



IMPACT REPORT 2025-2026

**Special
Olympics**
British Columbia





A WINNER NO MATTER WHAT

Meet Penticton athlete Angela Klein

A passionate swimmer and proud teammate, Special Olympics BC – Penticton athlete Angela Klein brought determination, enthusiasm, and a positive spirit to Special Olympics Team BC 2026.

Through her 26 years as a Special Olympics athlete, Angela has found meaningful friendships, fun, and personal growth. She has also achieved athletic success, including three National Games appearances in two different sports, competing on the national stage twice in swimming and once in softball.

When Angela first joined Special Olympics, she said she'd try it out for a year.

"Twenty-six years later, I'm still involved! I'm grateful for the friends and incredible people I have met and the incredible confidence Special Olympics has brought to life in me."

Angela earned her place on the provincial team after a standout performance at the 2025 Special Olympics BC

Summer Games, where she reached the podium in all of her swimming races.

"When I realized I earned medals in all of my events, I cried," Angela said.

The moment held deep significance, as she reflected on her late mother and sister.

"I thought, 'Mommy, can you see me? ... Sissy, are you proud of me? I did it.'"

For Angela, being part of Special Olympics Team BC is about "teamwork, cheering your teammates on, in and out of the pool, hard work, laughter, and incredible memories for life."

Her goal is "to do the best that I can, and to know that, no matter what, I am a winner and I can do it, in and out of the pool!"

"Special Olympics will change your life, believe me, I know. I USED to be one of the shyest, most introverted people around. But NOW? You can't make me be quiet, unless I'm underwater!"

-Angela Klein, Special Olympics BC – Penticton athlete

UNSTOPPABLE TOGETHER

The 2025-26 season saw one of Special Olympics BC's biggest provincial teams ever give their all, week in and week out, training in 42 communities across our province. Their goal was to compete with pride and show their abilities in the 2026 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games.

They had a powerful vision that the world needs now more than ever: We are Unstoppable Together.

Special Olympics Team BC 2026's determined athletes and dedicated volunteer coaches and mission staff chose that motto out of their own hearts to represent their spirit and their path to success.

Together, through hard work in year-round Special Olympics programs in communities all across the province, they built the foundation to achieve their personal bests in national competition.

Together, they shined an important spotlight on the abilities of athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities, leading the way to a more respectful and inclusive world using the power and joy of sport.

Together, they proved to be unstoppable.

The mission of Special Olympics BC is to use the power of sport to enrich the lives of athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities and build a better, more inclusive world by opening hearts and minds to their abilities. This mission needs all of us, together.

We sincerely thank Special Olympics BC's athletes, volunteers, and supporters who contribute in countless vital ways – sponsors, donors, families, and champions of inclusion in meaningful roles across our movement and province.

All of you played such a critical part in creating opportunity, community, and change through Special Olympics BC's year-round programs, empowering competitions, and meaningful development initiatives throughout the 2025-26 season.

We hope you'll enjoy reading a few of many stories about the lives that were changed and the communities enriched through the power and joy of sport.



Dan Howe
Special Olympics BC
President & CEO



Nicola Lambrechts
SOBC Board of Directors
Chair



Donna Bilous
SOBC Leadership
Council Chair



Matthew Williams
SOBC Athlete Leadership
Council Chair



MISSION

Special Olympics BC is dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities through sport.

VISION

Sport will open hearts and minds towards people with intellectual disabilities and create inclusive communities all across British Columbia

VALUES

Inclusion: We foster inclusive communities.

Diversity: We honour what is unique in each individual.

Empowerment: We create opportunities to pursue full potential.

Respect: We operate in an environment of cooperation, collaboration and dignity.

Excellence: We elevate standards and performance.

YOUR IMPACT IN 2025-2026



"Being part of Special Olympics Team BC means a lot to me to know I'm beating the odds and proving people wrong. When I was a baby, no one thought I would ever become an athlete. But because of Special Olympics, I'm able to participate and compete. I don't think it would be possible if not for Special Olympics."

-Jenna Fowler, Special Olympics BC – Kamloops athlete

1
new endowment
fund launched

1,333
Healthy Athletes
Screenings

34
schools offered
SOBC Unified
Sports®

558
athletes and
Unified partners
participated

38% ▲

3,541
registered athletes
1.4% ▲



2
age of youngest
athlete

88
age oldest
athlete


700
Polar Plunge®
participants

17% ▲



358,900
hours contributed by
volunteers


4,142
caring donors
5.6% ▲

166
communities served by
55
SOBC Local programs

1,114
athletes competed
in Winter Regional
Qualifiers


476
coaches completed
training
113% ▲

SHINING TOGETHER AT THE 2026 SPECIAL OLYMPICS CANADA SUMMER GAMES

After months of training in their year-round Special Olympics programs in communities across B.C., **Special Olympics Team BC** showed their skills, sportsmanship, and unstoppable spirit at the 2026 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games in Medicine Hat, Alberta.

