



The Alberta Guardian

To You & Yours, Happy New Year!

What an amazing year 2019 was – thanks to all of you! You supported Special Olympics Alberta and its over 3,300 athletes in incredible ways. You helped raise life-changing funds, which will continue to provide stable funding for sport programs across our province. But you also created meaningful friendships with our athletes AND helped improve our communities by modelling inclusivity. If those things were measurable, they'd be off the charts in 2019! Kudos, folks!

In 2019, thanks to the incredible dedication and hard work of our volunteers across Alberta, we have maintained our fundraising goals and levels, and saw our flagship fundraisers continue to thrive. This is a true depiction of how Law Enforcement members and LETR volunteers from across Alberta have come together for a common goal. That is to provide our Special Olympics athletes the best opportunities to showcase their abilities. This goal and our achievements are something to be very proud of. 2020 will prove to be the best Alberta LETR year yet! Thank you for all you do for your regions, your communities, and your athletes.



Cheers to 2020!

Polar Plunge Season is HERE!

We are thrilled to be right in the thick of things with another stellar Polar Plunge season just around the corner! This year, Mr. Lube has again jumped on board but has increased their commitment to our event by becoming the Platinum Sponsor for all Plunges in 2020!

New this year, all Polar Plunges have a \$50 registration fee, which helps plungers meet the first incentive level – Polar Plunge Gloves – as well as provides more concrete participant numbers for the event organizers. Additional incentive levels remain at \$250, gloves and 2020 Polar Plunge towel, and at \$750, plungers earn gloves, a towel, and a DryFrame hoodie!

Our goal this year is to raise \$250,000 across the province so spread the word and get registered yourself! Register today at www.specialolympics.ca/albertapolarplunge.



New Year, New Director!

January 2020 brings a changing of the guard at Alberta LETR.

We will first take a moment to thank Paul Manuel for his great impact as returning Alberta LETR Director over the past two years (Paul also served in this role from 2001-2007). Over his most recent time as Director, Paul aimed to increase the number of LETR volunteers while maintaining the fundraising goals set in previous years in a now very tough economic climate. He was successful in doing so, maintaining the fundraising goal and boasting the highest level of volunteer numbers in our history as we start into 2020! We are fortunate that Paul will be continuing as past Chair and as an event volunteer where he'll be able to share his wealth of knowledge and expertise with the rest of the Operations Committee.

"As I step down from the Provincial Director's role, I am thankful to all of you who have helped us realize these [volunteer and fundraising] goals. I've always considered members of Law Enforcement as the best, and you all are the best of the best for what you do for Special Olympics and the Law Enforcement Torch Run." – Paul Manuel

With a new Director at the helm, we would also like to take a moment to recognize and bid adieu to Theresa Garagan, who most recently served as past Chair from 2018-2019, and as the Director from 2008-2017. Theresa had a long and successful tenure with the Alberta LETR.

And finally, we are so excited to welcome our new Alberta LETR Director, Braylon Hyggen! Braylon has been involved with the LETR for over 10 years, coming to us from Lethbridge. Braylon has been an event organizer for many major events, a Special Olympics basketball coach for over 6 years, the Chair of the SW LETR Region, and a member of the Special Olympics Lethbridge board. With all that under his belt, Braylon shows his commitment to the Alberta LETR by setting some big goals as your new Director. We're very much looking forward to having Braylon in this new role and are excited to support these big ideas and goals. Welcome, Braylon!

Stay in Touch!

For more information on upcoming events in your region, visit the LETR website at www.specialolympics.ca/albertatorchrun. For inquiries, comments, or to submit content for the next edition of the Alberta Guardian, email us at albertatorchrun@gmail.com.

NEW We've simplified our social media handles! You can now follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, all using **@AlbertaLETR**.



We Are the Torch Run, Mighty Mighty Torch Run!

Braylon Hyggen, your new Alberta LETR Director, was selected to represent Alberta LETR as a member of the 2021 World Games Final Leg! This incredible opportunity is part life-changing and part grueling, with the opportunity to become fast friends with fellow officers from across the world while also putting in very long and tiring days. It's all worth it in the end when the Flame of Hope is brought into the Opening Ceremonies!

The 2021 World Games were originally in Sweden, but the location is now TBD. Stay tuned to see where Braylon runs to next! Congrats, Braylon!

Upcoming Events

We are always looking for volunteers and committee members. Even if you have an hour or two to spare, we hope you can come out! Please contact the event lead below if you would like to be part of our upcoming events.

Date	Event	Location	LETR Lead
January 17, 2020	Cops, Pops & Pizza	Calgary	Randy Taylor randy.taylor@gov.ab.ca
January 26, 2020	Polar Plunge	Edmonton	Amanda Trenchard Amanda.Trenchard@edmontonpolice.ca
February 1, 2020	Polar Plunge	Lethbridge	Mathieu Champagne mchampagne@taberpolice.ca
February 1, 2020	Mr. Lube in store campaign kick off	All	Lorrie Sitrler lsitrler@specialolympics.ab.ca
February 15, 2020	Battle of the Badges	Wetaskiwin	James Jones james.jones2@ahs.ca
February 22, 2020	Polar Plunge	Calgary	Randy Taylor randy.taylor@gov.ab.ca
February 29, 2020	Battle of the Badges	Camrose	Kelly Bauer kbauer@camrose.ca
February 29, 2020	Polar Plunge	Red Deer	Kevin Duval central.albertatorchrun@gmail.com
March 14, 2020	Polar Plunge	Medicine Hat	Aaron Brevik aaron.brevik@mhps.ca