



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Special Olympics Global Week of Inclusion celebrations coming to B.C.**

The [Special Olympics Global Week of Inclusion](#) will celebrate the difference we can make when we choose to include, and invites everyone to join the joyful Special Olympics community. Running from July 18 to 24, the event calls for people around the world to commit to making their communities more inclusive for people with intellectual disabilities

Many Special Olympics athletes knew the pain of isolation and exclusion long before the COVID-19 pandemic. Canadians with intellectual disabilities are still too often left out – on playgrounds, from the workforce, and from conversations. Together, we have the power to change the future for all.

“Before Special Olympics, I didn’t have many friends and had trouble making friends. I often felt left out and excluded because of my differences. Special Olympics made me feel awesome and comfortable in my own skin. The athletes and coaches helped me realize my potential and the value of being on a team. They saw, and helped me to see, the ability I didn’t see in myself. Being involved and included in Special Olympics has helped me not only with sports, but also in other aspects of my life – like my work and social life,” says SOBC athlete and Board of Directors member Ashley Adie.

During the Global Week of Inclusion, people in B.C. can make a difference by [signing up to participate and volunteer with Special Olympics BC’s life-changing year-round programs](#) or by [donating to empower athletes with intellectual disabilities](#).

“For those who are even thinking about getting involved, I want to promise you – you will not regret this one bit. It will change your life and be one of the most positive life experiences you’ve had. You will gain more from this than you think you will,” says Adie.

Supporters can also tune in to the [2022 Special Olympics BC Awards Ceremony](#) on July 20 at 6 p.m. PT. Hosted by legendary broadcaster Bernie Pascall, the ceremony will recognize the exceptional contributions and achievements of SOBC athletes, volunteers, and sponsors through our six annual awards.

Many communities and individuals across the province are set to celebrate the Special Olympics Global Week of Inclusion.

Communities throughout British Columbia will [light up landmarks and make proclamations](#) to honour the event. Participating landmarks will include the BC Legislature in Victoria, City Hall and Burrard Street Bridge in Vancouver, Sails Fountain in Kelowna, and Mr. PG in Prince George.

### **Special Olympics British Columbia**

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*Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation for the benefit of persons with intellectual disabilities*



In the Lower Mainland, Special Olympics BC coach Kalyn Head is set to run 100 kilometres on her 25th birthday to [raise funds for SOBC](#). Her ultramarathon on July 23 will take her from Chilliwack to Queen Elizabeth Park in Vancouver.

Head has been a Special Olympics coach for almost seven years, and says “it holds a very large part of my heart.”

Everyone is invited to support the Global Week of Inclusion by [getting involved in Special Olympics BC programs](#), [taking the pledge to include](#), or [nominating a B.C. champion of inclusion](#).

### **About Special Olympics BC**

Special Olympics BC is dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities through sport. In 55 communities around the province, we provide year-round training and competitive opportunities in 18 different sports to more than 5,200 athletes of all ages and a wide range of abilities, thanks to the dedicated efforts of more than 4,300 volunteers. For more information, please visit [www.specialolympics.bc.ca](http://www.specialolympics.bc.ca) and find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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