



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MAY 20, 2016

## **Law enforcement runners lace up for Special Olympics**

From May 31 to June 3, law enforcement runners and Special Olympics athletes will take to the streets with a message of respect and inclusion as they lace up in communities around the Lower Mainland for the 2016 BC Law Enforcement Torch Run in support of Special Olympics BC.

The LETR is a global movement that raises vital funds and awareness for Special Olympics. Since 1990, the BC LETR have been dedicated supporters of SOBC with LETR members around the province leading a variety of fundraising events throughout the year, raising more than \$3 million to date. The Torch Run is the highlight of the calendar.

Approximately 300 runners from a range of agencies and about 50 Special Olympics athletes are expected to join in the runs together in their communities, carrying the Flame of Hope and raising funds and awareness for Special Olympics.

"It's fantastic to see the different law enforcement agencies in the Lower Mainland come together to support Special Olympics," Rick Lucy, the BC LETR Provincial Director and a retired Deputy Chief Constable with the Abbotsford Police Department, said. "Every year law enforcement members, including myself, look forward to running with Special Olympics athletes and seeing people from all the communities come out to cheer us on. We are so inspired by the dedication, camaraderie, and true spirit of sport we see in the athletes, and it's an honour to support such a worthy cause."

Participating agencies include the Abbotsford, Delta, New Westminster, Port Moody, Vancouver, and West Vancouver police departments, RCMP detachments throughout the Lower Mainland, Canada Border Services Agency, the Justice Institute of British Columbia, and Metro Vancouver Transit Police.

**Day 1, May 31:** Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Langley, Surrey, White Rock

**Day 2, June 1:** Burnaby, Vancouver, North Vancouver/West Vancouver

**Day 3, June 2:** Mission, Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows, Port Moody/Coquitlam

**Day 4, June 3:** New Westminster, **Richmond**, Delta/Ladner

Full schedule: <http://www.specialolympics.bc.ca/ways-give/law-enforcement-torch-run/upcoming-events>

More LETR information: [www.specialolympics.bc.ca/letr](http://www.specialolympics.bc.ca/letr)

For photos of the Torch Run during the event:  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/specialolympicsbc/albums>

Twitter: @BCLETR

### **About the Law Enforcement Torch Run**

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. The LETR has raised more than \$500 million for Special Olympics programs around the world.

### **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 57 communities around the province, we provide year-round training and competitive opportunities in 18 different sports to more than 4,400 athletes of all ages and abilities, thanks to the dedicated efforts of over 3,400 volunteers.

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

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/specialolympicsbc](http://www.facebook.com/specialolympicsbc)

Twitter: @sobcsociety

### **Contact:**

Eliot James  
Fundraising & Communications Coordinator  
Special Olympics BC  
Phone: 604.737.3042  
Cell (during event): 604.839.0540  
Email: [ejames@specialolympics.bc.ca](mailto:ejames@specialolympics.bc.ca)