

LOOKING BACK MOVING FORWARD



**Year in Review
2018–2019**

Special Olympics
Olympiques spéciaux
Canada



50 years of building confidence in sport and in life!

What an incredible year! Joined by more than 190 countries from around the world, we celebrated 50 years of transforming lives of individuals with an intellectual disability (ID) through sport. This doesn't just happen overnight – this takes a global movement over many years.

Celebrations kicked off on July 20, 2018 on Soldier Field, Chicago, Illinois. In Canada we embarked on a number of national initiatives, leveraging the 50th anniversary to achieve strategic and operational goals. Passionate and dedicated Special Olympics advocates across 12 Provincial and Territorial Chapters came together with pride, enthusiasm and passion to recognize the country's Movement Makers, highlight athletes, coaches and volunteers, salute the work of Dr. Frank Hayden, acknowledge future trailblazers and help build our brand among Canadians.

We are excited to share with you the many successes and inspiring stories in this report. You will see how Canadians embraced inclusion through the inaugural Global Day of Inclusion, how the Special Olympics Canada Summer Games in Antigonish set new benchmarks, how Special Olympics athletes proudly represented Canada at the Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019 and you will meet some of our amazing athletes.

The National Awareness Campaign Challenge Accepted shone a spotlight on athletes' abilities both on the field and off through compelling videos, imagery and radio spots, raising awareness of Special Olympics Canada's mission and its milestone year.

Our National Partners joined our celebrations through increased support in a variety of initiatives throughout the year.

The domino effect of all the tremendous efforts of 2018–2019 continues. The momentum around building awareness of the movement, changing attitudes towards individuals with ID and creating more inclusive communities across Canada through sport remains the cornerstone of what we will do for the next 50 years! We believe the past 50 years has set the stage for an incredible and exciting future.



Mark Tewksbury
Chair, Board of Directors



Sharon Bollenbach
CEO, Special Olympics Canada

REFLECTIONS ON A YEAR OF CELEBRATION



Eunice Kennedy Shriver: Had a vision of inclusion for all.

Special Olympics Canada 50th anniversary

From its humble beginning of a mere 1,000 athletes at the 1st International Special Olympics Summer Games at Chicago's Soldier Field in 1968, Special Olympics has grown into a global movement with more than 5 million athletes from more than 190 countries around the world. In 2018, Special Olympics celebrated its 50th anniversary, honouring the legacy of the past and setting a course for its future.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of former President John F. Kennedy, had a vision to take a stand against the injustices faced by people with intellectual disabilities. Her solution was simple: give people with intellectual disabilities the chance to demonstrate their ability, determination and value through sport. Alongside Canadian researcher **Dr. Frank Hayden**, they created a movement of inclusion, where everyone is accepted and given the opportunity to live their potential.



Dr. Frank Hayden: Canada's connection to the birth of a global movement.



Athletes from 1968 are welcomed back to Soldier Field.

Shining a spotlight on Special Olympics athletes

The National Awareness Campaign **Challenge Accepted** featured **Special Olympics athletes**, giving them the opportunity to demonstrate the challenges they've overcome in sport and in life – from achieving a personal best result in the pool to getting a job.

The campaign shone a spotlight on the incredible abilities of Special Olympics Canada athletes, creating media opportunities across the country in print, radio and television – from morning shows to ETalk.

Building off the Challenge Accepted momentum, were various public relations initiatives. The *Toronto Star* and CTV News covered Celebrity Coaching sessions with Olympians Penny Oleksiak and Phyllicia George. Our Partners at TSN also helped raise awareness by featuring Special Olympics athletes on their network, including helping an athlete live his dream of becoming a sports reporter.

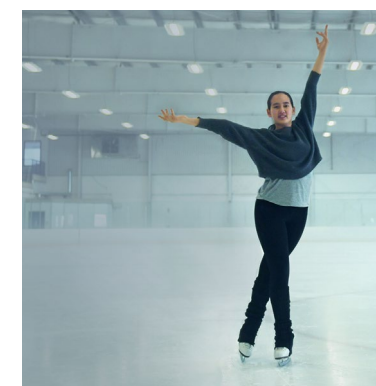
Thank you to all of our National Partners who rose to the occasion with increased support and funding to help make this an incredible year of brand awareness and building positive attitudes towards individuals with an intellectual disability.

