

# Special Olympics BC Annual Impact Report

2021  
22



**Special  
Olympics**  
British Columbia



# Rebuilding the Movement

All too frequently, our society painfully forgets and isolates people with intellectual disabilities. This was true 54 years ago when Special Olympics began its mission of enriching the lives of athletes with intellectual disabilities and turning the spotlight on their abilities. It is true today, making Special Olympics BC's year-round sport programs, empowering competitions, and inclusive community matter more than ever.

**Your support matters now more than ever. On behalf of the thousands of people around our province whose lives are touched and improved by Special Olympics, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your game-changing generosity and kindness.**

The COVID-19 pandemic deepened the loneliness, isolation, and negative health impacts experienced by a painful number of Special Olympics BC athletes. It cut off our athletes from the meaningful friendships, caring community, and healthy activity they find in Special Olympics. It cut off volunteers and families from the athletes and friends who make their lives better every time they come together at practices and events.

Thanks to your support, the 2021-22 sport season saw significant progress on the road to rebuilding Special Olympics BC's in-person programs and operations. The dedication of Special Olympics BC athletes, volunteers, families, sponsors, and donors reopened many programs around the province, and brought back meaningful competitions in all of Special Olympics BC's 18 summer and winter sports.

In 2021-22, we saw the in-person return of about half of the typical number of Special Olympics BC athletes, and about a third of our usual number of volunteers. This is a significant accomplishment given the unique challenges that came before. But we owe it to our athletes, and all of our province's citizens with intellectual disabilities, to reopen every program and opportunity, and reignite our power to create inclusion in all parts of our province. We hope you'll encourage everyone you know to volunteer with Special Olympics BC and change lives, including their own.

We are so deeply grateful for your involvement with Special Olympics BC. Your gifts make a deep and lasting difference for inclusion of our friends and neighbours with intellectual disabilities who must not be forgotten any more.



**Dan Howe**  
Special Olympics BC  
President & CEO



**Randy Smallwood**  
SOBC Board of Directors Chair  
Wheaton Precious Metals  
President & CEO



**Donna Bilous**  
SOBC Leadership Council Chair



**Matthew Williams**  
SOBC Athlete Input Council Chair

# Your Impact

“During the pandemic it was very, very tough. Some of those months were very, very bleak. But when programs came back, being able to do that meant the world to me, and meant very much, very similar to fellow athletes I know, because Special O is such an intrinsic part of our lives that when we don’t have it, it really deeply affects us. So every day that I’m able to go to the gym or I’m able to go to the curling rink, I’m so thankful that I’m able to do that. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.”

-Daniel Thomas, SOBC – Vancouver athlete



# What We Do

## Our Vision

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

## Our Mission

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

## Our 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.

**Special Olympics BC** provides year-round training and competitive opportunities in **18 different sports** to more than **5,200 athletes with intellectual disabilities** of all ages and a wide range of abilities, thanks to the dedicated efforts of over **4,300 volunteers**.

Our empowering programs operate in **55 communities** all over the province!

To learn more, please visit [www.specialolympics.bc.ca](http://www.specialolympics.bc.ca)



# Our Programs

With your support, Special Olympics BC is able to offer empowering year-round programming for athletes with intellectual disabilities, and lead awareness initiatives that increase inclusion in communities throughout our province.



## Sport

- 10 summer sports and 8 winter sports
- Local, regional, national, and international competitions
- Welcome athletes of a wide range of ability and experience levels
- Supportive and qualified volunteer coaches



## Health

- Fitness, education, and advocacy programs for athletes
- Working with partners to end the health inequality faced by people with intellectual disabilities
- Equipping athletes for health and success in sports and in life



## Awareness

- Working to end the hurtful and damaging exclusion of people with intellectual disabilities
- Special Olympics Global Week of Inclusion
- Spread the Word>>Inclusion
- Youth Engagement Project
- Inclusion Champion Schools



## Youth

- Programs tailored for children with intellectual disabilities
- Teach vital motor, sport, and social skills
- Active Start (ages two to six), FUNdamentals (ages seven to 11), and Sport Start (ages 12 to 18)



## Leadership

- Public speaking workshops to help athletes share their stories
- Health education and advocacy courses
- Training to be a committee member and program mentor
- Empowering athletes to lead our movement

# Our Return to Sport

The 2021-22 sport season saw the hard-won and very welcome reopening of many of Special Olympics BC's year-round sport, youth, and health programs, along with our joyful return to in-person competitions.

