was the first of its kind on Vancouver Island with all six traditional disciplines, and featured a new discipline on mental preparation called Strong Minds, Strong Bodies that was part of a limited national pilot project.

Around 100 people went through Opening Eyes, resulting in 54 prescriptions for eyewear, which were donated by the Lions Club Foundation.

The screening day was held in the same facility as functional testing for the first time in B.C. Many of the Healthy Athletes participants took advantage of the opportunity to visit functional testing to have their fitness levels tested.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made these empowering screening days possible for SOBC athletes! ○

Ann Jorgensen

Su Wiczorek

Club Fit

Special Olympics BC’s Club Fit program is raising the bar for physical fitness, and athletes are rising to the challenge and showing measurable benefits from their participation.

Club Fit helps athletes of varying skill levels age 14 and up improve their overall health and fitness outside of regular sports training. The weekly program emphasizes strength and cardio, and can include mental training, life skills, and nutrition education.

SOBC is excited to have a new manual developed in 2015 that is available online for any Local interested in starting a Club Fit program.

For more information, please contact Morgan Hunter at mhunter@specialolympics.bc.ca / 604-737.3081 or toll-free at 1-888-854-2276.

Great outside opportunities for SOBC athletes

In 2015, Special Olympics BC athletes experienced great new and continuing training and competition opportunities in outside organizations.

SOBC softball was once again featured in July at the **Canadian Open Fastpitch International Championship**, with two games between SOBC teams at Surrey's Softball City. Tournament organizers hosted a reception and meet-and-greet for the SOBC athletes before the first game. Athletes loved the opportunity to showcase their abilities at this world-class event and look forward to it every year.

SOBC is fortunate to have great support from Swim BC and generic swimming clubs around the province who open their doors to SOBC athletes, giving them supplemental opportunities to compete and show their abilities.

Over the past two seasons, SOBC – Smithers athletes have participated in four in-house competitions, or mini-meets, with the local BV Otters Swim Club, as well as their regional qualifier each season. The SOBC – Smithers program members also attended the BV Otters year-end barbecue wrap-up and were

presented with their own awards, such as most improved swimmer, best time, and best dive.

"Our Special O swimmers absolutely love being included in our BV Otters swim meets," said Gale Jones, the SOBC – Smithers Local Coordinator and a BV Otters coach. "It helps them to feel like part of a bigger team and the swimming community. It starts at the beginning of the meet where they are included in team cheers, where each community tries to out cheer the other, all the way to the end where ribbons and awards are given out."

In Whistler, the athletes in the new SOBC – Whistler Valley swimming program gained a competitive opportunity in a meet with the Whistler Sea Wolves Swim Club. This was a welcoming and positive experience for the athletes in this new program.

On the Island, SOBC – Victoria swimmers such as Drew Sabourin and Dixon McGowan



SOBC – Whistler Valley swimmers and coaches at their first meet in April 2015.

Christiana Duffield

raced in meets with the Tyee Aquatic Club. Athletes in Abbotsford and Campbell River have been offered similar opportunities, which are also very much appreciated.

Our thanks to the organizations who offer these valuable and inclusive opportunities to our athletes!

SOBC Locals can contact Shawn Fevens, Manager, Sport, if they would like support to reach out to their local generic clubs about opportunities: sfevens@specialolympics.bc.ca or **604-737-3055 / 1-888-854-2276** toll-free. ○

Region 1 and 2 conference participants inspire

On April 17 to 19, more than 50 Special Olympics BC coaches and volunteers from Regions 1 and 2 gathered in beautiful West Kelowna for a weekend of inspiring conversations and valuable presentations at their **2015 Regional Conference**.

Coming together from 13 Locals throughout the Regions, the participants did a fantastic job of engaging with each other and sparking new ideas through discussions with experts at hand.

Richard and Cathy Chlopecki of Special Olympics BC – Creston said they appreciated the informative presentations and the chance to connect with fellow volunteers from other Locals. They also valued the chance to engage with SOBC provincial office staff and hear more about resources available to them.

"Every time we're involved in something that encompasses beyond our Local, it's beneficial," Richard Chlopecki said.

Region 2 Coordinator Sue Foisy, a certified trainer for the Crisis Prevention Institute, led an outstanding Sunday session about dealing with behavioural issues, where coaches and volunteers shared their own experiences and insights to great benefit for

all. Region 5 Coordinator Darren Inouye led a valuable presentation about effective use of technology.

The conference also included sessions on Special Olympics financial procedures, paperwork, communications tools and competition cycles, working with young athletes and with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, advice from a pharmacist, and at-home training.

2016 Regional Conference dates

Regions 1 & 2
April 30 to May 1
Pines Bible Camp, Grand Forks

Region 6
April 1 to 3
Camp Qwanoes, Crofton

Regions 7 & 8
September 30 to October 2
Ness Lake Bible Camp, Prince George



Region 1 & 2 conference participants.

Elevating performance with the SOBC

Special Olympics BC's **Performance Program** is a long-term plan for enhancing the skills and performance of coaches and through them, all SOBC athletes.

The program is not just for elite athletes—it's for coaches who are open to new training techniques and athletes who are committed to training. Participating coaches and athletes take the skills that they learn back to their local programs to benefit all athletes, not just a few. The goal is to elevate everyone's level

of sport and performance by providing training and tools to participating coaches and athletes so they can share them with everyone in their home communities.

We believe that by giving coaches better resources and tools, they can then train athletes better, who in turn raise the level of competition making everyone's performance level rise.

The program involves three components:

- **by-invitation camps** where athletes and

SOBC Performance Program supported by

Canada



RBC Foundation®



Athletes and coaches thank the Government of Canada at the first SOBC Figure Skating Performance Camp.



Track athletes thank RBC Foundation for their support at the first SOBC Performance Program camp that brought summer and winter sport coaches and athletes together.

coaches from all over the province work with sport-specific experts and sport science experts to help develop their skills and knowledge and give them tools to share;

- **functional testing sessions** that provide direct feedback on where the athletes are in their fitness and how they can improve, helping motivate the athletes and guide training; and
- **coach-only camps and summits** where coaches come together to learn from experts, share their experience with others, and collaborate on ideas.

New Performance Program opportunities introduced in 2015 included the first camps for 5- and 10-pin bowling, bocce, curling, figure skating, golf, and rhythmic gymnastics, new dryland practices for cross-country skiing, the first Performance Program team sports camp for floor hockey and soccer, and the Athletics and Snowshoeing Performance Camp that was the first such event to bring together summer and winter sports athletes and coaches.

Coaches are excited by the opportunities to work together and build skills. Figure skating coach Landis Graham of SOBC – Vancouver said she was glad to see SOBC coaches coming together through the Performance Program and learning from each other.

"Coach collaboration and coaches getting to know each other across the province is really important. ... It is good to share and make everyone stronger across the province," she said.

Debbie Roblin of SOBC – Fort St. John was among the seven participants at the first SOBC Bocce Performance Camp, which was a coach-specific camp, and she too benefitted from the opportunity to connect with fellow coaches.

"I enjoyed the networking and the sharing of stories as to what works for certain athletes or certain disabilities. I truly enjoyed the team spirit that was shared," Roblin said.