By the numbers, this was one of Special Olympics BC's biggest and most dedicated provincial teams ever.

243

athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities

97

volunteer coaches and mission staff

10

Special Olympics Canada summer sports

42

communities represented

Medal tally

GOLD 105

SILVER 124

BRONZE 135

FIND FULL RESULTS AND INSPIRING STORIES AND PHOTOS AT [SOTEAMBC.CA](https://www.soteambc.ca).



"The biggest reward is the athletes' joy, and seeing the joy on their faces. They come out here with so much passion and so much excitement, and it is really rewarding just to see all the hard work that they put in for the last few years pay off."

-Arjan Basra (far right), SO Team BC 2026 bocce coach from Surrey



"Special Olympics means so much to me. I have made new friends, and it is giving me the opportunity to play the game I love at a high level. It has been a dream of mine."

-Maire Anderson, SO Team BC 2026 soccer player from Campbell River



BRAVE IN THE ATTEMPT

AT THE 2026 WINTER REGIONAL QUALIFIERS



28
Regional
Qualifiers

22
host
communities

Skills, team spirit, and the joy of sport were on full display when more than 1,100 athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities competed in the **2026 Special Olympics BC Winter Regional Qualifiers!**

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of volunteers, families, sponsors, and supporters, 28 Regional Qualifiers were hosted in 22 communities in all parts of the province. Athletes competed in 5-pin bowling, alpine skiing, cross country skiing, curling, figure skating, floorball, snowshoeing, and speed skating.

These Regional Qualifiers gave athletes the chance to challenge themselves, feel the joy of being part of a team, and seek to qualify for spots in the 2027 Special Olympics BC Winter Games.

The 2027 SOBC Winter Games snow sports are set to be hosted in Kelowna February 5 to 7, and ice and floor sports in Richmond March 26 to 28. Visit SOBCGames.ca to find all the details about this empowering provincial competition!

"I like to compete and travel and meet other people. I like competing with other athletes and trying our best so we can qualify for provincials, nationals, and internationals. It's important for us to get to compete, so we can go out there and try our best, and so everyone can see what Special Olympics athletes can do."

-David Johnston, Special Olympics BC – Dawson Creek curling athlete and Athlete Reporter



STRENGTHENING INCLUSIVE HEALTH IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

People with intellectual disabilities face challenges accessing health care and equal opportunities for healthy activity. As a result, they experience dramatically higher rates of serious health concerns than peers without intellectual disabilities.

Special Olympics BC is committed to working with partners in our province and offering health programs, with the goal to create a world where people with intellectual disabilities have the same opportunities and access to health care as people without intellectual disabilities. That helps Special Olympics athletes to be at their best on and off the playing field.

Special Olympics BC’s game-changing health programming includes:



Special Olympics Healthy Athletes screenings, which provide important health education and referrals for necessary care within a supportive setting;



Health advocacy training programs, which help empower athletes to lead the way to healthy lifestyles and inclusive health systems; and



Weekly physical activity programs in communities across the province, including **Club Fit** (fitness training) and **Fit Families & Friends** (summer program).

“As parents, we try to cover all those bases and make sure that our children are getting the attention that they need. But sometimes our eyes are so used to seeing something, it takes another set of eyes to recognize it. In our case, it was a visit to the Healthy Athletes podiatrist, and it opened our eyes to: ‘wow, his toes shouldn’t look like that.’ Something as simple as that has made a big difference in his life.”

-Fern Russell, Special Olympics BC parent and volunteer

INCLUSION, SKILLS, AND FUN IN YOUTH PROGRAMS

Many children with intellectual disabilities feel left behind or isolated in traditional sport and activity programs. In Special Olympics, they belong and thrive.

Special Olympics BC offers **Active Start and FUNdamentals programs** in communities around the province, where children and youth with intellectual disabilities ages two to 11 learn vital motor, sport, and social skills in a fun and welcoming environment.

Active Start and FUNdamentals programs are offered at low or no cost and have been specifically designed to meet the needs of children with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Participants build essential skills that help them throughout their lives. They can also transition into Special Olympics BC’s sport and fitness programs to find lifelong healthy activity and community.

In 2025-26, 222 Special Olympics BC Active Start and FUNdamentals athletes in training thrived in their weekly programs in 14 communities across the province, marking 40 per cent growth in participation.

