



# Unified Champion Schools Program Consultant - School & Sport Program Development

## **WHO ARE WE?**

Special Olympics Ontario (SOO) is a non-profit organization that provides year-round sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Our mission is to create an inclusive community by offering athletes the opportunity to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and build lasting relationships.

With over 23,000 athletes and 7,500 volunteers across the province, we are committed to building diverse, equitable, and inclusive communities that celebrate the abilities of every individual.

## **POSITION OVERVIEW**

We are seeking a highly motivated and organized individual to join our Unified Sport Team for a 12-month contract (37.5 hours/week). This hybrid role requires either:

- Residence in Eastern Ontario (Ottawa, Kingston, Belleville) to oversee in-person programs and events in that region; OR
- Residence in the GTA with the ability to commute to the Toronto office three days a week
- Regular travel within Ontario is required (approx. 30%).

This position is responsible for developing, managing, and executing Unified Champion School sporting events and programs at the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels.

The successful applicant will work with an innovative, energetic team to set a new foundation for sport and innovation within the school system and beyond with sport and youth empowerment as the driver for change throughout Ontario.

## ***About Unified Champion Schools***

The Special Olympics Ontario Unified Champion School (UCS) Program offers an inclusive school strategy through sport, youth leadership and whole school engagement for athletes

### *Special Olympics Ontario*

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



with intellectual disabilities. Competitions are available for elementary (ages 4-12) and secondary (ages 13-21) students. Sports offered include soccer, basketball, bocce ball, track & field, and floorball. Competitions are scheduled in collaboration with host schools and school boards.

By pairing students with and without intellectual disabilities on inclusive teams, it fosters:

- Connection
- Teamwork
- Mutual respect

Sports serve as a catalyst for lasting change, creating awareness, building acceptance, and inspiring meaningful involvement in school culture. At its heart, UCS helps shape stronger, more inclusive school communities where every student feels seen, supported, and celebrated.

Learn More Here: <https://www1.specialolympicsontario.com/schools/>

## **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Event Management/Oversight**

- Plan and execute school-based sports competitions and events across Eastern Ontario and the GTA:
  - Secure host schools, venues, volunteers, and officials
  - Lead outreach and promotion of events to schools and community partners
  - Coordinate event logistics, registration, scheduling, and day-of execution

### **Program Development**

- Design and implement UCS programming in elementary, secondary, and post secondary schools.
- Relaunch and expand Unified Sports into elementary schools
- Create pathways for athlete transitions from school to community programs
- Develop educational content and resources to support program growth and sustainability
- Collaborate on strategic planning and innovation for school-based programming as part of a cohesive team environment.



## **Stakeholder Engagement & Communications/Promotion**

- Cultivate and maintain relationships with educators, School Boards, Special Education Advisory Councils and other key parties in the education system.
- Design and launch a school awareness campaign to promote the UCS program and its impact and success
- Enhance the engagement and involvement of educators and schools within Special Olympics
- Promote the organization and the inclusion strategy to drive program and participation growth

## **Provincial School Championships:**

- Support the planning and execution of our annual Provincial School Championships, which welcomes over 1,200 participants
- Assist with athlete engagement, educator support, logistics, communication, and major sport and event operations

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

### **Education and Experience:**

- Bachelor's in a relevant field i.e. sports management, education, business management or special education
- 1–5 years' experience in event or program management is preferred
- Prior Involvement with Special Olympics (volunteer or staff) is a strong asset
- Knowledge of Ontario's education system and school structures
- Experience working with individuals with intellectual disabilities and support is considered a strong asset.
- Experience working with youth and populations with a strong understanding of issues faced by marginalized groups
- Experience with developing programming in sport, school or community-based competencies
- Knowledge of sport rules i.e. soccer, basketball, bocce ball, floorball, or track & field would be considered a significant asset



## **Key Skills:**

- Ability to work with diverse communities to identify solutions for youth recruitment and engagement in Special Education
- Excellent written and verbal communication, presentation, and interpersonal skills
- Ability to build strong, collaborative relationships with diverse communities, educators, and school systems
- Skilled in identifying challenges and implementing creative solutions to support youth recruitment and engagement in Special Education
- Excellent time management and organizational skills with the ability to juggle multiple priorities.
- Flexibility and adaptability in navigating changing environments and event needs.
- Self-starter with creativity, energy, and a collaborative mindset
- Demonstrate empathetic and emotionally attuned approach to working with youth, fostering trust and meaningful engagement
- Strong core values:
  - Passion for the mission of Special Olympics and a commitment to supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities.
  - Commitment to building a diverse, inclusive, and positive work environment.
  - Strong ethical standards, integrity, and respect for confidentiality
- Fluency in English required; bilingualism (English/French) is a strong asset

## **Other Requirements**

- Ability to travel within Ontario is required
- Valid Ontario Driver's License and access to a reliable vehicle is required
- Clear Vulnerable Sector Check is required by start date

## **WHY JOIN SPECIAL OLYMPICS ONTARIO?**

### **The Experience we offer:**

- Opportunity to make a meaningful impact
- A diverse, inclusive, and supportive work culture
- Professional development opportunities
- Competitive compensation & benefits.
- Flexible schedule
- Casual dress code
- Generous paid time off
- RRSP contribution (after 1 year)



- Extended health and dental benefits
- Wellness programs & company events

## **Our Commitment to Equity and Inclusion**

Special Olympics Ontario is committed to equity and fostering a respectful, inclusive workplace culture that reflects the diverse communities we serve. We value the unique perspectives brought by individuals of all backgrounds and encourage applications from qualified candidates who identify as Black, Indigenous, people of colour, immigrants, refugees, women, 2SLGBTQ+, and people with disabilities.

## **How to Apply**

Please submit a cover letter and resume by email to [careers@specialolympicsontario.com](mailto:careers@specialolympicsontario.com)

Applications are encouraged at your earliest convenience. This position will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.

## **Accessibility Accommodation Available**

Reasonable accommodations are available on request for candidates participating in all aspects of the selection process. If you require accommodation, please let us know in advance, and we will work with you to meet your needs. Requests may be made email to [careers@specialolympicsontario.com](mailto:careers@specialolympicsontario.com)