In addition to connecting coaches with their SOBC peers and other sport and training experts, the Performance Program teaches valuable new techniques to athletes and

Performance Program



SOBC rhythmic gymnastics athlete Ashley Gray of SOBC – Burnaby (left) and coach Michelle Cooper of SOBC – Victoria (right) working with expert Mario Lam of the BC Rhythmic Gymnastics Federation at a Performance camp.

coaches alike. It pushes the boundary of what we think is possible for training. At the dryland SOBC Cross-Country Skiing Performance Camp, participants headed to the hills in Kelowna and learned several new training techniques.

SOBC – Kelowna’s Garth Vickers, Team BC 2016 Head Coach for cross-country skiing, led a hike along Crawford Park trails where he showed participants proper poling techniques and how to approach hills and valleys, simulating what it would be like on snow—a first-time camp experience.

“It helped me with my endurance, and how to place my poles,” said SOBC – Kelowna athlete Katarina Gerhardt, a Team BC 2016 cross-country skier.

Gerhardt also got to try the new cross-training session with in-line skates when participants hit the rink with expert Dallas Kurtz. Kurtz taught proper skating technique, turning, breaking, how to fall safely, and skating with poles in sessions that reinforced techniques from previous Performance camps.

“I had never been on roller blades before,” Gerhardt said. “I have poor balance and it helped my balance.”

In 2015, SOBC also hosted Performance Program camps in alpine skiing, athletics, cross-country skiing, powerlifting, snowshoeing, soccer, and speed skating.

Significant support from the Government of Canada and a \$20,000 grant from RBC



Cross-country skier Katarina Gerhardt getting on inline skates at a Performance Program training camp to help build balance and technique.

Foundation help make SOBC Performance Program opportunities possible.

For more information and stories, please visit specialolympics.bc.ca/performance-program or contact Emma Woo, SOBC Manager, Sport Performance, by email at ewoo@specialolympics.bc.ca or by phone at 604-616-1342 / 1-888-854-2276 toll-free. ○

SOBC Board of Directors

Special Olympics BC is fortunate to have outstanding leadership and support from our **Board of Directors**. Our



sincere thanks to all of the members of the Board of Directors who so generously give their time to strengthen the ongoing quality and value of this organization.

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Randy Smallwood
Patty Wheeldon



Special Olympics BC – Surrey athlete Jay Laitar assesses his strength in the wall sit exercise during an SOBC functional testing session in June 2015. Open to all SOBC athletes, functional testing involves exercises that measure fitness and foundational movements, which are used to test fitness levels and to motivate and guide training. SOBC now hosts functional testing sessions around the province to show the personal progress of each athlete and provide feedback to coaches.

motionball supports SOBC with successful fundraisers and awareness campaign



motionball was onside with Special Olympics BC again in 2015 with the winning Marathon of Sport fundraisers and the YELLOWCARD campaign to end derogatory use of the R-word.

The ninth annual Marathon of Sport Vancouver brought together 24 teams of young professionals and 37 SOBC athletes for a day of inclusive sport and fun at the amazing EA Sports complex on June 6. The event crushed its previous records by raising \$80,000 net for the Special Olympics Canada Foundation and Special Olympics programs across the country.

One parent said the event was a “fantastic experience” for her daughter, a Special Olympics athlete.

“Her teammates were just awesome with her, and it gave her the chance to play sports she had never played before and feel completely included. This was the first time she had been invited to this event, and we can’t say enough about what an excellent experience it was for our family. So thank you!” she wrote.

Two weeks later, the fourth annual Marathon of Sport Kelowna presented by Interior Savings was another huge hit, with 19 teams of young professionals and 34 Special Olympics athletes, and \$53,000 raised.

“It’s all about integration with the Special



SOBC – Vancouver athlete Annabelle Davis and VPD Chief Constable Adam Palmer showed the R-word a yellow card.

Olympics athletes, less about the competition and more about the athletes,” said motionball Chairman and Co-Founder Paul Etherington, who came west to join the fun.

motionball is a not-for-profit whose mandate is to introduce the next generation of donors, volunteers and sponsors to the Special Olympics movement through integrated social and sporting events. Since inception in 2002, motionball has donated over \$5 million to the Special Olympics Canada Foundation.

On October 8, the second annual YELLOWCARD Day saw motionball and supporters stage events across Canada to call for an end to the hurtful use of the R-word. In



SOBC athletes get a warm welcome at the Vancouver Marathon of Sport.

B.C., Vancouver Canucks forward Chris Higgins and our law enforcement partners such as the Abbotsford, Delta, and Vancouver Police Departments and Transit Police got involved to advocate respect and show the R-word a yellow card.

In soccer, a yellow card is shown to offending players as a warning that they have crossed a line; in the same way, the YELLOWCARD campaign aims to inform Canadians that the R-word is offensive and hurtful even if used in a way that seems harmless.

Learn more and take the pledge: motionball.com/yellowcard

Mary Brown’s support of Special Olympics launches in B.C.

Mary Brown’s, a Special Olympics Canada national partner, brought their fundraising campaign to B.C. in 2015 after opening their first B.C. store in Kelowna.

Throughout July, Mary Brown’s donated proceeds from the sale of their solid chocolate taters to SOC. And on Big Mary Day, July 29, \$2 from the sale of every Big Mary sandwich nationwide went to the Mary Brown’s Fund in support of Special Olympics Canada.

The first Mary Brown’s stores launched more than 40 years ago in St. John’s, Newfoundland. In 2015 Mary Brown’s designated Special Olympics Canada as their national charity. One hundred per cent of the net proceeds from their 2015 campaign were donated to SOC.

Big thanks to Mary Brown’s for their great support! ○



SOBC – Kelowna athletes help raise awareness at Mary Brown’s.

Donate your vehicle to SOBC

You can donate your vehicle to support Special Olympics



BC—there is no cost to you, and it’s incredibly easy! Working on our behalf, **Donate a Car** takes care of the entire donation process from the pick up to the final sale, and works to maximize the dollar amount passed on to SOBC.

Donating your car to support SOBC is a convenient and generous way to pass along or dispose of a vehicle. Donate a Car accepts cars, trucks, RVs, boats, motorcycles, and other vehicles, old or new, running or not. Your vehicle will either be recycled or sold at auction, depending on your vehicle and location. Donate a Car will then forward the net proceeds to SOBC, and we will send you a tax receipt.

Your donation will help support the life-changing sport programs SOBC offers to more than 4,400 people with intellectual disabilities around the province.

To donate your vehicle, please visit donatecar.ca.

Volunteers from around the province inspired at Leadership Summit

On October 2 and 3, more than 100 Special Olympics BC volunteers, athlete and youth leaders, and staff from across the province gathered in the Lower Mainland for a weekend of inspiring speakers and networking opportunities at the 2015 SOBC Leadership Summit.

The summit, the first of its kind in five years, gave community leaders from 50 Locals and Leadership Council members the chance to learn from expert speakers and each other, and bring new tools and ideas back to their communities or Regions. Topics included health initiatives, branding, finance, Athlete Leadership, the Performance Program, competition, youth programming, and risk management.

"I thought the summit was very empowering not only to me as a volunteer but to the athletes as well," SOBC – Prince George Local Coordinator Alexandra Orser said. "It was great to hear from all the speakers who had such a diverse background speak to what Special Olympics is really about. As someone who has just started out as a volunteer, it was really encouraging to meet different volunteers from all over the province who are very passionate about what they do. I loved hearing testimonials that Special Olympics isn't just about sports but a community and a way of life for our athletes."