Global celebration in Chicago

Events included the first-ever Special Olympics Unified Cup; a star-studded Global Day of Inclusion; a Law Enforcement Torch Run Commemorative Run; a ceremonial lighting of the Special Olympics Eternal Flame of Hope, symbolizing our ongoing burning passion for inclusion and justice for people with intellectual disabilities.



Mark: "They said I would never make the team – they never said anything about leading one!"



Katie: "They said people would stare – it's usually followed by applause!"

Canada lights up red for Global Day of Inclusion

Famous landmarks light up for inclusion in support of Special Olympics in Canada.



Science World and BC Place, Vancouver



CN Tower, Toronto

Establishing a lasting legacy

In celebration of Special Olympics 50th anniversary, the University of Western Ontario announced the **Dr. Frank J. Hayden Chair in Sport and Social Impact** within its Faculty of Health Sciences. Established in October 2018, the one-time legacy project is funded by a \$1.5 million contribution from the Special Olympics Canada Foundation, Special Olympics Canada, its Provincial and Territorial Chapters, partner organizations and champions, along with matching funds from Western, to create a \$3 million endowed Chair.

The Hayden Chair honours Dr. Hayden’s pivotal research which helped launch the Special Olympics movement 50 years ago and passes the torch for continued research to Western’s Sport and Social Impact Research Group, a team focused on the social impact of sport and physical activity for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Dr. Frank Hayden and Special Olympics British Columbia athlete.

Inaugural Global Day of Inclusion – July 21, 2018

Canadians responded to the message of inclusion and call to action with 8,500 #ChooseToInclude social media posts in Canada, a 91.1 million reach and generating some 211.6 million impressions. This would not have been possible without the engagement of our National Partner **Tim Hortons** – who helped make it a fun event while raising funds with the sale of a Special Olympics Donut – created by our very own Special Olympics athlete – Savannah Lussier from Grand Prairie, Alberta. In total, more than \$120,000 was raised to support community programs across Canada.



Savannah Lussier from Grand Prairie, Alberta.



Canadians celebrate Global Day of Inclusion with a Special Olympics Donut.

Creating a more inclusive Canada

8,500

#ChooseToInclude posts in Canada

91.1M

Reach

211.6M

Impressions

PEOPLE BEHIND THE MOVEMENT



Mark Tewksbury, Chair, Board of Directors, Special Olympics Canada.

In celebration of Special Olympics' 50th anniversary across the globe, Special Olympics Canada identified 50 Movement Makers – people and organizations who have played an integral role in helping to reach this milestone, or who are inspiring growth and setting a future vision for advancing Special Olympics in Canada.

Each of these 50 Movement Makers, one for each year of Special Olympics, exemplifies the very essence of Special Olympics' mission to enrich the lives of Canadian children, youth and adults with intellectual disabilities through the transformative power of sport.



Roshan Gosal with his soccer team in British Columbia.

Roshan Gosal, Special Olympics British Columbia volunteer

Special Olympics British Columbia's Roshan Gosal, 20, started as a volunteer coach in Abbotsford when he was in grade 10, hoping to fulfill his volunteer hours. Six years later, not only is he still a soccer and swim coach, but he also volunteers as a Community Outreach Coordinator, helping recruit youth into the movement. He also spearheads Spread the Word to End the Word, an international campaign to stop the use of the R-word, across Abbotsford.

Jackie Barrett, Special Olympics Newfoundland & Labrador athlete and mentor

Corner Brook powerlifter Jackie Barrett, also known as "the Newfoundland Moose," has broken not only Special Olympics World Games records, but also those of his able-bodied counterparts.

