

## **Team BC delivered at 2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games**

*Special Olympics BC provincial team earned 120 medals and many personal bests at National Games in Newfoundland and Labrador*

The [2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games](#) took [Team BC](#) from sea to sea for the first time, and the 126 athletes delivered outstanding performances on the Rock. Team BC 2016 earned 120 medals and achieved many personal bests competing in seven sports at the 2016 Special Olympics Canada Games in Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador, from March 1 to 5.

[Team BC 2016](#) was comprised of 126 athletes with intellectual disabilities, 42 volunteer coaches, and 10 mission staff from 31 communities around the province. After working hard over the last year both in their sport-specific training and on their fitness and nutrition, Team BC members were very prepared to compete in Corner Brook, and they did their province proud.

Highlights included the triple gold medal performances by speed skater Paige Norton of Abbotsford, cross-country skier Francis Stanley of Kelowna, figure skater Marc Theriault of Surrey, and alpine skier Michael Langridge of Victoria, as well as the two exciting all-B.C. gold-medal games in curling and floor hockey, and a B.C. podium sweep in the 2.5-kilometre classic cross-country skiing M3 division by Vernon's Justin Sigal (gold) and Prince George's Josh Pudney (silver) and Danny Lafreniere (bronze).

### [Daily recaps of Team BC performances](#)

"We are so thrilled with the results – the personal bests and medals both," Team BC 2016 Chef de Mission Leslie Thornley said. "We really are so pleased with what the athletes did and how they represented us."

<b>TEAM BC 2016 MEDAL COUNT</b>				
	Gold	Silver	Bronze	TOTAL
Alpine skiing	7	7	6	20
Cross-country skiing	11	13	9	33
Curling	1	1		2
Figure skating	7	4		11
Floor hockey	1	2		3
Snowshoeing	2	9	7	18
Speed skating	13	8	12	33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>120</b>

The 2016 National Games were the first to be held in Newfoundland and Labrador in the 47-year history of Special Olympics Canada Games, and the local volunteers and supporters provided an exceptional experience for the more than 950 delegation members from Canada's 10 provinces and two of three territories.

"The people of Newfoundland embraced us and our athletes. They treated us like family," Thornley said.

Special Olympics competitions operate on a four-year cycle for both summer and winter sports. Athletes compete in regional events and then Provincial Games to advance to National Games, and Special Olympics Canada Games are the qualifiers for Special Olympics World Games. Special

Olympics Canada will select the members of Team Canada for the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria based on the performances in Corner Brook.

Through these competitions and training, Special Olympics athletes empower themselves and inspire everyone around them as they set and achieve goals, build pride and confidence, and forge valued friendships.

Team BC results, roster, photos, and videos: [www.soteambc2016.ca](http://www.soteambc2016.ca)

### Team BC 2016 quick facts

126 athletes

42 coaches

10 mission staff

31 B.C. communities represented

13 age of youngest Team BC athlete

65 age of oldest Team BC athlete

54 athletes competed at National Games for the first time

Together, Team BC athletes have **1,930+ years** of Special Olympics experience

7 sports

- Alpine skiing
- Cross-country skiing
- Curling
- Figure skating
- Floor hockey
- Snowshoeing
- Speed skating

### 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. 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.

### Media contact

Megan Grittani-Livingston

SOBC Manager, Communications

T: 604.737.3077 | E: [megan@specialolympics.bc.ca](mailto:megan@specialolympics.bc.ca)