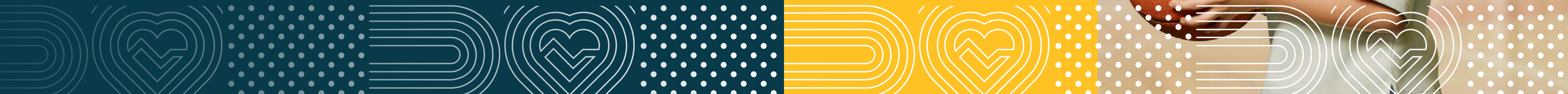
222

Active Start and FUNdamentals athletes in

14 communities

“Since moving back to Canada, we’ve had trouble finding support for Maire. Special Olympics has been the best experience so far, and I can see it being a part of her life for tens of years into the future.”

-Family of Maire O’Connor, Special Olympics BC – Coquitlam athlete



INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS THROUGH SPECIAL OLYMPICS BC UNIFIED SPORTS®



"All of us are so grateful just to be here and have the opportunity to participate. Everybody gets to be involved. Everybody gets to play. It's amazing to see the inclusivity and everybody that's come forward to make this possible."

*-Sasha Nefedov,
Special Olympics BC
Unified partner*

Special Olympics BC is dedicated to working with schools and districts across the province to build inclusive school communities. **Special Olympics BC Unified Sports®** programs are being offered in schools around the province to empower youth with and without intellectual disabilities to change the world through sports.

We know that training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding. Special Olympics Unified Sports programs bring together students with and without intellectual disabilities to train and compete as teammates.

Teams practice and compete together, just like any other school team, and they open hearts and minds to the abilities of students with intellectual disabilities along the way. Students with and without intellectual disabilities make new friends, develop skills and self-esteem, and break down barriers through inclusive sport and learning experiences.

"This experience means a lot to our kids," Burnaby coach Jarrett Richardson says. "It gives the kids the opportunity to connect in a different capacity, and it extends further than the court. It goes into our hallways and there's camaraderie in our hallways. There's less students being separate. It's now an inclusive environment in the halls. And that's thanks to the inclusive environment on the court. Thank you, Special Olympics, for all your support."



ATHLETE LEADERSHIP CHANGING THE WORLD

Through **Special Olympics BC Athlete Leadership** programs, athletes build their abilities and confidence to take on a range of leadership roles including public speaking, creating advocacy and media content, participating on Local Committees and Athlete Leadership Councils, and assisting as program volunteers.

Athlete Leadership programs are proven to have a lasting benefit to participants by increasing confidence and self-esteem, and a lasting benefit to Special Olympics as these athlete leaders provide invaluable feedback and insights.

Currently, Special Olympics BC – Surrey athlete Susan Wang is serving as one of only 10 Special Olympics Sargent Shriver Global Messengers worldwide for the 2024-27 term. Susan is also a valued voice on the Special Olympics Canada Athlete Leadership Council and SOBC Athlete Leadership Council.

In 2025-26, she shared her insights and leadership skills in a wide range of global, national, provincial, and local roles and events that opened hearts and minds to the abilities of people with intellectual disabilities.

“Special Olympics has truly changed my life, and I don’t know where I would be today without this organization.

Through participating in sports, I gained the confidence to take on athlete leadership and be a voice for change.”

-Susan Wang, Special Olympics Sargent Shriver Global Messenger and Surrey athlete



1
of only 10 Special
Olympics Sargent
Shriver Global
Messengers
worldwide.

STRENGTHENING THE FUTURE OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS BC

In 2025, the **Ron and Alma Jones Family Foundation** created a transformative \$1 million endowment fund for Special Olympics BC. This life-changing gift will ensure that athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities across the province will be able to access inclusive sport opportunities for many years to come.

The Jones family's support for Special Olympics BC spans decades, reflecting a heartfelt commitment to inclusion and enriching community. Special Olympics BC is deeply grateful to the Ron and Alma Jones Family Foundation for this incredibly generous gift.

Visit specialolympics.bc.ca for more information on the Ron and Alma Jones Family Foundation.

Representatives from the Ron and Alma Jones Family Foundation present a cheque to Special Olympics BC for the annual dividends from the \$1M endowment fund.



\$1M
endowment
fund

"The Ron and Alma Jones Family Foundation, together with all the Jones family members, are delighted to continue contributing to Special Olympics BC. Our family believes that all people deserve the opportunity to participate and compete in sport, as well as performing to the best of their ability. In doing so, it will enrich their lives in developing relationships at both the local and international level that will last a lifetime."