It was great to hear from all the speakers who had such a diverse background speak to what Special Olympics is really about

SOBC – Prince George Local Coordinator Alexandra Orser

direction of Special Olympics. SOBC – Langley athlete and Special Olympics International Board Member Matthew Williams emceed the event, and legendary sports broadcaster Bernie Pascall hosted the SOBC Award presentations and Hall of Fame inductions.

SOBC – Langley Local Coordinator Shirley Stewart liked the Healthy Athletes component of the summit, which included an enlightening talk from Vivienne Temple, PhD, Professor in the School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education at the University of Victoria.

"Our Local is very lucky to have a strong team of volunteer coaches who ensure our

SOBC Board of Directors Chair Ted Hirst opened the summit with an inspiring message about the vision and



Coach Deborah Carter and athlete Kellie Robertson talking about Robertson's incredible achievements in health, fitness, and sport performance with the help of functional testing and Club Fit.

athletes receive the best possible training," Stewart said. "After attending the summit I have a renewed focus on making sure that the health and fitness portion of our programs are expanded so the two can work hand in glove to develop well-rounded athletes."

The event also included energizing sessions led by SOBC Board of Directors Member Michael Campbell who spoke on branding and finance, and Jacques Thibault, a former national team coach and Olympic speed skater, spoke about elevating training and competition opportunities for athletes through the SOBC Performance Program.

An animated talk about athlete leadership by Dave Lenox, President & CEO of Special Olympics Washington, made a big impression on participants such as SOBC – Vernon Local Coordinator Cheryl Friesen.

"We are busy developing the coaching skills of our coaches and volunteers, which is very important, and enhancing our programs and encouraging more competitions, but reaching out to the athletes and having a discussion with them to see if we are on track to meet their expectations is the key," Friesen said. "In the near future, we plan to host an athlete meeting to have some round table discussions and understand how they are feeling about how we are moving forward."

At the summit's close, Athlete Leadership and Youth Activation Council summit participants had a chance to discuss the weekend's topics together, and decided branding and growth were the most critical issues for SOBC.

"It's important to get more kids involved in Active Start," SOBC – Richmond athlete Vincent Li said. ○

SOBC staff update

2015 has been a year of exciting changes for the Special Olympics BC staff!

We are delighted to have **Charlotte Taylor**, Manager, Fund Development, staying with SOBC long-term. **Courtenay Wood** did not return from maternity leave in 2015, and we wish her all the very best.

In January, our fond wishes went with **Kristin Webster**, Manager, Community Development with Regions 7 & 8, as she moved on to another opportunity in Vanderhoof. In February, we were excited to welcome **Charlene Flood** as Manager, Community Development, for our northern B.C. Regions. Charlene lives in Prince George and holds a diploma in Classroom and Community Support and a degree in Community Rehabilitation and Disabilities from the University of Calgary.

In September, two new Managers, Community Development, joined the team: **Reanne Holden** for Region 2, based out of Kelowna, and **Sarah Wall** for Regions 3, 4, and 5, based out of the SOBC provincial office in Burnaby.

Reanne was an award-winning student athlete who coached and founded a Special Olympics program in Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario, while she played varsity basketball at the University of Waterloo. Sarah completed a Bachelor of Arts Health Science and Kinesiology degree at Simon Fraser University, is certified as a NCCP Olympics Lifting Club coach, and has worked with individuals with a physical disabilities on exercise and stretching.

Exciting changes on the Programs team also included **Leslie Thornley** moving from Manager, Community Development for Region 2 into the role of Manager, Sport, focusing on coach and youth development, while Manager, Sport, **Shawn Fevens** is now responsible for competition and sport development.

We bid a fond farewell to **Cari Henri**, who has moved on to a great role with the WBSC XV Women's World Softball Championship after a decade of dedication with SOBC, and to **Rachel Borer**, who moved back east to new opportunities closer to her family after four years of passionate work with SOBC. ○

Special Olympics is changing the world

Matthew Williams is a Special Olympics BC – Langley athlete and member of the Special Olympics International Board of Directors. On November 14, 2015, he gave a TEDxVancouver talk that elicited two standing ovations and many inspired responses from the audience of more than 3,200 people. Below is a condensed version of his speech. To watch the full talk, visit www.tedxvancouver.com.

My name is Matthew Williams, and I am a champion.

I have won medals in three different sports at National Games in Canada, competed at the international level in basketball, and was proud to represent Canada on the world stage. I train five times a week for basketball and speed skating, and work with top-quality coaches and mental performance consultants to be at my best in my sport. By the way, that is all through Special Olympics. Does that change how you think of me and my accomplishments?

The world doesn't always see people like me as champions. Not so long ago, people like me were shunned and hidden away. There has been a lot of change since Special Olympics began in 1968, but in too many cases, people with intellectual disabilities are invisible to the wider population.

People use the R-word in front of me and they think it doesn't matter. They're not thinking about how much it hurts me and my friends.

Special Olympics transforms the self-identity of athletes with intellectual disabilities, and the perceptions of everyone watching. This movement has changed my life and those of many others, and it has changed the way the world sees people with intellectual disabilities.

I don't want you to think I'm here because I'm a charity case. I'm here because there are still big problems with the way many people see people with intellectual disabilities, or too often, how they don't see them at all. ...

What do you think when you see someone with an intellectual disability? I'm here today because I want to challenge you to look at us as equals.

Special Olympics transforms the self-identity of athletes with intellectual disabilities, and the perceptions of everyone watching. This movement has changed my life and those

of many others, and it has changed the way the world sees people with intellectual disabilities.

... I'm one of more than 4.5 million Special Olympics athletes around the globe. Being Special Olympics athletes restores our pride and dignity.

Special Olympics also addresses critical health needs among people with intellectual disabilities. Studies have shown that on average, men with intellectual disabilities die 13 years younger than men without, and women with intellectual disabilities die 20 years younger.

Special Olympics helps us become healthier by getting active and participating in sports, and our coaches help teach us about nutrition and health. Special Olympics also provides health screenings targeted for athletes who have difficulties communicating with their doctors or accessing health care.

At the World Games in LA this summer, my Team Canada teammates and I played against the Nigerian basketball team. The day before our game, the Nigerian team went to the World Games Healthy Athletes screenings, and seven of 10 members were given hearing aids for free, and that meant they could hear for the very first time.

The change in them was amazing. They were more confident, excited, and happy because their coach could vocally communicate with them, and they were emotional because they could hear the cheering fans, the dribbling of the basketball, and the whistle—sounds that we take for granted.

Special Olympics is transforming more than just the athlete in their sport—we're transforming lives off the playing fields.

This year, research was released showing nearly half of adults in the United States say they don't know a single person with an intellectual disability. And the 44% of Americans who don't have personal contact with intellectual disabilities are significantly less accepting and positive.

And then there's the R-word. Proving the



point that people with intellectual disabilities are still invisible to far too many people, a lot of people still use this as a casual term or an insult. It was tweeted more than 9 million times last year. But it is deeply hurtful to me and 4.5 million of my fellow athletes around the planet. People might not think they're not using it as an insult, but it is.

As my fellow Special Olympics athlete and Global Messenger John Franklin Stephens wrote in an open letter to a well-known political pundit who used the R-word as an insult, "Come join us someday at Special Olympics. See if you can walk away with your heart unchanged." ...

