

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

**Special
Olympics**
Ontario



50 YEARS
1968 - 2018

REACH REPORT

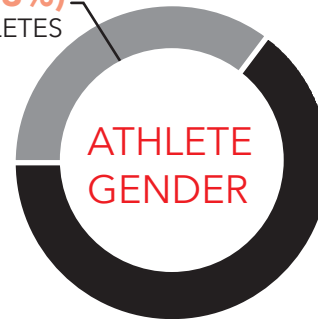
24,906

TOTAL INDIVIDUAL
ATHLETES

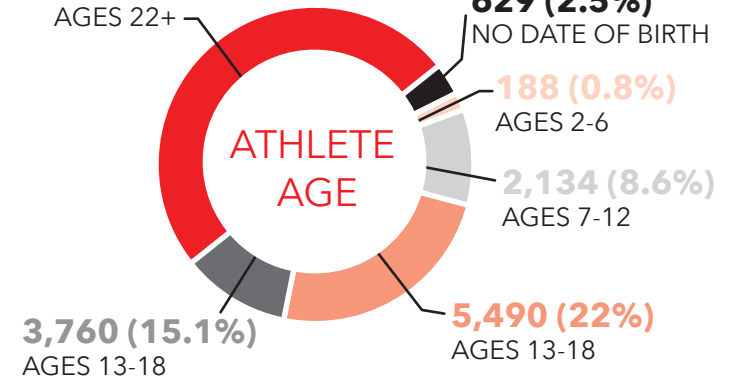
58,640

ATHLETE PARTICIPATION IN
SPORTS/PROGRAMS

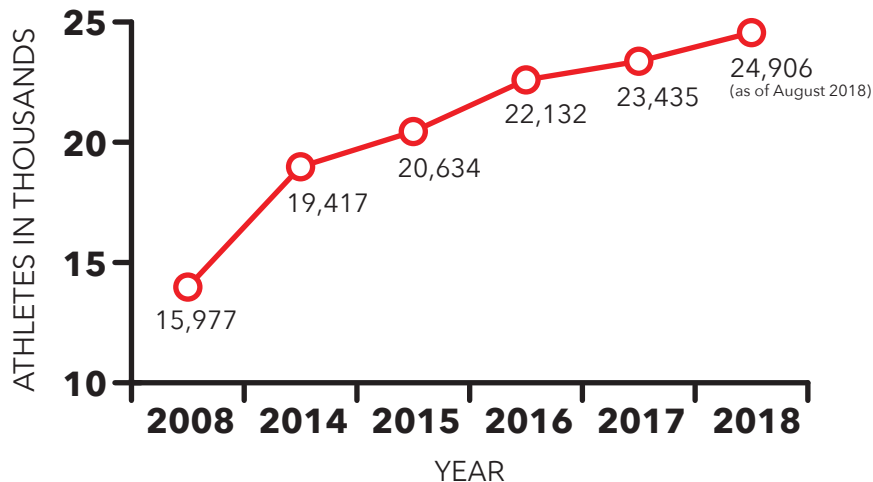
8,782 (35.3%)
FEMALE ATHLETES



12,705 (51%)
AGES 22+



ATHLETE NUMBERS YEARLY GROWTH



+55.9%

ATHLETE GROWTH SINCE 2008

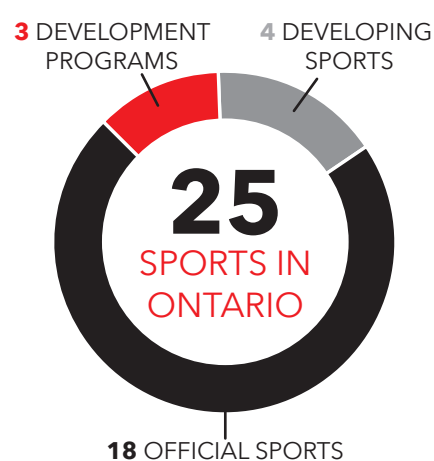
SUPPORT \$11,068,330

AN INCREASE OF 49% VERSUS
\$7,419,960 IN 2008

442 239

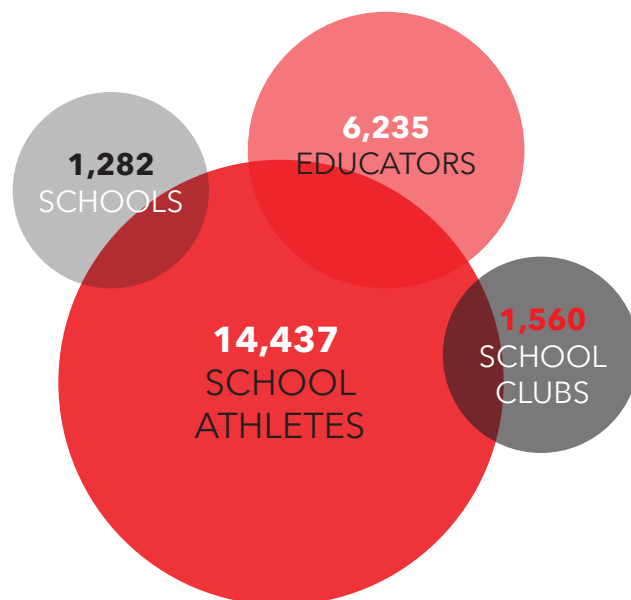
ATHLETE LEADERS MENTORS
TRAINED

IN 2017/2018
WE RAN A RECORD
18 ATHLETE
LEADERSHIP EVENTS



283
UNIFIED
CLUBS

545
UNIFIED
PARTNERS



1,606 ATHLETES SCREENED

18 HEALTHY ATHLETE EVENTS

6 HEALTH DISCIPLINES

23 CLINICAL DIRECTORS

309 HEALTH VOLUNTEERS

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ADDRESS FROM CHAIR OF THE BOARD

“No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world”

- *Robin Williams*

As my tenure as Chair of the Board of Directors comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to say what an honour and a privilege it has been to represent this terrific and very successful organization at many events, and in many capacities. As you know, 2018 is the 50th Anniversary of the Special Olympics movement worldwide. Celebrations took place at Soldier Field, Chicago (July 20th) where it all began back in 1968. Look how far we've come!

Special Olympics Ontario holds an honoured place for an individual by the name of Dr. Frank Hayden. Through the tireless work and efforts of Dr. Hayden, (who pioneered the research) we now have a structure that is known as Special Olympics.

Dr. Hayden's passion and leadership has been credited with the removal of barriers that existed

for centuries for people with an intellectual disability. He established fitness and sport standards that have improved their health, quality of life, and self-image; the result of this has attracted and motivated over 5 million people with intellectual disabilities in 170 countries, and inspired millions more to support the cause: parents, volunteers, coaches, officials, staff, patrons, supporters, and sponsors. I have had the pleasure of seeing this organization grow by leaps and bounds, and I am truly amazed at the continued growth of the membership (athletes, volunteers, coaches).

We exist to ensure that we provide quality sports training and competition to individuals with intellectual disabilities. This would not be possible without the hard work, commitment and dedication of over 11,000 volunteers. Their tenacity and drive is what allows us to grow

and have the ability to provide more programs and more competition, but more importantly to provide an inclusive and nurturing environment for Special Olympics athletes.