-Ron Jones, Chairperson of the Ron and Alma Jones Family Foundation

CELEBRATING THE JOY OF SPORT

“Special Olympics didn’t just change our sons’ lives – it empowered them to dream bigger, reach higher, and remind the world that ability always shines brighter than disability.”

-Coralyn and Ramon Siytangco, Special Olympics BC – Vancouver parents and volunteers

Sport connects, inspires, and changes us all. The **2025 Sports Celebrities Festival presented by Wheaton Precious Metals** was an unforgettable evening, raising over \$410,000. Over its 27-year history, this inspiring event (now known as the Joy of Sport Gala) has raised more than \$11 million in support of athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Presenting Sponsor



Platinum Sponsor



Reception Sponsor



Bronze Sponsors



Event Sponsors



Media Sponsors



Community Partners



LIGHTING THE FLAME ACROSS B.C.



For over three decades, the **Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics BC** has powered positive change in communities across the province.

The 2026 Polar Plunge® for Special Olympics BC, hosted in partnership with the LETR, was our biggest yet. More than 700 participants took the Plunge in 18 events and in their own creative ways, raised \$400,000+ to empower athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The LETR also supports Special Olympics BC through meaningful community events year-round. Initiatives include the Final Leg for the 2025 Special Olympics BC Summer Games in Prince George, and 11 community Torch Run events where 300+ participants raised \$25,000.



The Polar Plunge logo, featuring a stylized white figure jumping into water above the text "POLAR PLUNGE FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS BC".

More than
\$400,000
raised at
18
community events
across B.C.

INCLUSIVE IMPACT ACROSS CANADA



\$1.3M
raised nationwide

Like Special Olympics, **Tim Hortons** is committed to changing lives through the power of inclusion. The Special Olympics Donut raises critical funds for Special Olympics programs across Canada. In 2026, the campaign raised an incredible \$1.3 million nationwide.



\$1.7M
raised nationwide

The **Empire Family of Brands** has a long-standing partnership with Special Olympics across Canada to fuel newfound confidence, lasting friendships, and personal bests. In 2026, their fundraising campaign raised a record-breaking \$1.7 million!



DRIVING COURAGE, COMMUNITY, AND INCLUSION

For over 40 years, the New Car Dealers of British Columbia have been making a life-changing impact through the **Auction for Athletes**. The 2026 event raised an incredible \$250,000 to support Special Olympics BC's dedicated athletes and life-changing programs across the province. Thank you to the generous sponsors, donors, and bidders for enriching lives and communities through the power of sport!

Auction for Athletes

Proudly Supporting

Special
Olympics
British Columbia



New Car Dealers
Foundation of BC

Vehicle Donors

\$20,000+

\$10,000+



BC Honda
Dealers



PACIFIC
TOYOTA
DEALERS



First Canadian
Financial Group



Kia Victoria

\$5,000+

BANNISTER
AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

Dueck
Auto Group

100
YEARS
EST. 1926

HARMONY
Honda

The Jim Pattison
autogroup

McCARTHY
PROPERTIES

\$2,500+

\$1,000+



AUTO WEST GROUP
EXCEPTIONALLY DRIVEN

Color Compass
Corporation

go north surrey gm
chevrolet • buick • gmc

Greg Gardner
Squamish, BC
CHEVROLET • GMC
BUICK • CORVETTE
CROSSFIRE

JENNER
CHEVROLET • BUICK • GMC • EV

HARMONY
ACURA

maxam
INSURANCE SERVICES



RICHMOND
AUTO MALL



Signature
MAZDA



Media Sponsor

Black Press Media

Special
Olympics BC
CLASSIC

TEEING OFF FOR INCLUSION

Held on June 11 at Mayfair Lakes Golf and Country Club, the **2026 Special Olympics BC Classic presented by Canaccord Genuity** provided a full day of golf and life-changing impact. The event raised over \$360,000 to help Special Olympics BC athletes gain friendships, confidence, and community through sport.

Presenting Sponsor



Gold Sponsor



Bronze Sponsors



Cassels



Champion Sponsors

Deloitte.

- MICHAEL CAMPBELL'S -
MONEY TALKS

Community Builder



Competition Sponsor



Tee Sponsors and Community Partners

- Body Energy Club
- Dueck Auto Group
- Equinox Gold Corp.
- Hemisphere Energy
- Heritage Office Furnishings
- HUB International proudly sponsored by Dave Macfarlane
- London Drugs Insurance Services
- One Group Agency
- Schachter Energy Research Services Inc.
- Scotiabank
- StockScores.com
- The Trend Letter
- Vision Capital Corporation
- Water Street by the Park



"Sometimes they're forgotten, they're bullied, they're mistreated in school because people don't get educated about them and what they can do. Special Olympics gives them that opportunity."