At the Special Olympics World Summer Games Los Angeles 2015, Barrett's 656-pound deadlift broke Special Olympics records and his 611-pound squat broke the Newfoundland Men's Master-1 Super-Heavyweight record. After retiring from the sport in 2015, he's still involved mentoring young athletes and breaking down barriers for individuals with an intellectual disability.

The Demeulenaere family, Special Olympics PEI volunteers and participants

All five members of Village Green's Demeulenaere family are involved in Special Olympics Prince Edward Island. Dad, Mike, is an active Law Enforcement Torch Run member, raising significant funds for Special Olympics. Mom, Tracey, is an Active Start coach, helping children with an intellectual disability aged two to six develop motor skills. Nine-year-old daughter Naomi is a "junior volunteer" with Active Start, six-year-old Kelsey is an Active Start participant and two-year-old Renee is official cheerleader.



The Demeulenaere family: Special Olympics is a family affair.



Jackie Barrett, Special Olympics Newfoundland & Labrador athlete.



Harry "Red" Foster: Establishes the movement in Canada.

Harry "Red" Foster, advertiser/broadcaster & Special Olympics Canada pioneer

While Dr. Frank Hayden's research on the impact of fitness on individuals with an intellectual disability helped develop Special Olympics in the U.S., the late Harry "Red" Foster helped establish the movement in Canada. He signed the incorporation papers in the 1970s and built an influential network in the North. Inspired by his brother with Down syndrome, he was a lifelong advocate for individuals with an intellectual disability.

George Reed, CFL legend and Special Olympics champion

Saskatchewan Roughriders legend George Reed was one of Special Olympics Canada's first celebrity ambassadors. He first got involved in the 1970s when asked to speak at a small Special Olympics track meet. He went on to develop the George Reed Foundation, which supports people with intellectual disabilities through community initiatives, educational support and Special Olympics Saskatchewan programming. He also helped Special Olympics Saskatchewan become Canada's first Provincial Chapter in 1975. Today, at 80 years old, he remains a steadfast supporter.

Eddie Nicks, Special Olympics Team Canada 2019 soccer player

Ontario's Eddie Nicks joined his local Special Olympics soccer club in 2014. Four years later his team qualified for Special Olympics Team Canada 2019 and brought home a bronze medal from the Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019. Eddie was also selected to represent Special Olympics North America at the Opening Ceremony as one of only seven athletes – one from each Special Olympics region around the world – to participate in the torch relay, passing the flame to light the cauldron and officially kick off the Games.



Eddie Nicks, Special Olympics Team Canada 2019 athlete.

Rosemary Ryan, Special Olympics Team Canada 2019 associate athletics coach

Newfoundland's Rosemary Ryan has been a Special Olympics volunteer coach for snowshoeing, skiing, athletics, bowling and curling for the past 12 years. Abu Dhabi marked her first-ever Special Olympics World Games. She's grateful for the many new techniques and drills she learned on the world stage and brought home to her local program in Stephenville, Newfoundland. Rosemary was also named Special Olympics Canada's 2018 Female Coach of the Year.



Dr. Frank Hayden and Special Olympics Newfoundland & Labrador coach Rosemary Ryan.



Marnie McBean and Special Olympics Team Canada 2019 swimmer Bobbi-Lynn Cleland.



Celebrity training session with Phylicia George and the North York Jets track team.

Champions Network

In 2013, Olympic swimmer Mark Tewksbury founded the Champions Network, a group of Canadian Olympians, professional athletes, celebrities and television personalities who volunteer their time to promote the Special Olympics movement at events, through their networks, social media and more.

This group of inspiring influencers has grown from a core group of eight athletes to more than 50 members, including Olympic ice dancers Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, Canadian television personality Rick Mercer and TSN hockey commentator Bob McKenzie.

Champions Network members serve as ambassadors at fundraising events, lead celebrity training sessions with Special Olympics athletes, helping them hone their skills, as well as engage in social media activities in support of various initiatives, such as Global Day of Inclusion.

Meet more movement makers:

<https://www.specialolympics.ca/50/movement-makers>

SPORT AND COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

What an incredible year it was for Special Olympics across Canada. From community based daily sport programs to the World Games, athletes and coaches experienced a range of opportunities to excel in sport.



