



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Travis Lulay, Don Hay backing 2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games

Travis Lulay and Don Hay will lend star support to the 2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games in Kamloops next week, serving as Honorary Coaches walking with regional teams into the Games Opening Ceremony on February 19.

BC Lions quarterback Lulay, the 2011 CFL and Grey Cup most valuable player, has a long relationship with Special Olympics, as he started giving his time and support to the movement during his university years in Montana and got involved with Special Olympics BC in 2011 after joining the Lions. Lulay has attended three previous Special Olympics Provincial and National Games as an Honorary Coach, and is an enthusiastic, engaging, and articulate supporter of Special Olympics athletes.

"Special Olympics gives these athletes such a sense of self-worth, and you can see it come out every single time they compete. That's what's really encouraging. And knowing the families of Special Olympics athletes are such giving people, they're so excited to see that person compete and have fun doing it, and have such a sense of self-worth, and getting better time and again," Lulay says.

Kamloops Blazers Head Coach Hay, the three-time Memorial Cup-winning team leader, has also graciously jumped on board to give added star power to the 2015 SOBC Games Opening Ceremony and help celebrate the achievements of the athletes coming to Kamloops. Lulay and Hay will enter the Opening Ceremony at the Tournament Capital Centre with the regional teams comprised of more than 700 Special Olympics athletes and coaches from all over B.C. and the Yukon.

"I am honoured to represent the Kamloops Blazers and be a part of the 2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games Opening Ceremony in my hometown of Kamloops. All of the participants are tremendous athletes that strive to achieve the very best. This is a terrific event for our community and I wish the best of luck to all the participating athletes," Hay said.

"We're honoured to have Travis Lulay and Don Hay join the 2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games festivities. Their participation helps demonstrate our great respect for the athletes and coaches who have worked so hard to get to these Games, and helps us put on a great show here in Kamloops," says 2015 SOBC Winter Games Chair Pat Davis. "We welcome everyone to join us at the Opening Ceremony to watch these inspirational athletes enjoying the proud moment of walking in together with their teams to represent their regions, and to check out the great show we have planned."

The 2015 SOBC Winter Games are also proud to announce five new sponsors have signed on to support this empowering event: Platinum Sponsor Yamana Gold Inc., Gold Sponsors Kamloops Blazers Sports Society Sports Legacy Fund and NRI Distribution Inc., Silver Sponsor B2Gold Corp., and the Knights of Columbus as a Bronze Sponsor. Sincere thanks to all our sponsors:



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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 Sports and Events 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.

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. Find us on Facebook and Twitter: www.facebook.com/specialolympicsbc / @sobcsociety.

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Travis Lulay is available for phone interviews February 10 to 13 and in person at the Games Opening Ceremony on February 19, 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Tournament Capital Centre. To arrange phone interviews please contact Read and Grittani-Livingston.