-Andrew Metcalf (left), Special Olympics BC – Coquitlam parent and volunteer

“Special Olympics has grown my world. I have met many people and experienced things that I never would have. We can be isolated and bullied by people not understanding us. Opportunities are not always open to us to participate. Special Olympics has built my confidence and given me opportunities to travel and meet new athletes and coaches. [To anyone considering Special Olympics] I would say, do it! Get involved. You will find your happy place where you are accepted by all your peers.”

-Sebastian Gylander, Special Olympics BC – Golden athlete, SO Team BC 2026 swimmer, and Empire Family of Brands employee



2025 2026 PROVINCIAL SPONSORS

Platinum



Event Partners



Gold



Silver



Bronze



In-Kind and Community Partners





Special Olympics BC – Victoria coach Penny-Jane Peters (centre) with fellow members of SO Team BC 2026.

OUR LIFE-CHANGING VOLUNTEERS

MEET COACH PENNY-JANE PETERS

More than 2,200 passionate coaches and volunteers generously contribute their time and talents to make Special Olympics BC's empowering programs and competitions possible. We are so grateful for their vital involvement and impact.

When Penny-Jane Peters moved to Victoria 15 years ago, she joined Special Olympics to meet people, make friends, and find community. This season, she served as a valued Special Olympics Team BC 10-pin bowling coach.

To Penny-Jane, Special Olympics Canada Games are an opportunity to "prove to our country how brave and strong Special Olympics athletes are."

She was excited to see Special Olympics Team BC "push themselves and show everyone that

having intellectual and developmental disabilities doesn't mean you can't compete and be an amazing athlete."

For those considering getting involved in Special Olympics, Penny-Jane points to the impact the athletes have had on her own life.

Spending time in the program, she says, "will always fill your bucket and remind you of what's most important in life."

VOLUNTEER FUN FACTS

121,730

hours contributed by Special Olympics BC coaches

122,174

hours contributed by leadership and program volunteers

476

coaches enhanced their skills in

48

workshops

99

volunteers took part in development opportunities

HONOURING YEARS OF IMPACT

Through our annual **Volunteer Impact Celebration**, Special Olympics BC is proud and grateful to recognize the milestone anniversaries marked by our volunteers across the province. These dedicated individuals have contributed years of their time and skills into empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through Special Olympics BC sport, health, and youth programs.

“It’s the athletes that keep me coming back. Just seeing their enjoyment and learning skills and learning sportsmanship, and just being the best they can and helping them do that through sport.”

-Dee Neukomm, Special Olympics BC – Prince George founding volunteer, 40 years of impact



VOLUNTEER IMPACT CELEBRATION

40 YEARS

Anthony Loynton
SOBC – Langley
Dee Neukomm
SOBC – Prince George
Michel Elshof
SOBC – Surrey
Sylvia Wallach
SOBC – Port Alberni

35 YEARS

Mark Schnurr
SOBC – Coquitlam
Nancy Antonio
SOBC – North Shore

30 YEARS

Doris Montgomery
SOBC – Nanaimo
Fiona Waite
SOBC – Kelowna
Rita Wakely
SOBC – Abbotsford
Sandra Gallaway
SOBC – Comox Valley

25 YEARS

Edith Burgess
SOBC – Surrey
Greg Poole
SOBC – North Shore
Kim Bunnage
SOBC – Kelowna

Martha Lelik
SOBC – Surrey
Stephanie Martyn
SOBC – Nanaimo
Tannis Marshall
SOBC – Surrey
Tom Advocaat
SOBC – Coquitlam
Valeen Brash
SOBC – Nanaimo
Walde Libera
SOBC – Coquitlam

20 YEARS

Aaron Leontowich
SOBC – Kamloops
Debbie Dachwitz
SOBC – Kelowna
Deborah Evans
SOBC – Quesnel
Dawn Taylor
SOBC – Prince George
Karen Milner
SOBC – Nanaimo
Katherine Taberner
SOBC – Port Alberni
Kelly Klein
SOBC – North Shore
Linda Scobbie
SOBC – Port Alberni
Lee Chic
SOBC – South Okanagan
Wayne Sargent
SOBC – South Okanagan