Special Olympics teaches the world that people with intellectual disabilities deserve respect and inclusion. Now I have dreams and achievements in my sports, great coaches, respect and dignity, better health, and I'm pursuing a career as a personal trainer. I'm no longer hidden, bullied, and I am here doing a TED talk! The world is a different place because of Special Olympics.

But there's still farther to go. So the next time you meet someone with an intellectual disability, I hope you'll see their abilities. The next time someone uses the R-word near you, I hope you'll tell them how much it hurts. I hope you'll think about getting involved with Special Olympics.

Nelson Mandela said sports have the power to change the world. Special Olympics is changing the world by transforming 4.5 million athletes and giving us a place to be confident, not be judged, and get to feel like, and be, champions. ○

Matthew has developed his speaking and leadership skills with Special Olympics Athlete Leadership programs. Athletes interested in being involved in upcoming Athlete Leadership opportunities are invited to speak with their Local Coordinators to learn more.

Strong performances by SOBC athletes at Western Canada Summer Games

Congratulations to the eight Special Olympics BC athletes who competed in the **2015 Western Canada Summer Games** and did everyone proud! SOBC – Burnaby athletes April Armstrong and Daniel Batson and SOBC – Langley athletes Abigale Calvert and Michael Savage shone in athletics, and swimmers David Dunn of SOBC – Prince George, Paige Norton of SOBC – Abbotsford, Jesse Shade of SOBC – Campbell River, and Kayla Willms of SOBC – Coquitlam delivered strong races in the pool.

Shade and Savage had standout performances, striking gold in all of their events. Shade swam to five gold medals in his 50- and 100-metre races, and Savage earned three in his sprint races and long jump. Shade was named Team BC flagbearer in recognition of his outstanding achievements and team leadership.

“Swim BC was very proud to have Jesse represent all of Team BC at the closing ceremony as flag bearer for our province,”



SOBC – Campbell River Jesse Shade carrying the flag for Team BC in the 2015 Western Canada Games Closing Ceremony.



Athletics coaches Tom Norton (far left) and Deborah Carter (far right) proud of their medal-winning athletes (left to right) Daniel Batson, April Armstrong, Abigale Calvert, and Michael Savage.

Team BC swimming head coach Mike Flegel said. “Jesse’s performance and leadership with his team during the 2015 Western Canada Summer Games should serve as an inspiration to all.”

Team BC reported: “Competing against swimmers eight to 10 years his senior, Shade demonstrated tremendous power in the pool in Wood Buffalo. Shade is a Special Olympics athlete, but his times are comparable to generic athletes, and he is among the fastest swimmers on Team BC.”

“Jesse is a very strong swimmer and a natural leader in and out of the pool,” says Shade’s Team BC coach Brianna Kowalski. “He has the qualities in an athlete I can’t teach, dedication and commitment...and he has a great attitude.”

Each of Shade’s Western Canada Games gold medals came with a personal-best performance.

SOBC – Campbell River swimming Head Coach Sandy Ott said Shade is a very dedicated athlete who trains very hard and keeps focused on his goals while being great with his fellow athletes. Previous SOBC –

Campbell River swimming Head Coach Dave Sampson remembers when Shade first came to swimming and found it hard. Sampson said he could see that with training he had lots of potential as a swimmer, and through hard work and determination, Shade has realized that vision.

Shade is also known for sense of his humour and joking with the other athletes, and for his basketball skills.

“Through being with Special Olympics, he has gained confidence, athletic sports knowledge, and awareness of the dedication and cooperation with other athletes and coaches that needs to happen to be a successful Special Olympics athlete,” Shade’s mother Violet said.

Congrats to all eight awesome athletes, and thanks to the terrific SOBC coaches who helped them shine: athletics coaches Deborah Carter and Tom Norton and aquatics coaches Brianna Kowalski and Aaron Leontowich! Carter and Norton went straight from coaching Team Canada to heading north with the Team BC athletes. ○

Make a difference with your Aeroplan Miles

Special Olympics BC is fortunate to be part of the **Aeroplan Beyond Miles** donation program. We hope our frequent-flyer friends will consider donating Aeroplan Miles to help support Special Olympics.

Visit www.beyondmiles.aeroplan.com/eng/charity/618



Celebrity supporters champion Special

Special Olympics is an inspiring movement of athletes, families, coaches, volunteers, sponsors, and celebrities coming together with the common goal of improving the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and inspiring everyone to open their hearts to a wider world of human talents and potential.

When high-profile supporters stand up as champions of our athletes and movement, it makes a difference. Special Olympics BC is fortunate to have many champions from the world of professional and amateur sports who give their time to support our movement and advocate our athletes and cause. They make a difference by setting an example for a more inclusive, respectful world.

Ever since SOBC started more than three decades ago, celebrities have been lending their support after getting hooked on the infectious

spirit and sportsmanship of Special Olympics athletes. None is more dedicated than **Howie Meeker**, winner of four Stanley Cups and a Calder Trophy with the Toronto Maple Leafs, a member of the Hockey Hall of Fame, and an inductee into the Order of Canada.

Meeker has been a staunch supporter of SOBC – Campbell River for nearly three decades, giving his name and presence to the Special Olympics Howie Meeker Classic golf



NHL 1947 Rookie of the Year Howie Meeker poses with 2015 SOBC – Campbell River Rookie of the Year Joshua Brearley.

tournament, which is in its 27th year.

"I said, 'if you're going to spend your money the best bet is Special Olympics.' Every penny stays in the programs," Meeker says. "We worked extremely hard every year. The tournament brought in \$400,000 in its first four years."

Meeker's wife Leah Meeker has also been involved with Special Olympics since they married 16 years ago.

"His name has attracted a lot of people,"

Leah Meeker says. "He and I just enjoy it thoroughly, and we enjoy the people involved. The athletes are very loving and it's wonderful. We are on a first name basis with them. We get as much out of it as they do."

Howie Meeker first got involved with Special Olympics when Harry "Red" Foster, the broadcasting and humanitarian legend who founded Special Olympics in Canada, asked him to help out on an advisory board for Special Olympics Canada. Meeker plans to stay involved in the Howie Meeker Classic as long as he can "walk 20

feet to the hole."

Fellow broadcaster **Bernie Pascall** attended the first-ever Special Olympics Games in 1968 at Soldier Field in Chicago, and said he has had "an insatiable interest" in Special Olympics ever since seeing the enthusiasm, energy, and determination of the athletes at that Games.

Pascall, a Hall of Fame sports broadcaster, covered sports events in B.C. for 30 years, lending his support to SOBC along the way.



SOBC athletes challenging Vancouver Whitecaps FC fans to a shootout in the busy plaza at the Whitecaps' sold-out home opener.

In 2015, he chose to give his time to SOBC as emcee of the award and Hall of Fame induction ceremony at the SOBC Leadership Summit, and attended the Sports Celebrities Festival.

The **Vancouver Canucks** generously help SOBC with their significant full-team participation in the annual Sports Celebrities Festival in support of SOBC and the Canucks for Kids Fund. Their generosity towards Special Olympics continues year-round, as they provide ticket donations so athletes and coaches get to attend games, offer assistance from their players and coaching staff for training and development events, and give SOBC access to autographed memorabilia that creates key fundraising opportunities for SOBC provincially and at the local level. They never hesitate to support Special Olympics athletes by raising awareness in their online channels.