"Without the in-person programs, when we didn't have them going on because of COVID going on, I felt disappointed really, because **it's our life, it's fun, we love to do it.** We go to competitions for it," SOBC – Fort St. John athlete Levi told SOBC Athlete Reporter David Johnston this season.

SOBC Athlete Reporter Miranda Orth wrote that this season's competitions "helped people see that Special Olympics is a fun environment as well as **essential for athletes**, because they consider this as part of their lives and connecting with people again and seeing them in person instead of just virtually."

There is a long road ahead to return to full operating capacity, but the 2021-22 sport season was a significant step in the right direction. The return to programs and competitions delighted the athletes who had badly missed their Special Olympics friends and healthy activities, and started to rebuild our movement's ability to strengthen inclusion and respect in communities all across the province.

Special Olympics BC's meaningful return to sport would not be possible without the inspiring passion and dedication of our athletes, and the generous support of our vital volunteers, sponsors, donors, and supporters throughout the province.

**2,562** athletes returned to in-person programs



**1,620** volunteers powered programs and competitions



**23** Regional Qualifier competitions hosted to give athletes the chance to compete and earn spots in the 2023 Special Olympics BC Winter Games



**21** SOBC Super Summer Series events hosted for the joy of competing and as the pathway to the 2023 Special Olympics World Summer Games



**39** B.C. members of Special Olympics Team Canada 2022 made us proud with their dedication, sportsmanship, and grace under unique circumstances



# Our Return to Sport



6

deserving winners honoured with Special Olympics BC awards

Athletic Achievement Award: Francis Stanley, SOBC – Kelowna  
Grassroots Coach Award: Vince Astoria, SOBC – Abbotsford  
Howard Carter Award: Annabel Stanley, SOBC – Kelowna  
President's Award: Paddi Robinson, SOBC – Surrey  
Spirit of Sport Award: Chris Harrington, SOBC – Kelowna  
BC Law Enforcement Torch Run Award: Cst. Lisa Bruschetta, Saanich Police Department



60+

athletes participated in empowering Athlete Leadership programs



9

anti-bullying workshops offered virtually and in person



11

athlete health education and screening events hosted virtually and in person, including the first-ever Healthy Athletes MedFest screenings in B.C.



19

Coach Development Workshops/Webinars and NCCP Special Olympics training courses hosted to support coaches around the province



321

Polar Plungers braved icy waters to fundraise for Special Olympics BC

“The reason Special Olympics is so important to me is because we get to be able to participate in sports that we couldn’t in other places, and to be able to make friends. When I was younger, I wasn’t able to play sports like the other kids could. They were able to run and be really fast, and I wasn’t as fast as them. But now, I can keep up to guys twice my size, and be able to go to all sorts of different competitions. Special Olympics has made a big impact in my life, physically and mentally.”

-Julie Black, SOBC – Nanaimo athlete



# Your Impact



"It's a good feeling to be part of a team. Special Olympics is great because of my friends and the fun I have. With Special Olympics, I can do anything."

-Jason Gubbels, SOBC – Richmond athlete

"Special Olympics is a safe environment where our children are included and feel valued. It's a place where they can be themselves, where the focus is their ability – not their disability. Not only did we find sports programs in Special Olympics, we found a community."

-Coralyn Siytangco, SOBC – Vancouver parent



"When I'm coaching I don't look for awards, I look to enjoy teaching my athletes. Being a part of Special Olympics is reward enough. ... It is so special to see those athletes reunite at Games and create these friendships that they go back and revisit. It's not just about the sport, it's about creating a community, creating friendships, and that is what is so important."