William Scobbie
SOBC – Port Alberni
Zachary Klein
SOBC – North Shore

15 YEARS

Angela Flannery
SOBC – Coquitlam
Andrew McGarvey
SOBC – Victoria
Brandon Ngai
SOBC – Coquitlam
Cathy Verge
SOBC – Sunshine Coast
Cheryl Giles
SOBC – Cowichan Valley
Christine Helpard
SOBC – Comox Valley
Daniel McCartney
SOBC – North Shore
Darrel Fry
SOBC – Trail
Darlene Isaac
SOBC – Delta
Debbie Bell
SOBC – Vernon
Debbie Garofano
SOBC – Langley
Diane Stevenson
SOBC – Ridge Meadows
Gail Miller
SOBC – Trail
Glen Robinson
SOBC – Kitimat

Grant Eveneshen
SOBC – Prince George
Ian Davie
SOBC – Chilliwack
Jakki Van Hemert
SOBC – Trail
Janet Hilton
SOBC – Powell River
Jasmine Ng
SOBC – North Shore
Jennifer Knoll
SOBC – Port Alberni
John Bouliane
SOBC – Vancouver
Kim Pierce
SOBC – Comox Valley
Phoebe Lau
SOBC – Richmond
Laurie Norman
SOBC – Powell River
Lynn (Maureen) Smith
SOBC – Castlegar
Michael Blaschuk
SOBC – Surrey
Nicolette Gomez
SOBC – Powell River
Paul Brearley
SOBC – Campbell River
Penny-Jane Peters
SOBC – Victoria
Rose Raven
SOBC – Surrey
Sandra Mayo
SOBC – North Shore
Shelley Anderson
SOBC – Comox Valley