Christine Sullivan powerlifting at the Special Olympics Canada Summer Games Antigonish 2018.

Special Olympics Canada Summer Games, Antigonish 2018

The Special Olympics Canada Summer Games included more than 1,000 athletes and 400 coaches and mission staff from across Canada at the week-long competition in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Special Olympics athletes competed in nine summer sports (athletics, basketball, bocce, golf, powerlifting, rhythmic gymnastics, soccer, softball and swimming), which served as the qualifying event for Special Olympics Team Canada selection for the Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019.

Alongside athletes and coaches were 1,000-plus local volunteers who committed countless hours in the planning and execution of the Games, ensuring every detail of the Games was well managed.

In addition to setting a high standard for delivery of an outstanding Games experience for the 12 Provincial and Territorial teams, the Games generated \$8.7 million overall economic activity in Antigonish and surrounding area, \$10.7 million overall in Nova Scotia and \$12.6 million overall in Canada.



Julia Kostecki, Special Olympics Ontario



Michael Palitti, Special Olympics British Columbia athlete.

The Games – an economic driver

\$8.7M

Overall economic activity in Antigonish and surrounding area

\$10.7M

Overall economic activity in Nova Scotia

\$12.6M

Overall in Canada



The National Team Program

In the lead-up to every World Games, the National Team Program supports athletes and coaches by providing access to increased training, equipment, competitions and sport science.

The National Team Program is integral to ensuring every athlete has the opportunity to perform to the best of their ability on the world stage. In advance of the Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019, two training camps were held for the full team roster, in addition to multiple sport-specific training camps and two coach and mission staff meetings, that included training tools, emergency preparedness, diversity and cultural workshops.



Malcolm Borsoi, Special Olympics Team Canada 2019.

Special Olympics World Games, Abu Dhabi 2019

More than 190 countries and 7,500 athletes came together in the United Arab Emirates in March for the largest humanitarian event in the World in 2019.

The World Games in Abu Dhabi and Dubai took place March 14 to 21, 2019 and Special Olympics Team Canada's 2019 roster consisted of 109 athletes, 54 coaches and mission staff with over 150 family and friends in attendance. Chef de Mission for Special Olympics Team Canada 2019 was **Mike Greek**, CEO Special Olympics Nova Scotia and the team's Honorary Coach was **Marnie McBean**, three-time Olympic gold medal rower.

Collectively, the team produced outstanding results, bringing home 155 medals, including 90 gold – the highest gold medal count of any other competing country.



Regan Hofley, Special Olympics Team Canada 2019.

Canada at the World Games

155

Total medals Canada brought home

90

Gold medals



Bowling Championships 2018 PEI

Special Olympics Canada 2018 Bowling Championships

More than 400 athletes, coaches and mission staff attended the Special Olympics Canada 2018 Bowling Championships in Charlottetown, Summerside and Tyne Valley, PEI. It was Special Olympics Canada's first-ever sport-specific national competition, which saw athletes compete in both 5-pin and 10-pin bowling.

Special Olympics Canada National Awards

Since 1989, Special Olympics Canada has honoured athletes and volunteers for remarkable achievements that contribute to and strengthen the Special Olympics movement across the country. Each year, achievements are recognized through a national awards program that includes several distinct categories – athletes, teams, coaches, fund-raising volunteers, volunteers that contribute locally and nationally.

In addition, this year two prestigious awards were presented that recognize significant, long-term contributions.

The **Dr. Frank Hayden Athlete Lifetime Achievement Award** recipient in 2018 was Wayne Morton. For more than 36 years as a Special Olympics athlete and volunteer Wayne has dedicated his life to being an outstanding role model and advocate for people with intellectual disabilities.

The 2018 Harry "Red" Foster Award went to Mark, Paul and Sean Etherington, the creators of motionball, a national non-profit organization that raises funds and awareness for the Special Olympics Canada Foundation. The three brothers have been advocates for Special Olympics athletes for more than 30 years.