Forward Chris Higgins has generously stepped forward to champion Special Olympics at fundraising events and awareness opportunities, sharing the impact Special Olympics has had on his sister, a longtime athlete in New York, and his family. Higgins ran the Law Enforcement Torch Run Granville Kilometre again in 2015, and showed his support for *motionball's* YELLOWCARD campaign to help end the derogatory use of the R-word.

This year, Canucks staff jumped at the chance to work with SOBC athletes on their annual Live 2 Give day, where all staff spend a day volunteering with Lower Mainland charities. Eleven enthusiastic and encouraging Canucks staff members ran a functional testing session to help SOBC athletes track their fitness, strength, and progress.

Vancouver Whitecaps FC put Special Olympics in the spotlight by choosing SOBC community match partner at the 'Caps sold-out season opener on March 7 at BC Place, providing an amazing opportunity to raise awareness around the Spread the Word to End the Word day. SOBC had booths during 'Caps



Vancouver Canucks staff enjoyed volunteering with SOBC athletes on their annual Live 2 Give day.

Olympics

Kickoff on Terry Fox Plaza, where athletes and coaches ran a fun shootout with spectators and encouraged guests to pledge to eliminate the R-word. At halftime, the SO Team Canada soccer team took the field for a fun match against SOBC – Abbotsford.

The club also donates unique autographed memorabilia for fundraising, raises awareness in their web and social media channels, and gets their players and icons involved in Special Olympics events.

The **BC Lions Football Club** is a long-standing supporter of Special Olympics and their players are great champions who attend events such as the Sports Celebrities Festival. Many players and leaders have enthusiastically gotten further involved, like quarterback Travis Lulay who gives significant support to Special Olympics by participating in events and raising awareness about SOBC and our campaigns in his social media channels.

Lulay served as Honorary Coach for the 2015 SOBC Winter Games, where he walked into the Opening Ceremony with the Regional teams and encouraged the athletes with his speech and support.

In addition, many stars and sports organizations elsewhere in Vancouver and in communities around B.C. generously give their time and support to SOBC Locals. We are so grateful to these champions for raising awareness and support in their communities as well. ○

Provincial Champions:

- Adam Bighill – BC Lions linebacker
- Wally Buono – BC Lions General Manager
- Chris Higgins – Vancouver Canucks forward
- Marco Iannuzzi – BC Lions receiver
- Trevor Linden – Vancouver Canucks President of Hockey Operations



Clay Bussey

BC Lions quarterback Travis Lulay (centre) with Region 2 athletes at the 2015 Provincial Games Opening Ceremony.

- Travis Lulay – BC Lions quarterback
- Howie Meeker – hockey legend
- Cathy Priestner Allinger – Olympic speed skating medallist
- Angus Reid – retired BC Lions centre
- Carl Valentine – Whitecaps FC club ambassador

SOBC athletes, volunteers, and supporters honoured locally and nationally

We're very pleased to congratulate and celebrate Special Olympics members and supporters who were recognized in 2015 with awards for their significant contributions to Special Olympics, sport, and community!

- Heartfelt congratulations to SOBC – Abbotsford coach **Tom Norton**, deserving winner of Special Olympics Canada's 2015 Male Coach of the Year Award!
- Two fantastic SOBC volunteers and one athlete were honoured by the Sports Halls of Fame in their communities: Past SOBC – Vernon fundraising volunteer **John Topping** was inducted into the Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame for his incredible impact on his community; SOBC – Mission volunteer **Stuart Coates** became a member of the Mission Sports Hall of Fame for his significant impact on soccer in the community at large and with Special Olympics; and SOBC – Coquitlam athlete **Mandy Manzardo** won the Coquitlam Sports Hall of Fame's annual prize for athletes with disabilities.
- **Bill Farley** was a remarkable SOBC – Kelowna coach, volunteer, leader, mentor, and friend who was recognized with a 2015 Sport BC Community Sport Hero Award in Kelowna just a few weeks after he sadly and unexpectedly passed away due to brain cancer.

- In November, Special Olympics Canada recognized 17 SO Team Canada 2015 coaches with Petro-Canada Coaching Excellence Awards, and we're pleased to congratulate SOBC recipients **Dona Cade, Deborah Carter, Lorena Mead, Aleila Miller, Tom Norton, and Ian Olive.**



From left to right, Dr. Jonathan Weiss, Special Olympics Canada Board Member, Senator Jim Munson, and national Male Coach of the Year Tom Norton of SOBC – Abbotsford.

- Thanks and congratulations to SOBC – Vernon Local Coordinator **Cheryl Friesen**, who was celebrated with a Sport BC Community Sport Hero Award in December in recognition of her dedicated and compassionate volunteer efforts.
- Congratulations to hardworking SOBC – Kamloops swimmer **Dallas Gilchrist**, who

was nominated for the Kamloops Sports Council Male Athlete of the Year Award.

- SOBC – Chilliwack volunteer **Kathie MacDonald** was honoured with a Chilliwack Community Sport Hero Award to celebrate and thank her for the countless hours she has given to her Local.
- Congratulations to **Lorena Mead**, longtime SOBC – Kelowna softball coach, winner of a Kelowna Capital News Community Leader Award in the 2015 Coach category.
- Sincere congratulations to **Sylvia Taylor**, SOBC – Nanaimo Local Coordinator and member of the SOBC Hall of Fame, for winning the Michael Rhode Memorial Award for her dedication to sport in the Nanaimo community.
- We are very pleased to celebrate **Christina Hadley**, SOBC Vice President, Fund Development & Communications, who in 2015 marked 25 years as SOBC staff. Thank you for all your remarkable work and dedication to Special Olympics!

Congratulations to these deserving winners, and to all of the members of the SOBC family who have been recognized in their own communities this year whom we may have missed! We love to hear about and celebrate your achievements—please forward stories to: megan@specialolympics.bc.ca. ○

SOBC Leadership Council update

Special Olympics BC's **Leadership Council** provides vital guidance for our organization and movement, and we are so grateful for their significant contributions. In 2015 we were thrilled to welcome new Regional Coordinators Sheila Paynter of Region 2, Jean Tetarenko of Region 6, and Nicole Zacharias of Region 7, while bidding a grateful farewell (of sorts!) to Sue Foisy, Tina Readman, and Barb Tull of Region 4.

Paynter and Foisy traded places in Region 2, as Paynter was elected as Regional Coordinator and Foisy as SOBC – Kelowna Local Coordinator. Paynter brings great experience as a volunteer with SOBC – Kelowna since 2009 and as a mission staff member for the Region 2 team at the 2013 Special Olympics BC Summer Games and for Team BC at the Special Olympics Canada 2014 Summer Games.

Foisy has been a wonderful voice on the Leadership Council in the last several years. Foisy is a certified trainer for the Crisis Prevention Institute and she initially joined SOBC as a track and field coach, quickly moving on to support Region 2 as a mission staff member at the 2009 Provincial Games in Abbotsford. Foisy also served as mission staff for Team BC 2012 and led the Region 2 team at the 2013 and 2015 Provincial Games.

Tetarenko has been volunteering with SOBC

– Victoria since 2011, as a dedicated and enthusiastic coach who has supported several different sports over the years, and in an Executive Committee role. Tetarenko served on two provincial teams, as a Team BC 2014 athletics coach and Team BC 2016 cross-country skiing mission staff, and was a diligent and passionate Chef de Mission for the Region 6 team at the 2015 SOBC Winter Games. She also went above and beyond by signing up to volunteer as a Delegate Liaison with the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles.

