



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 2015 SOBC Winter Games kicking off in Kamloops

On February 19 to 21, the Special Olympics BC Winter Games are returning to Kamloops for the first time in 12 years, and Kamloops is giving a very warm welcome.

"Kamloops has really stepped up. The community has rallied to help us and we've had a great response from volunteers and sponsors. We're going to put on a great Games and a great experience for these athletes," 2015 SOBC Winter Games Chair Pat Davis said.

With just over 700 Special Olympics athletes and volunteer coaches and mission staff coming together in Canada's Tournament Capital from all parts of the province and the Yukon, the 2015 SOBC Winter Games will be an inspiring display of the power of sport to spotlight abilities and change lives.

Everyone who watches Special Olympics athletes participate and compete comes away inspired. These athletes have such a genuine love for their sports and they feel great confidence and pride from being able to take centre stage and show their abilities at Provincial Games.

The entertaining Games Opening Ceremony will kick off this empowering event on the evening of Thursday, Feb. 19, at 7:30 p.m. at the Tournament Capital Centre. The regional teams will march in with pride, joined by celebrity Honorary Coaches Travis Lulay of the BC Lions and Don Hay of the Kamloops Blazers. The excitement of the athletes will be a sight to see, and Games organizers have worked hard to plan a ceremony full of fantastic entertainment around the big moment when the teams enter. Doors open at 6 p.m. and spectators are welcome – no tickets required!

Admission is free to all 2015 SOBC Games events, and spectators are encouraged to come out and be inspired by the dedication, sportsmanship, and abilities of the competitors.

Games schedule, results, photos, regional team lists, and more: [sobcgameskamloops.ca](http://sobcgameskamloops.ca)

Sincere thanks to all the generous Games sponsors:

- Platinum Sponsors: City of Kamloops, School District #73, and Yamana Gold Inc.
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## About the 2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games

The 2015 SOBC Winter Games, set to be held February 19 to 21, will feature 600 athletes from around the province going for gold in alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, floor hockey, snowshoeing, and speed skating. SOBC athletes province-wide competed in Regional Qualifiers last season to earn coveted spots in the 2015 Provincial Games. In Kamloops, athletes will compete for the chance to advance to the 2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, qualifier for the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria.

Curling, figure skating, and speed skating will be hosted at McArthur Island Sport and Event Centre, and floor hockey will be held in School District #73 schools. Alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing will be hosted at Sun Peaks Resort. The Games will kick off with the Opening Ceremony February 19 at the Tournament Capital Centre. More information: [www.sobcgameskamloops.ca](http://www.sobcgameskamloops.ca).

## 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 4,300 athletes of all ages and abilities, thanks to the dedicated efforts of over 3,300 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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