Meet all 10 award winners from 2018:

<https://www.specialolympics.ca/announcement/watch-what-are-special-olympics-canada-national-awards>



Special Olympics Canada National Awards winners.

COMMUNITIES ACROSS CANADA



Special Olympics Team Canada 2019 golf coach Glenn Cundari and golfer Emma Bittorf.



Alex D'Silva, Special Olympics Ontario athlete and mom Stella D'Silva.

Special Olympics is more than an event – it is a grassroots movement, operating in local sports clubs and programs in communities across the country.

Special Olympics offers programs for individuals with an intellectual disability of all ages and a wide range of abilities. Individuals with an intellectual disability can register with Special Olympics as early as two years old.



Alma Loken, Special Olympics Ontario athlete.



Micheal Wright, Special Olympics Team Canada 2019 athlete.

Special Olympics Canada overview

Athletes

2018

47,461

2019

49,626

Volunteers

2018

22,143

2019

21,953 14,153 of which are coaches

Special Olympics programs saw impressive growth in communities across the country. This would not be possible without the truly amazing coaches and volunteers that make sport happen every day for individuals with intellectual disabilities.



Special Olympics Team Canada athletes embrace after their race – true sportsmanship.

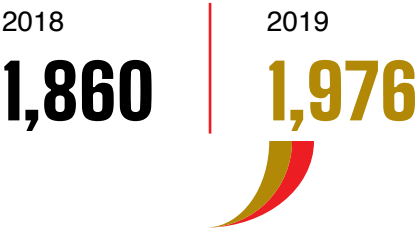
Community sports programs

Daily sport programs for all ages and a wide range of abilities aimed at athletes who want to be active for life.



FUNDamentals

A continuation of the Active Start program for athletes ages 7–12. Skills learned in this program provide support for everyday activities as well as a base for sports training and competition.



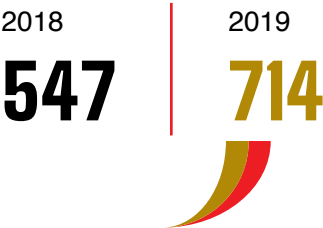
Active Start

Programs for children between the ages of 2 and 6 years. These programs provide children with opportunities to engage in active play and develop fundamental motor skills.



Athlete Leadership Training

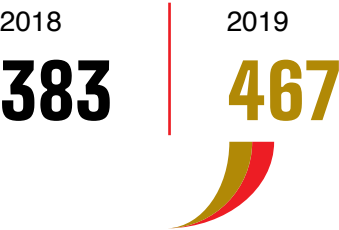
This program empowers athletes to be leaders not only in and for the movement but also in their communities. Training for athletes includes public speaking, governance, social media and mentorship.



Unified Programs (Learn to Train)

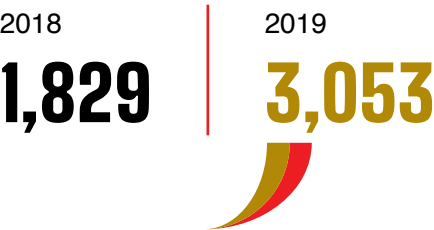
Introduces athletes to a number of sports that they enjoy and may have a predisposition to playing. The intent is to build a multi-skill foundation that will provide the athlete with options moving forward.

Unified programs offered in school



Unified Sports

Athletes with an intellectual disability (ID) and partners without an ID are paired on teams for training and competition.



Unified Sports include both community and Unified Schools programs.



Special Olympics Day at TSN.

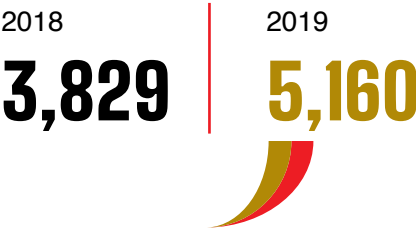


Maddison, Special Olympics Canada soccer player.

Healthy Athletes

To ensure athletes can perform at their best, Healthy Athletes provides individuals with ID increased access to free healthcare through eight types of health screenings and nutrition education.