In Region 7, Zacharias stepped into the role of Regional Coordinator after serving a term as SOBC – Smithers Local Coordinator. She has also given her time to SOBC – Smithers as snowshoeing Head Coach and has served as an athletics and aquatics coach, so she brings a wealth of knowledge and heart to the Leadership Council.

Readman has been a much-appreciated SOBC volunteer for 15 years, and she has been a valued voice on the Leadership Council with her experience in Region 7 and her perspective

SOBC Leadership Council

Leadership Chair:

- Patty Wheeldon

Regional Coordinators:

- Sheila Hawton (Region 1)
- Sheila Paynter (Region 2)
- Donna Bilous (Region 3)
- Jean Tetarenko (Region 6)
- Darren Inouye (Region 5)
- Nicole Zacharias (Region 7)
- Sandra Galletti (Region 8)

Members:

- Deanna Eckstein
- James Sutherland
- Matthew Williams

as a coach, volunteer, and parent. Readman's whole family is involved with Special Olympics, and we're so glad she too did not leave the SOBC family – she took on the role of SOBC – Kitimat Local Coordinator.

We are very grateful that departing Region 4 Coordinator Tull also did not leave SOBC entirely, as she is staying involved with the sport that is her passion, rhythmic gymnastics. Tull has

been involved with SOBC for 26 years and has been a remarkable source of leadership, support, guidance, and compassion throughout her involvement. She is a great champion of Special Olympics athletes, a hardworking volunteer, and a valued visionary and friend.

Comprised of the Regional Coordinators representing the eight SOBC Regions and respected leaders in the SOBC sport world, the council serves as the link between community and regional programs and the Board of Directors of Special Olympics BC. This group plays an important role in helping chart the course of SOBC sport program development, strategic plans, policies, and resources. ○

JYSK gives championship support in successful campaign

JYSK ran another successful fundraiser this year as stores across Canada stepped up for the 2015 **Champions Start at Home** campaign, raising \$100,000 nationwide for Special Olympics throughout September.

B.C. customers had the chance to participate in the campaign at nine JYSK stores across the province.

The Prince George JYSK store raised the most money in the country for the third year in a row, winning the Highest Dollar Amount title in recognition of their hard work. SOBC – Prince George athletes Barbie Conway and Marinka VanHage baked goods and organized volunteers for bake sales, and athletes helped bag purchases and greet customers. The JYSK staff got into the action by donating baked goods and holding a fundraising barbecue with SOBC volunteers.

The Coquitlam JYSK store staff continued their inspiring work after a big increase in customer participation in 2014.



"It went really well," said JYSK Coquitlam Store Manager Chelsea Tiney of the 2015 fundraiser.

"Customers really enjoyed engaging with the athletes, especially at the barbecue and bake sale. It was great having them there."

Tiney said the staff loved the campaign and had a fun competition to see who could raise the most funds or come up with the best fundraising idea. A few staff took in bottles to raise a little extra money.

"My favourite part was getting to interact with athletes, just getting to meet them and getting to know their story and what they like to do best," Tiney said. "All the staff really liked that, meeting the people who we do this for."

We are so grateful to JYSK and all the staff, customers, volunteers, and athletes who made the campaign such a success in the 11th year of JYSK supporting Special Olympics!

"We are proud and honoured to be a



Prince George



Ridge Meadows



Kelowna

national partner of Special Olympics since 2006 and our continued association with the very worthwhile Champions Start at Home campaign. JYSK Canada customers have a chance to make a difference in the lives of people with intellectual disabilities in their community, simply by making a donation at the till at any one of our JYSK Canada locations," said Lynne Williams, JYSK Canada Director of Advertising. ○

BC Law Enforcement Torch Run

Law enforcement members carry the torch high for Special Olympics

Torch Run fever swept the province in June, with law enforcement runners and Special Olympics athletes taking to the streets in their communities to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics BC.

The **2015 BC Law Enforcement Torch Run** saw 700 LETR runners and 136 SOBC athletes carrying the Flame of Hope across the Lower Mainland and in Prince George, Victoria, Cranbrook, and Nanaimo for Torch Run Month, spreading a message of respect and inclusion and raising more than \$31,400.

The Lower Mainland Torch Run ran through Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Langley, Surrey, Vancouver, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Burnaby, Port Moody, Coquitlam, Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge, Mission, New Westminster, Richmond, and Ladner.

“We had great turnouts by law enforcement members

and Special Olympics athletes in each of the communities we visited over the four days,” says Staff Sergeant Joanne Wild of the Vancouver Police Department, organizer for the Lower Mainland Torch Run. “Each year since I’ve been involved, the LETR has grown and my only wish is that it continues to do so.”

SOBC – Vancouver athlete Pat Johnson takes part in the Lower Mainland run year after year. He said he likes running with team captain S/Sgt. Wild and the rest of the entourage, and hearing people cheer from the sidelines.

We would like to thank all the organizers and participants across the province who made the 2015 Torch Run such an inspiring and successful event.

On February 19, law enforcement members



Constable Meagan Grainger of the Kamloops RCMP and SOBC – Kamloops athlete Brian Bourns at the SOBC Winter Games.

helped kick off the 2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games in Kamloops with the **BC Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg**. The run finished at the Games Opening Ceremony, where Constable Meagan Grainger of the Kamloops RCMP and SOBC – Kamloops athlete Brian Bourns lit the Games cauldron with the Flame of Hope to signal the start of competition.

From July 13 to 25, S/Sgt. Wild and BC LETR Provincial Director Rick Lucy had the honour of joining an international team of law enforcement runners in the **2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games LETR Final Leg**, carrying the Flame of Hope throughout California communities and into the World Games Opening Ceremony. ○



Staff Sergeant Joanne Wild (right) on the World Summer Games Final Leg.



Vancouver



Cranbrook



Victoria



North Vancouver

2015 LETR event recap

Special Olympics BC would like to thank the various agencies who organized events in 2015 to raise funds and awareness.

The Delta Police Department hosted their successful annual 50/50 draw at a Vancouver Giants game right before the new year and are looking forward to the 2016 event on March 11.

The Victoria Police Department faced off against the Saanich Police Department in front of packed stands for their annual **Battle of**

the Badges hockey game in March to benefit SOBC. The two agencies came together with the Oak Bay Police Department and Central Saanich Police Service in May to host a two-day **Free the Fuzz** roof sit at Uptown shopping centre in Victoria.

In its second year, the **Metro Vancouver Transit Police Golf Tournament** raised more than \$17,000—more than double the 2014 total—and organizers are excited to beat this number on May 19, 2016. The **Cycle for a**

Cause fundraiser, organized by Transit Police and the Burnaby RCMP also raised more than double than in its first year.

The Abbotsford Police Department hosted their annual **Challenge Run** in June. Many community members came out to take part and support this family-oriented event for SOBC.

We also thank the many agencies who held raffles, hosted barbecues, and sold T-shirts this year to raise funds for SOBC. ○



Kicking off the Challenge Run.



Burnaby RCMP, Transit Police, and Concord Security members at Cycle for a Cause.



SOBC – Coquitlam athletes Chris Sayers (far left) and Eric Bruneau (far right) and volunteers at the Transit Police Golf Tournament.



