

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JUNE 4, 2013

## LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN SET TO INSPIRE

On and around June 7, law enforcement personnel from more than 30 communities around the province will carry a message of respect and dignity as they lace up in support of Special Olympics athletes for the 2013 BC Law Enforcement Torch Run.

The 2013 Torch Run in B.C. is expected to involve hundreds of law enforcement personnel from a range of agencies taking part in fun runs and festivities alongside Special Olympics athletes, raising vital funds and awareness for Special Olympics BC. Last year's run saw more than 750 law enforcement members hitting the streets to show their support for the inspiring Special Olympics athletes in their communities and champion the Special Olympics movement.

The runners come from a variety of agencies including the RCMP, municipal police departments, the Transit Police Service, the Justice Institute of British Columbia, and the Canada Border Services Agency.

Since 1990, the BC LETR has been a vital movement raising funds and awareness for SOBC athletes and programs. Throughout the year, LETR members around the province lead a variety of events supporting SOBC, raising more than \$114,000 in 2012 and more than \$3 million to date. The Torch Run is the highlight on the calendar.

This year, law enforcement personnel will be lacing up in support of Special Olympics in communities ranging from White Rock to Terrace, from Nanaimo to Cranbrook, and throughout the Lower Mainland. At the end of each run, participants will join SOBC athletes and community members for fun festivities celebrating the long-standing spirit of mutual respect and support between athletes and law enforcement.

Among the new Torch Run developments this year are the Victoria run involving members of the Greater Victoria municipal police departments, the new runs led by RCMP in Kamloops and Whistler, and the North Island run in Nanaimo involving law enforcement members from Campbell River, Parksville, and Port Alberni joining in the traditional Nanaimo run.

"I have been honoured to be involved with the Law Enforcement Torch Run movement in B.C. for more than 20 years, and I am proud to stand beside the many law enforcement members from a range of agencies who give their time and energy to support Special Olympics athletes. I am inspired by both the members and the athletes, and I can't wait to run with them this year," said Abbotsford Police Department Deputy Chief Rick Lucy, Provincial Director of the BC LETR.

Community supporters are encouraged to come out to cheer on these inspiring runners.

Run details: [www.specialolympics.bc.ca/letr](http://www.specialolympics.bc.ca/letr)

### About the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR)

The Law Enforcement Torch Run was started in 1981 in Wichita, Kansas, by Police Chief Richard LaMunyon. Chief LaMunyon saw an urgent need to raise funds for and increase awareness of Special Olympics. He proposed the idea of police officers running in support of Special Olympics athletes, while raising financial contributions from fellow police officers, private individuals, and the business community. From this modest beginning, the Law Enforcement Torch Run has developed into an inspiring international movement, with Torch Runs being held in more than 30 countries, including Canada. In 2012, the LETR worldwide raised \$43 million for Special Olympics.

Since 1990, the LETR in BC has raised more than \$3 million to support Special Olympics athletes and programs, helping SOBC grow to involve 4,100 athletes in 55 communities around B.C. More information on the BC LETR: [www.specialolympics.bc.ca/letr](http://www.specialolympics.bc.ca/letr)



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Executive Council  
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Executive Council  
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**About Special Olympics BC**

Special Olympics BC is dedicated to providing individuals with intellectual disabilities opportunities to enrich their lives and celebrate personal achievement through positive sport experiences. In 55 communities around the province, we provide year-round training and competitive opportunities in 18 different sports to more than 4,100 athletes of all ages and abilities, thanks to the dedicated efforts of over 3,200 volunteers. For more information, please visit [www.specialolympics.bc.ca](http://www.specialolympics.bc.ca). Find us on Facebook and Twitter: [www.facebook.com/specialolympicsbc](https://www.facebook.com/specialolympicsbc) / @sobcsociety.

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