Number of screenings completed by SO athletes



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



The Honourable Kirsty Duncan with Special Olympics athletes Mark, Katie, Connor and Savannah at LIMITLESS: The Special Olympics Canada Gala 2018.

From a financial perspective, 2018–2019 was a very successful year for Special Olympics Canada. Special Olympics Canada achieved a surplus in 2019 primarily due to onetime activities in support of the 50th anniversary. This was the result of incredible collaboration and engagement from all of our National Partners, community partners, and individual donors.

Special Olympics in Canada could not achieve annual athlete and volunteer growth, provide best in class sport programs and competitions, coach training, and deliver a National Team Program without the tremendous ongoing financial support from the **Government of Canada**.

We have selected a few highlights of 2018/2019.

Breaking records at the till

Sobeys ran its first-ever national in-store check-stand fundraising campaign. Over ten days in September 2018 customer donations raised \$716,000 to help support the 6,175 community programs serving 47,461 Special Olympics athletes across the country. The total amount raised included a \$150,000 corporate match. Sobeys was also a co-Presenting Sponsor of the Special Olympics Canada Summer Games in July 2018 and their support went beyond a financial commitment. They rallied employees and hosted on-site activations to enhance the athlete, family and spectator experience.



Athletes visit a Sobeys store and participate in the food fair.



Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) representatives.

Community Partners, Law Enforcement Torch Run and motionball continue to be a driving force

At the heart of the community, law enforcement personnel from across Canada once again led the way in raising an incredible \$4.4 million for 12 Provincial and Territorial Chapters. Monies were raised through year-round fundraising in communities such as Polar Plunges, Truck Convoys and Tip-A-Cop.

motionball, a not-for-profit organization targeting the 'next generation' of supporters, raised \$1.8 million for the Special Olympics Canada Foundation and Special Olympics Chapters across Canada through more than 40 integrated social and sporting events in 20 cities and 16 universities. These events include **Marathon of Sport**, motionballU and motionball Galas.



LIMITLESS: The Special Olympics Canada Gala 2018.

LIMITLESS: The Special Olympics Canada Gala showed no limit when it came to raising awareness and funds

LIMITLESS 2018 was our biggest and most successful Gala ever. Selling out to a crowd of 1200, this year's 50th anniversary version raised 50% more than in 2017.

Raising more than \$1.3 million net, LIMITLESS 2018 far exceeded our goals thanks to the amazing and enthusiastic support of National Partners, LIMITLESS sponsors, Special Olympics athletes, celebrities and Olympians, and SOC supporters in attendance.

\$1.3M

Raised at LIMITLESS Gala

Integrated Direct Marketing Program (IDMP) – growing our donor base

In 2018 Special Olympics Canada launched a pilot program aimed at building a national individual giving fundraising program. The goal is to diversify our revenue strategies and establish a long-term program that engages more Canadians in our work and provides increased financial support as we continue to grow the Special Olympics movement in Canada.

At the core of our individual giving initiatives is our monthly giving program. Monthly donations have a huge impact and provide sustainability. Year one results have proved successful and we are extremely grateful to the many Canadians who joined our movement as monthly donors.

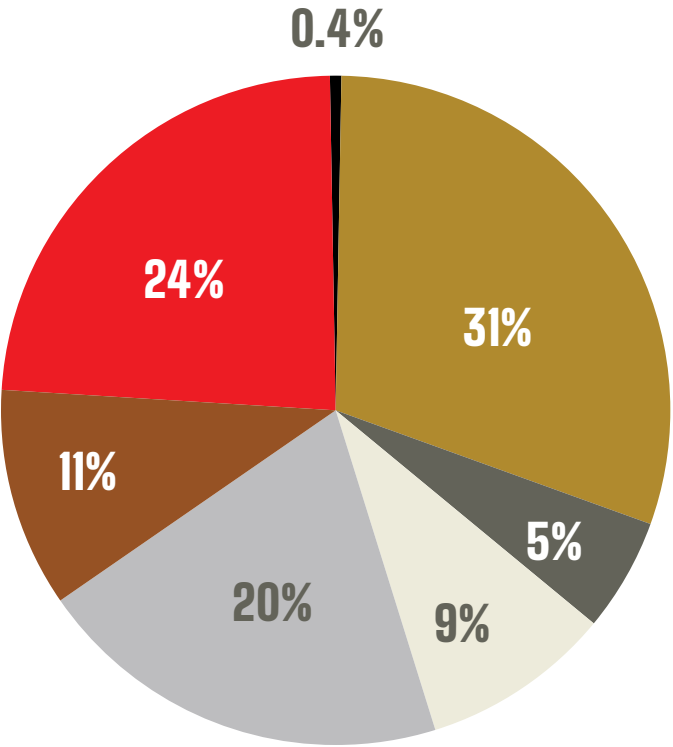
Become a monthly donor:
<https://www.specialolympics.ca/donate>

