



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Karl deBruijn heading 2017 Special Olympics BC Summer Games

SOBC welcomes first sponsors signing on for largest Provincial Games to date

Special Olympics BC (SOBC) is excited and grateful that Karl deBruijn, retired School District #73 Superintendent, has stepped up to serve as Chair of the [2017 Special Olympics BC Summer Games](#) Organizing Committee. DeBruijn, who worked with the school district for 40 years, also volunteered as a member of the organizing committee for the 2015 SOBC Winter Games that were held in Kamloops and Sun Peaks.

“I really believe in the mandate of Special Olympics BC and I am pleased to again have the opportunity to work with this organization,” deBruijn says. “I really enjoyed being a part of the organizing committee during the 2015 SOBC Winter Games. It was a great opportunity to work with some really talented community members who were dedicated to making the Games a very special event for each of the athletes attending from around the province. We worked hard to ensure that our volunteers and our sport venues were completely ready to host the athletes and the competitions. We wanted each athlete to have a positive sport experience and an opportunity to achieve his/her personal best. Thanks to the hard work of the many Kamloops organizations and volunteers, the 2015 SOBC Winter Games were a great success. I am confident that we can do the same for the 2017 Summer Games.”

SOBC is grateful to deBruijn and all the volunteers set to give their time as members of the Games Organizing Committee. Joining deBruijn and the GOC as champions of the 2017 SOBC Summer Games are sponsors including the City of Kamloops and School District #73, who are generously returning as SOBC Games Platinum Sponsors. Sincere thanks to these first sponsors who have stepped forward to support the Games:

- Platinum Sponsors: **City of Kamloops** and **School District #73**
- Gold Sponsor: **New Gold – New Afton Mine**
- Bronze Sponsors: **Binnie Consulting** and **Domtar – Kamloops**

“The support of sponsors is absolutely critical. Without them, we could not host these important Games. These experiences mean so much to our athletes, and do so much to show all that individuals with intellectual disabilities can do, opening hearts and minds,” SOBC President & CEO Dan Howe says.

Those interested in learning more about Games sponsorship opportunities and benefits are invited to contact Howe at dhowe@specialolympics.bc.ca or 1-888-854-2276 toll-free / 604-737-3079 direct.

About the 2017 Special Olympics BC Summer Games

The 2017 SOBC Summer Games, set to be held in Kamloops July 6 to 8, will be the largest SOBC Games to date, with almost 1,300 athletes with intellectual disabilities from all parts of the province and the Yukon expected to compete, supported by more than 350 volunteer coaches and mission staff. Hot on the heels of the successful 2015 SOBC Winter Games, Kamloops will be the first community to host back-to-back SOBC Winter and Summer Games. The 2017 Games will feature exciting competition and inspiring displays of sportsmanship in the 11 SOBC summer sports: 5- and 10-pin bowling, athletics, basketball, bocce, golf, powerlifting, rhythmic gymnastics, soccer, softball, and swimming. In 2017, the SOBC Games Opening Ceremony will be held on July 6, followed by competition throughout Friday July 7 and Saturday July 8. A Closing Ceremony will be held on July 8 (open only to Games participants) and volunteer recognition breakfast on July 9.

More than 1,000 volunteers will be needed to help stage this inspiring event. Volunteer registration details and Games venues will be announced in the weeks to come. Learn more at www.sobcgameskamloops.ca and find SOBC on Facebook and Instagram @specialolympicsbc and Twitter @sobcsociety; the Games hashtags will be #SOBCGames #Kamloops2017.

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 4,600 athletes of all ages and abilities, thanks to the dedicated efforts of over 3,900 volunteers. For more information, please visit www.specialolympics.bc.ca, and find us on Facebook and Instagram @specialolympicsbc and Twitter @sobcsociety. To learn more about SOBC – Kamloops, visit www.sobckamloops.org and www.facebook.com/sobckamloops.

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