



## **2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games coming to Kamloops**

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The winter months in Kamloops will be warmed in 2015 by an inspiring display of dedication, skill, and sportsmanship when the 2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games land in town.

Special Olympics BC (SOBC) is excited to announce that the 2015 SOBC Winter Games will be coming to Kamloops, marking the event's return to the community for the first time in 12 years.

Approximately 600 athletes and 200 volunteer coaches and mission staff from the eight SOBC regions in B.C. and the Yukon will convene on Kamloops in February 2015 for the exciting event. The Games will feature athletes going for gold in the seven SOBC winter sports: alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, floor hockey, snowshoeing, and speed skating.

At stake is the opportunity to advance to national and international levels of competition. Top performers in Kamloops will earn the right to advance to the 2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, where the participants will compete for the chance to move on to the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria.

Kamloops has long been a key location in the world of Special Olympics in B.C., as one of the first communities to start Special Olympics programming in the province.

"We know this community can pull off an amazing set of Games. They have hosted SOBC Games here before, and were highly successful," said Lois McNary, SOBC Vice President of Sport. "Provincial Games are an exciting, empowering, and frequently life-changing experience for athletes and volunteers alike, and we're sure the Kamloops community will once again provide an environment where the skill and determination of the athletes will be in the spotlight and the spirit of Special Olympics will shine."

Approximately 1,000 volunteers will be welcomed to be involved to help stage the inspiring event.

### **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 4,000 athletes of all ages and abilities, thanks to the dedicated efforts of over 2,900 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](http://www.facebook.com/specialolympicsbc) | @sobcsociety.

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