-Annabel Stanley, SOBC – Kelowna coach and parent, 2022 SOBC Howard Carter Award winner



# Our Leadership 2022-23

## SOBC Board of Directors

- Randy Smallwood, Chair
- Colin Yakashiro, Vice Chair
- Ted Hirst, Past Chair
- Michael Campbell, Secretary
- Ryan Hoag, Treasurer
- Brent Bergeron
- Donna Bilous
- Grenville Finch-Noyes
- Jen Hansen
- Pamela Keith
- Nicola Lambrechts
- Leslie Stevens
- Matthew Williams

## SOBC Leadership Council

- Donna Bilous, Chair
- Joanne Thom, Region 1 Coordinator
- Seeking Region 2 Coordinator
- Mark Schnurr, Region 3 Coordinator
- Seeking Region 4 Coordinator
- Darren Inouye, Region 5 Coordinator
- Jason Yan, Region 6 Coordinator
- Tina Giesbrecht, Region 7 Coordinator
- Alexandra Orser, Region 8 Coordinator
- Roshan Gosal
- Steve Oliver
- Matthew Williams

## SOBC Athlete Input Council

- Matthew Williams, Chair
- Kendall Salanski, Region 1 Representative
- Chris Harrington, Region 2 Representative
- Susan Wang, Region 3 Representative
- Vincent Li, Region 4 Representative
- Mathew Schmiing, Region 5 Representative
- Ashley Adie, Region 6 Representative
- Torben Schuffert, Region 7 Representative
- Marinka VanHage, Region 8 Representative

## SOBC Communities and Staff

Find full contact details at [www.specialolympics.bc.ca](http://www.specialolympics.bc.ca)

Join our joyful community on social media:

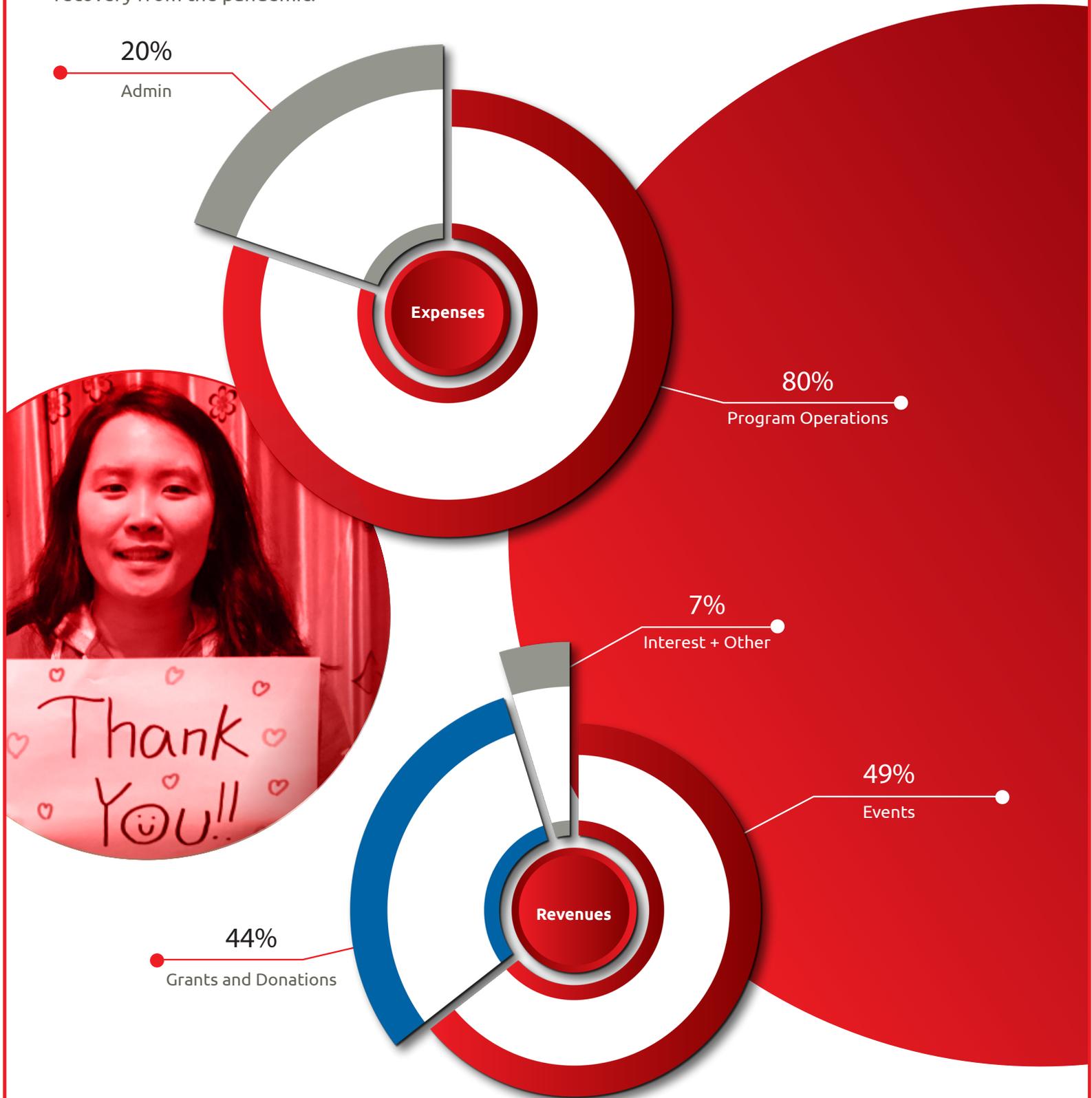
     [@specialolympicsbc](https://www.instagram.com/specialolympicsbc)