Sergeant Pat Bryant, Constable Sheri Lucas, and Constable Lisa Bruschetta camped out for Free the Fuzz.

International Conference

This year the **Law Enforcement Torch Run International Conference** in the Bahamas brought together more than 1,500 law enforcement members from agencies around the world, including six BC LETR members. Participants had a chance to share ideas and learn from other successful programs in order to continue to grow the international movement.

During the conference, participants learned the LETR raised more than \$51

million US in 2014 for Special Olympics programs worldwide.

In other exciting news, Rick Lucy, the BC LETR Director, was elected to the International Executive Council as the Region XI (Canada) representative and coordinator. Congratulations to Lucy for taking on this new role within the larger LETR movement!

In 2016, the International Conference will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, from September 15 to 17. ○



BC LETR Director Rick Lucy, Constable Sheri Lucas of the Oak Bay Police Department, Staff Sergeant Joanne Wild of the Vancouver Police Department, Constable Lisa Schlatter of the Cranbrook RCMP, Constable Troy Parsons of the Metro Vancouver Transit Police, and Staff Sergeant Debbie McLeod of the Delta Police Department at the LETR International Conference.

BC LETR Executive Council update

This year has brought exciting changes to the BC LETR Executive Council with two new members coming on board. The BC LETR is pleased to welcome the newest Executive members, Assistant Commissioner Dan Malo from the Lower Mainland RCMP and Inspector Howard Chow from the Vancouver Police Department. Both A/Comm. Malo and Insp. Chow will be excellent resources for the BC LETR and contribute greatly to the growth of the program in the Lower Mainland Region.

We would also like to congratulate Rick Lucy on his retirement this year from the Abbotsford Police Department. We are very grateful Lucy has continued his role as the Director of the BC LETR into retirement. ○

Draft an Athlete

In 2015, BC Law Enforcement Torch Run members from across the province came together to support the Team BC 2016 Training Squad by Drafting athletes to the 2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games to be held in Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador. Agencies and LETR partners raised more than \$83,000 to help 83 athletes experience the National Games. We are so grateful to our law enforcement partners who continue to support the athletes training hard to compete! ○

2015 BC LETR Regional Workshops

Earlier this year, the BC Law Enforcement Torch Run hosted a regional workshop in the Interior, where participants finished their day by taking part in the Final Leg into the 2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games in Kamloops.

In November, the LETR hosted a regional workshop in the Lower Mainland where members from a range of agencies came together to share ideas about fundraising initiatives and events in their communities. The day finished with members hitting the bowling lanes with SOBC athletes.

Please check our website, www.specialolympics.bc.ca/letr, for updates regarding other regional workshop announcements in 2016. ○

All-new Polar Plunge



In March 2016, Special Olympics BC in partnership with the BC Law Enforcement Torch Run will host Vancouver's first annual Polar Plunge to raise funds and awareness for SOBC. Participants in the **2016 Polar Plunge for SOBC** must raise a minimum of \$75 to take part, which includes entry into the costume contest, eligibility for awards and prizes, and access to games, vendors, great food, and much more! To find out more or to register, visit plunge4specialolympics.com. ○

Thank you to the many agencies who supported Special Olympics BC in 2015:

- Abbotsford Police Department
- Burnaby RCMP
- Canadian Border Services Agency
- Central Saanich Police Service
- CN Police
- Comox Valley RCMP
- Correctional Service of Canada
- Coquitlam RCMP
- Cranbrook RCMP
- Chilliwack RCMP
- Delta Police Department
- Justice Institute of British Columbia
- Kamloops RCMP
- Langley RCMP
- Merritt RCMP
- Metro Vancouver Transit Police
- Mission RCMP
- Nanaimo RCMP
- New Westminster Police Department
- North Vancouver RCMP
- Oak Bay Police Department
- Port Moody Police Department
- Prince George RCMP
- Princeton RCMP
- Quesnel RCMP
- RCMP E-Division Headquarters
- RCMP Pacific Regional Training Centre
- Richmond RCMP
- Ridge Meadows RCMP
- Saanich Police Department
- Surrey RCMP
- Vancouver Police Department
- Vernon RCMP
- Victoria Police Department
- West Vancouver Police Department

Athletes, community support inspire at

The way Max Nelson sees it, Special Olympics athletes are superheroes.

“When people say special needs, I don’t think of that, I think we have special powers,” the Special Olympics BC – Quesnel snowshoeing athlete said after a day of giving his all racing in the **2015 SOBC Winter Games**.

Nelson’s vision was echoed by the 2015 SOBC Games Organizing Committee, who wanted the 500-plus participating athletes to be recognized and celebrated as the superheroes they are. With superhero-themed Opening and Closing Ceremonies and an outstanding competitive experience throughout, the 2015 Provincial Games in Kamloops and Sun Peaks gave the Special Olympics athletes the empowering experience they deserve.

Nelson earned silver, bronze, and fourth-place finishes in his three Games individual races. He said competing in Provincial Games makes him feel “powerful.”

In Kamloops and Sun Peaks, the 2015 SOBC Winter Games competitors from around B.C. and the Yukon were at the top of their game in earning more than 350 medals in seven sports. After training countless hours over the last two years to reach the Provincial Games, with the support of their dedicated volunteer coaches,



SOBC – Surrey skater Stephanie Divin bringing beautiful expression to her routine.



Laura Dale of SOBC – Terrace demonstrating her on-ice elegance.



SOBC – Nanaimo’s Michael and Arianna Phillips sail through their pairs routine.

the athletes were well prepared to make the most of this opportunity to show their abilities in a world-class sport hosting community. Many won medals and achieved personal bests; all competed hard and grew as individuals.

Then 12 years old, figure skater Arianna Phillips of SOBC – Nanaimo was the youngest athlete to compete in the Games. She won gold competing with her brother Michael in the Level 1 pairs event, and skated to silver in her Level 3 freeskate event. Phillips said she felt

they performed well and had fun.

“It’s fun and it’s my first time here. I’m the youngest,” Phillips said of Provincial Games. She likes competing, but had to power through some nerves to perform as well as she did. “I was nervous because it was my first time.”

Elsewhere in McArthur Island Sport and Event Centre, the great Kamloops venue for the 2015 SOBC Games ice sports, SOBC – Kamloops curler Wayne Kulchyski said he had a good time in his hometown Games.



Cross-country skiers Barb Conway, Tracy Melesko, and Chantal Chan savour their medal-winning moment.



SOBC – Penticton athlete Larry Cavenaile kicks up a spray in his snowshoeing race.



SOBC – North Shore athlete Nancy Wilson’s smile lit up the cross-country skiing venue.



SOBC – Smithers alpine skier Luke Smith speeds down the slopes.



Joy on the alpine skiing podium.

2015 SOBC Winter Games

Kulchyski said he had “lots of fun and met lots of people. I enjoyed it.”

SOBC – Prince George cross-country skier Rita Cavenaile said she had a “really, really good time” at the Games. She earned two silver medals and a fourth-place finish in her individual races, and enjoyed the sunshine, fresh air, and “wonderful” snow in Sun Peaks and Kamloops. She also enjoyed meeting other athletes.

“Everyone is so friendly!” Cavenaile said.