Financial summary

2018–2019 was a remarkable year for Special Olympics Canada due to activities related to the 50th anniversary.

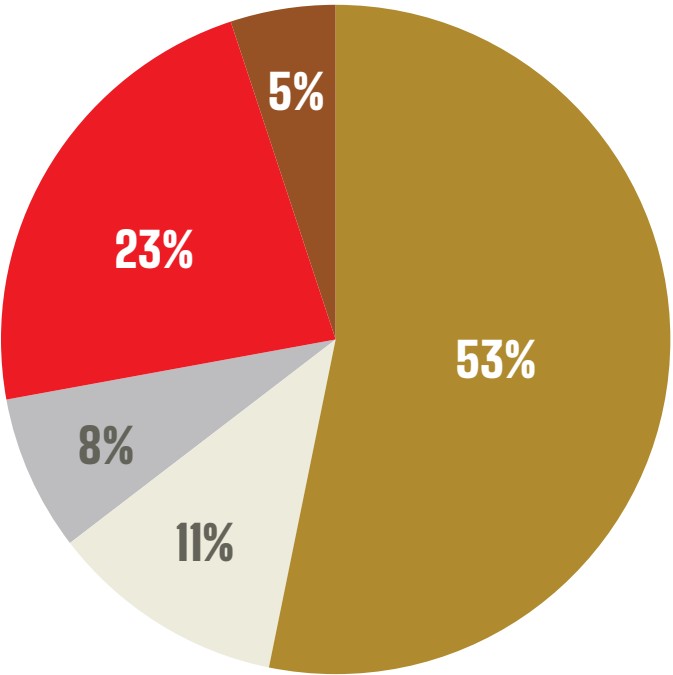
Revenues \$19,510,848

- 50th Anniversary
- Foundation
- Fundraising Events
- In-kind Donation
- Sponsorships
- Grants
- Other



Expenses \$19,040,259

- 50th Anniversary
- Fundraising
- Public Education
- Program and Chapter Support
- Administration



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Group, Citi Canada

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Partner, Baker & McKenzie LLP


Thank you to our National Partners

Our National Partners have given us the resources to change the lives of more than 47,500 individuals with intellectual disabilities. Their support has allowed us to build positive attitudes and create more inclusive communities all across Canada. To all of our Partners – thank you for your ongoing support, we could not do it without you.

**Platinum Level Partners**
Tim Hortons
Government of Canada
Staples
KIA
Sobeys
Law Enforcement Torch Run

**Silver Level Partners**
Wolesley
Samuel Family Foundation
The Harry “Red” Foster Foundation
JYSK
The Globe and Mail
Kubik

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Signature Authentics
The Slight Family Foundation
Home Hardware
TSN
GREY
Special Olympics Canada Foundation

**Bronze Level Partners & Friends**
Canadian Progress Club
Canada Life
Canadian 5 Pin Bowler’s Association
Lifemark Health Group

Thank you to our monthly donors

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Lisa Fenerty	Lalage Hackett	Hadi Jaffal
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Michelle Jennings
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Our vision is that sport will open hearts and minds towards people with intellectual disabilities and create inclusive communities all across Canada.

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