 [@sobcsociety](https://twitter.com/sobcsociety)



# Financial Summary

The generosity of Special Olympics BC's sponsors and donors sets a powerful example of respect and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities, and provides critical support for a community that is still too often left behind and forgotten by society. In 2021-22, Special Olympics BC's caring sponsors and donors generated \$3.6 million to help athletes rejoin the sports and community they love. Heartfelt thanks for your vital support of Special Olympics BC's life-changing community programs and events on the long road to recovery from the pandemic.



# Signature Event Sponsors



## Gold Sponsor



## Silver Sponsors



## Bronze Sponsors



## Reception Sponsor



## Champion Sponsors



## Media Sponsors



## Presenting Sponsor



## Major Sponsors



## Event Sponsors



## Media Sponsors



# Auction for Athletes



## Silent Auction Sponsor



## Vehicle Donors



## Media Sponsors



## \$10,000 Cash Donors



## \$5,000 Cash Donors



# Provincial Sponsors



## \$1000+ Donors

- Alfonso Pezzente
- Andrew Ruhland
- Andrew Saxton
- Barbara E. Sims
- BCGA Zone 4 Inter-Club Golf Committee
- Bettina Charpentier
- Bill Ramsay
- Blair Shier
- Cherald Tutt
- Colin Yakashiro
- Component 1 Corrections & Sheriffs
- Daniel VanLeeuwen
- Dave Macfarlane
- Derek Wong
- Derrick Pattenden
- Diverse Properties Ltd.
- Doug Holtby
- Drew Lawton
- Dylan Van Rooyen
- Eric Ooms
- Gary Brown
- Gayle Fowler
- George Bulawka
- Glen and Terry Wyse
- Glenn Antony Ives Professional Corporation
- Gordon Keep
- Grant Longhurst
- Gregory Forrester
- Gunnar Eggertson
- Iris Steffler
- James Graham Burns
- Jeffrey Fawcett
- Jen Hansen
- Jeremy Petzing
- Jill Davies
- Jim Dent Construction
- John Harris
- John Rundle
- Karen Kissinger
- Karen Melanson
- Kevin Falcon
- Knights of Columbus Council 5246
- Langley Chapter of the Knights of Columbus
- Linda Williamson
- Mary Wareham
- Matt Fargey
- Matthew Silvestre
- Metro Vancouver Transit Police
- Michael Campbell
- Michael Hirst
- Mike Valente
- Moray Keith
- North Surrey Lions Club
- Oswald Jurock
- Patrick Brundage
- Patrick Drouin
- Paul Donaldson
- Paul Jones
- Port Coquitlam Lions Club
- Provincial Employees Community Services Fund
- Randy Smallwood
- Raymond Dent
- Riley Gould
- Ron Mayert
- Royal Canadian Legion #6 Cloverdale
- Ryan Swedburg
- Scott O'Dell
- Sharon Taylor
- Simona Antolak
- Steller's Jay Lions Club
- Steven Henkel
- Susan Hillyard-Seipp
- Tanis Stamatelakis
- Ted Hirst
- Tom McLean
- Tony Neumeyer
- Trinity Western University
- United Way of Lower Mainland
- Vancouver Police Community Fund
- Wolf in the Fog