Steve Van Hemert
SOBC – Trail

Tony Maniezzo
SOBC – Delta

Walter Vondracek
SOBC – Abbotsford

10 YEARS

Albertha Anchikoski
SOBC – Salmon Arm

Alfred Gauthier
SOBC – Creston

Anne Falvo
SOBC – Prince Rupert

Bailey Cooper
SOBC – Abbotsford

Barbara Phillips
SOBC – Kimberley/
Cranbrook

Brenda West
SOBC – Chilliwack

Bruce McKenzie
SOBC – Kimberley/
Cranbrook

Carol Knodel
SOBC – South
Okanagan

Carolyn McLean
SOBC – Kimberley/
Cranbrook

Cheryl Jensen
SOBC – Surrey

Colleen Fisher
SOBC – Langley

Colleen Brager
SOBC – Terrace

Connie Prachnau
SOBC – Chilliwack

Coral Fauchon
SOBC – Langley

Courtney Kaler
SOBC – Revelstoke

Darren Matthews
SOBC – Kamloops

Darrel Sharpe
SOBC – North Shore

Debbie Vandrish
SOBC – Langley

Desiree Morhart
SOBC – Abbotsford

Elizabeth Riddalls
SOBC – Port Alberni

Gerri Thompson
SOBC – Oceanside

Glenn Barker
SOBC – Victoria

Ian Templeton
SOBC – Golden

Judy Colborn
SOBC – Kamloops

Julie Hein
SOBC – Langley

Karen Ancheta
SOBC – Trail

Kathy Turney
SOBC – Fort St. John

KeikoSteeves
SOBC – Surrey

Kevin Phillips
SOBC – Kimberley/
Cranbrook

Kris Baker
SOBC – Kamloops

Kristienne Krnasty
SOBC – Vernon

KyleSampson
SOBC – Prince George

Linda Tyler
SOBC – Surrey

Lisa Rezansoff
SOBC – Nelson

Liz Wood
SOBC – Langley

Michael Riddalls
SOBC – Port Alberni

Michelle Battie
SOBC – Nanaimo

Mike Willemsen
SOBC – Langley

Ralph Eastland
SOBC – Cowichan
Valley

Sandra Poole
SOBC – Comox Valley

Shaun Penner
SOBC – Kimberley/
Cranbrook

Shawn Carter
SOBC – Summerland

Shelley Lindstrom
SOBC – Quesnel

Sherrin Upgaard
SOBC – Oceanside

Shyla Francis
SOBC – Fort St. John

Stuart Stephenson
SOBC – Kimberley/
Cranbrook

Tina Ingram
SOBC – Campbell River

Valerie Beebe
SOBC – Chilliwack

Victor Hegan
SOBC – Quesnel

5 YEARS

Anna Dan-Qing Feng
SOBC – Vancouver

Anna Hirschhorn
SOBC – Vernon

Andrew Gosbee
SOBC – Delta

Arjan Basra
SOBC – Surrey

Armandeep Minhas
SOBC – Abbotsford

Ben Orpilla
SOBC – Surrey

Betty Anne Marino
SOBC – Trail

Birgit Giesser
SOBC – Coquitlam

Brenda Zoobkoff
SOBC – Castlegar

Brian Cronkhite
SOBC – Langley

Brittany Eldridge
SOBC – Surrey

Brooks Lehtonen
SOBC – Port Alberni

Carol Ramey
SOBC – Oceanside

Claire Peachey
SOBC – Kelowna

Cliff Babcock
SOBC – Port Alberni

ColinSemple
SOBC – Coquitlam

Coralyn Siytangco
SOBC – Vancouver

Corinne Bertoli
SOBC – Kamloops

Chris Dunn
SOBC – Powell River

Christine Hillick
SOBC – Vancouver

Christina Whang
SOBC – Coquitlam

Cynthia Chartier
SOBC – Victoria

Curtis Sim
SOBC – Coquitlam

David Ell
SOBC – Campbell
River

Davina Maestas
SOBC – Campbell
River

Devon Antalek
SOBC – Coquitlam

EdwardStepski
SOBC – Kelowna

Elizabeth Thomson
SOBC – Kelowna

Emma Audet
SOBC – Port Alberni

Fred West
SOBC – Victoria

Gail Kipp
SOBC – Kamloops

Glen Sayer
SOBC – Coquitlam

Gustaf Hagland
SOBC – Kimberley/
Cranbrook

Hayley Ferguson
SOBC – Victoria

Henry Kikkert
SOBC – Chilliwack

Ian Baird
SOBC – Coquitlam

Jane Johnston
SOBC – Kamloops

Janet Cronkhite
SOBC – Langley

Janette Martin-Lutzer
SOBC – Campbell
River

Janis Sibley
SOBC – Coquitlam

Jennifer Fraser
SOBC – Richmond

Jonathan Almas
SOBC – Richmond

Joshua Seipp
SOBC – Coquitlam

Jun Terado
SOBC – Comox Valley

Kasra
Karimzadehshirazi
SOBC – Vancouver

Kelly Henault
SOBC – Cowichan
Valley

Ken Blackburn
SOBC – Campbell River

Kevin Hayes
SOBC – Coquitlam

Kelsey Phillips
SOBC – Port Alberni

Kerri Kikkert
SOBC – Chilliwack

Kiera Kam
SOBC – Vancouver

Kristi Watkins
SOBC – Abbotsford

Kristine Lawson
SOBC – Coquitlam

Kyle McCleery
SOBC – Vancouver

Lara Gribben
SOBC – Delta

Leila Ellwood
SOBC – Port Alberni

Mariah Wagner
SOBC – Abbotsford

Mark Stanley
SOBC – Abbotsford

Mike Jolliffe
SOBC – Kamloops

Mike McKay
SOBC – Port Alberni

Nancy Brennan
SOBC – Cowichan
Valley

Norm Nieken
SOBC – Coquitlam

Nora Smart
SOBC – Dawson Creek

Rachel English
SOBC – Coquitlam

Richard Bayliss
SOBC – South
Okanagan

Richard Reeves
SOBC – Creston

Sandra Leah
SOBC – Coquitlam

Samantha Seipp
SOBC – Coquitlam

Sean McGill
SOBC – Delta

Shirley Chan
SOBC – Richmond

Susan Hillyard-Seipp
SOBC – Coquitlam

Sylvia Sheldon
SOBC – Powell River

Teena Mangan
SOBC – Kamloops

Tiffany Richards
SOBC – Campbell
River

Tom McIlwaine
SOBC – Campbell
River

Trevor Long
SOBC – Kelowna

William Burk
SOBC – Coquitlam



CELEBRATING AWARD-WINNING IMPACT

Each year, Special Olympics BC recognizes the incredible achievements and contributions of our athletes and volunteers through our **annual provincial awards**. Heartfelt congratulations to the 2026 award winners and nominees, and sincere thanks to the movement members who submitted nominations and those who selected the winners!

2026 SOBC AWARDS WINNERS:

ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

Cory Duhaime, SOBC – Delta

BC LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN AWARD:

Cst. Sam Zacharias, Port Moody Police Department

COACH AMBITION AWARD:

Amanda Silveri, SOBC – Coquitlam

GRASSROOTS COACH AWARD:

Jacky Sheng, SOBC – Nanaimo

HOWARD CARTER AWARD:

Saige Beaumont, SOBC – Revelstoke

PRESIDENT’S AWARD:

Lee Chic, SOBC – South Okanagan

SPIRIT OF SPORT AWARD:

Jonathan Robins, SOBC – Creston



“My favourite Special Olympics experience was representing Canada at the 2025 World Winter Games in alpine skiing in Italy, and being lucky enough to win three gold medals there. I work hard to prepare as best as I can to play as well as I can, to help my team as much as I can. Give Special Olympics a try – you’ll be amazed at how good it all is!”