“I always enjoy spending time with all the athletes. The highlight of my year usually is Provincial Games, or regionals, or National or World Games. It’s so great to see them all excel, and great to see their lives change,” said Randy

Scott, SOBC Provincial Coach for alpine skiing.

A longtime SOBC – North Shore coach and veteran of numerous Special Olympics Provincial, National, and World Games, Scott had another highlight to add at these Games: His daughter Devyn Scott was part of the Games too as a Region 2 alpine skiing coach.

“It’s been a whirlwind, but it’s been really awesome,” Devyn Scott said of the 2015 SOBC Games. “Not a lot of sleep, but so much energy. It’s been amazing to see all the athletes, all the fun they’re having, and the energy they bring to each other and their sportsmanship is pretty amazing. ... [Special Olympics has] always been a part of my life—growing up, Monday nights

were ski nights for Dad, and he’d always go on his trips—and finally getting to be part of it is pretty special.”

The 2015 SOBC Winter Games were an incredible experience thanks to the outstanding performances by the athletes, the inspiring dedication of their volunteer coaches and mission staff, and the remarkable support shown by the Kamloops and Sun Peaks volunteers and sponsors.

“I think Kamloops was a great place to have the Games. There’s people that have hosted big events before and really understand the impact that Special Olympics can have on a community level, and I think they’ve really put a lot of time and effort into making sure that we have the right facilities and accommodations so we could be at our best,” SOBC – Langley athlete Matthew Williams said. An accomplished speed skater and Special Olympics Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger, Williams earned four gold medals at McArthur Island Sport and Event Centre. “I just want to thank all the volunteers and the Games Organizing Committee from Kamloops that put these Games together, I enjoyed every minute of it.”

“The volunteers were amazing. They made everyone feel special—they were OUT OF THIS WORLD,” a Region 6 team member said.

“We were thrilled to see the powerful way our Games athletes were welcomed and celebrated in Kamloops. They were treated like athletes, with outstanding competitive venues, enthusiastic and well-trained officials and volunteers, and media coverage,” SOBC President & CEO Dan Howe said. “And we heard a wonderful response from those who generously came out to volunteer and the sponsors who supported the Games. As much as these athletes were inspired by the Games, they inspired so many others.”

“I would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers, sponsors and spectators. They have proven once again what an amazing community Kamloops is and that it truly is the Tournament Capital. Their support was tremendous and enabled us to host a Games experience that these athletes will remember for a lifetime,” 2015 SOBC Winter Games Chair Pat Davis said.

Sincere thanks to all the athletes, coaches, volunteers, family members, friends, and supporters who made the 2015 SOBC Games such a success, and to all the generous Games sponsors.

More 2015 SOBC Winter Games info, results, and photos: specialolympics.bc.ca/2015-sobc-winter-games

Megan Grittani-Livingston



Proud curling bronze medallists from SOBC – Quesnel.



Bill Polz rejoices with the Region 6 Vipers.

Megan Grittani-Livingston



High fives for SOBC – Delta floor hockey teammates.

Myles Clough



Cranbrook Stinger Bees hurrying hard.

June Webb



SOBC – Vancouver curler Kevin Khoo cheers a shot by the Legion of Brooms.

Megan Grittani-Livingston



Thrilling floor hockey action in the Kamloops-Trail clash.

more photos on next page

SOBC – Victoria speed skater Mark Hamblett was all smiles after receiving his 2015 Provincial Games hardware.



Megan Grifflin-Livingston



Krystal Griffin-Peterson

Crowds of cheering volunteers welcomed the Regional teams into the Opening Ceremony.



Dave Snider

Charging hard for the snowshoeing finish line.



Cheryl Schmidt

Snowshoers ripping it up in the Sun Peaks sunshine.

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Lacing up for Special Olympics with SVHM, GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon

Congratulations and thanks to all the runners who supported Special Olympics BC by taking part in the **Scotiabank Vancouver Half-Marathon & 5k (SVHM)** on June 28! These fantastic and fleet-footed folks raised over \$7,800 for SOBC and Locals, more than double last year's fundraising total!

Among the SVHM runners who supported Special Olympics were SOBC athletes Cris Crowe, Stacey Kohler, Mandy Manzardo, Kellie Robertson, and Andrew Weale, SOBC – Burnaby Executive Committee Member and coach Peter De Marchi, SOBC – Kelowna Executive Committee member and coach Greg Mather, an SOBC – North Shore team, several SOBC – Vancouver Executive Committee members and coaches, and several members of the BC Law Enforcement Torch Run. Fiona Burrows, one of the runners selected as an SVHM Digital Champion, joined them in supporting SOBC.

This year, for the first time, SOBC joined the Charity Pledge Program in the **GoodLife**

Fitness Victoria Marathon on October 11. The five runners who laced up in support of Special Olympics were very successful on the course and off, raising more than \$13,700 for SOBC and Locals.

Runner Milton Carrasco is a longtime friend and client of the late John Sims, who was a distinguished Chartered Accountant, partner at Manning Elliott Chartered Accountants, and 10-year member of SOBC's Board of Directors. Carrasco co-founded an SOBC endowment fund in Sims' honour to recognize his friend and mentor's dedicated and thoughtful service to SOBC. Running his first-ever half-marathon in the GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon, Carrasco raised more than \$6,000 for the John M. Sims Fund. Carrasco was the top fundraiser in the whole race, and his company Transoft Solutions Inc. generously matched his impressive fundraising. Please turn to page 21 to read more about the John M. Sims Fund.

SOBC – Victoria Local Coordinator Joy



SOBC athletes Andrew Weale, Cris Crowe, Stacey Kohler, and Mandy Manzardo celebrate after completing the Scotiabank Vancouver Half-Marathon & 5k.

Croll, Victoria coach Anne-Marie Sutherland, SOBC Region 6 Coordinator Jean Tetarenko, and SOBC volunteer Rachel Maxcy all joined Carrasco in running and raising funds through the great Victoria event.

Big thanks to all the runners and donors who supported Special Olympics, as well as the volunteers and athletes who helped out at the Victoria event! ○



What a difference a day makes! On October 24, 2015, athletes at CrossFit North Okanagan, Kelowna CrossFit, and Raincity Athletics (pictured) joined teams across the country in raising funds for Special Olympics with the CF24 challenge, performing a 10-minute high-intensity workout every hour on the hour for 24 consecutive hours. This year participants nationwide raised \$150,000 net for the Special Olympics Canada Foundation.

SOBC – Kelowna athlete Chris Harrington (pictured) joined the Kelowna CrossFit CF24 teams for their hourly workouts for seven hours!

Knights of Columbus run sweet campaign for Special Olympics

Members of the **Knights of Columbus** do a great deal to assist people with intellectual disabilities, and one of their major initiatives in B.C. in 2014-15 was the Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities in support of Special Olympics BC.

Throughout this campaign, the Knights distributed specially marked Tootsie Rolls in exchange for donations to support SOBC programs and help improve the quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities.

The Knights also welcomed SOBC – Richmond athlete Ryan Stewart to speak about Special Olympics in front of the significant gathering in the 104th BC & Yukon State Council Meeting.

The Knights of Columbus are a valued Special Olympics International partner and we appreciate their support here in B.C. ○



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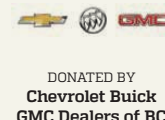
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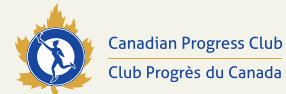
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