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Athletes, community support inspire at 2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games

Kamloops and Sun Peaks provided the perfect stages for the 2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games athletes to shine February 19 to 21. The competitors from around B.C. and the Yukon were at the top of their game in earning more than 350 medals in seven sports.

After training countless hours over the last two years to reach the Provincial Games, with the support of their dedicated volunteer coaches, the 2015 SOBC Games athletes were well prepared to make the most of this opportunity to show their abilities in a world-class sport hosting community. Many won medals and achieved personal bests; all competed hard and grew as individuals.

The remarkable support shown by Kamloops and Sun Peaks volunteers and sponsors was noticed and appreciated by the SOBC community.

"I think Kamloops was a great place to have the Games. There's people that have hosted big events before and really understand the impact that Special Olympics can have on a community level, and I think they've really put a lot of time and effort into making sure that we have the right facilities and accommodations so we could be at our best," SOBC – Langley athlete Matthew Williams said. An accomplished speed skater and Special Olympics Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger, Williams earned four gold medals at McArthur Island Sport and Event Centre. "I just want to thank all the volunteers and the Games Organizing Committee from Kamloops that put these Games together, I enjoyed every minute of it."

"We were thrilled to see the powerful way our Games athletes were welcomed and celebrated in Kamloops. They were treated like athletes, with outstanding competitive venues, enthusiastic and well-trained officials and volunteers, and media coverage," SOBC President & CEO Dan Howe said. "And we heard a wonderful response from those who generously came out to volunteer and the sponsors who supported the Games. As much as these athletes were inspired by the Games, they inspired so many others."

"I would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers, sponsors and spectators. They have proven once again what an amazing community Kamloops is and that it truly is the Tournament Capital. Their support was tremendous and enabled us to host a Games experience that these athletes will remember for a lifetime," 2015 SOBC Winter Games Chair Pat Davis said.

While the 2015 SOBC Winter Games have come to a close, there remain many opportunities to be involved with the SOBC – Kamloops athletes and programs – details are available at www.sobckamloops.org or by contacting Local Coordinator Marilyn McLean at marilyn.mclean2@gmail.com or 250-573-1206.



Sincere thanks to all the generous Games sponsors:

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About the 2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games

The 2015 SOBC Winter Games, held February 19 to 21, featured 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 competed 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.

Results and high-resolution photos are available at 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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