-Cory Duhaime, Special Olympics BC – Delta athlete,
2026 Athletic Achievement Award winner



WITH GRATITUDE

Thank you to our valued donors whose contributions help enrich the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through sport.

“I got involved in Special Olympics as a teenager, as I struggled in regular peer sports and making friends. Special Olympics is a fantastic place to meet and make new friends and overall have fun. Today, both my husband and son are also Special Olympics athletes.”

*-Ashley Rosenberger, Special Olympics BC –
Abbotsford athlete, SO Team BC 2026 swimmer*



\$1,000+ DONORS

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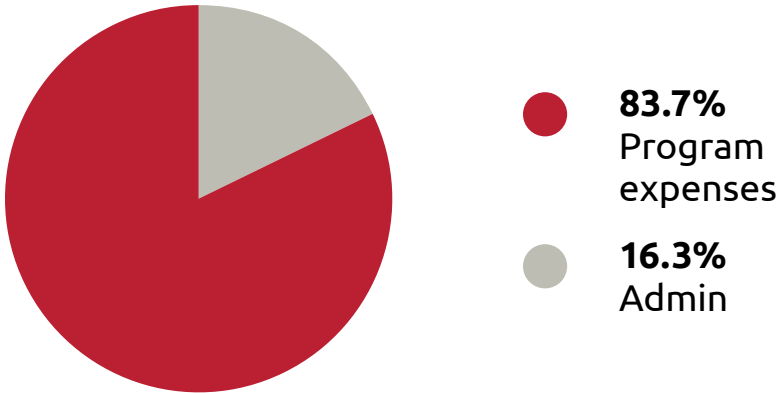
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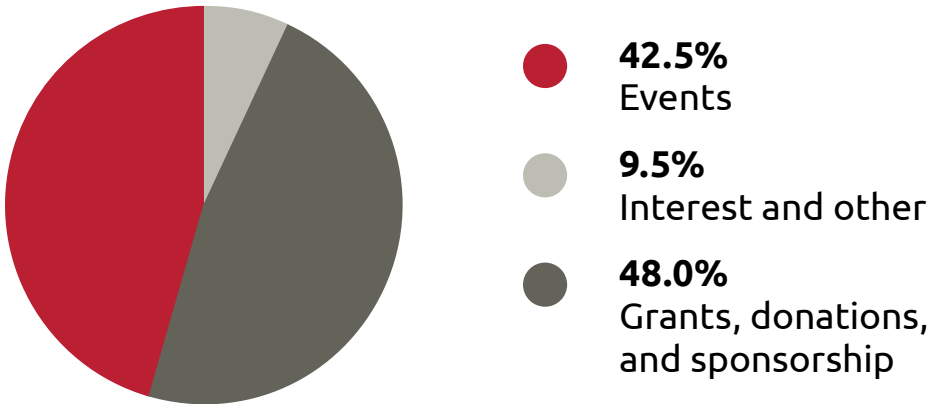
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The generous support of Special Olympics BC’s sponsors and donors is critical to our athletes, our year-round programs, and our empowering competitions. In 2025-26, Special Olympics BC’s valued sponsors and donors contributed **\$4.33 million** to make a difference for athletes with intellectual disabilities and the programs and opportunities that matter so much to them.

EXPENSES



REVENUE



“In Special Olympics, we include everybody. To me, being part of Special Olympics Team BC 2026 means that you get to meet new friends and new athletes. My goal is to swim well, beat my personal best, meet new athletes from other provinces, and cheer on other athletes. I’m a team player, I cheer everybody on, and I don’t get down.”

-Kaylee Richter, Special Olympics BC – Smithers athlete, SO Team BC 2026 swimmer



“When I was in school, I was not popular at all. I didn’t have very many friends and I was picked last for everything. During games at school I was forgotten about, cast aside because I was different. Throughout my life a lot of people doubted that I would ever drive a car, have a career, etc. ... Special Olympics brought me out of my shell. Athletes and coaches never ignored me or judged me once.

“Special Olympics taught me that there really are no limitations to what I can do. In my non-sport life, I took what Special Olympics taught me and worked very hard. I am now a Fare Enforcement Officer with Translink and am now in my eleventh year. I drive my own SUV, got married, and had a son. Special Olympics has made me realize that I can overcome doubts and that I can achieve excellence.”

-Nick Kellof, Special Olympics BC – North Shore athlete,
SO Team BC 2026 gold medal-winning basketball player

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