In closing, I wish to thank all our donors and sponsors for believing in us. Our growth and success is largely due to your generosity. Thank you for your confidence and for believing in a movement that changes attitudes and creates a more inclusive society for individuals with an intellectual disability.



Jim Yaeck
Chair

ADDRESS FROM PRESIDENT & CEO

WHAT AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR IT HAS BEEN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS ONTARIO.

I feel honoured to be a part of this remarkable organization celebrating a momentous anniversary! 50 years of raising awareness and changing attitudes towards individuals living with an intellectual disability, of promoting respect, acceptance, inclusion, and human dignity for all. 50 years of changing lives through sport, proving that fitness, health, and personal excellence can be achieved by everyone. What a truly worthwhile accomplishment, and reason for celebration!

Having been around this movement for almost 35 years, I have witnessed dedication, hard work and ultimate success from athletes, coaches and volunteers. It is truly heartwarming to see how excited athletes become when they participate in Special Olympics programs or attend competition and games.

It is also important to note that their family members and friends witness firsthand the positive impact that our programs have on their lives. I hope that by reading this report it will allow you to feel some of that excitement and energy, as you join with me in celebrating their achievements.

I would like to express my gratitude to our sponsors, partners, and donors who continue to support us. Without you, our programs would not be possible. From fundraising, to fostering awareness, to your generous donations - it is your consistent and reliable support that has allowed us to grow and reach over 25,000 athletes across the province. Special thanks to the Law Enforcement Torch Run, the largest public awareness and grassroots

**Our vision is that sport will
open hearts and minds towards
people with intellectual
disabilities and create inclusive
communities all across Ontario.**

fundraising organization for Special Olympics globally. For over 31 years, the Law Enforcement community has worked diligently and tirelessly to raise awareness and funds for our movement - their impact is unparalleled.

Please enjoy reading through this report, reviewing the accomplishments of the past year. Take satisfaction in knowing that your contributions had a meaningful part to play. We look forward to the years ahead, and are inspired as we consider the growth and achievements yet to come!



Glenn MacDonell
President & CEO

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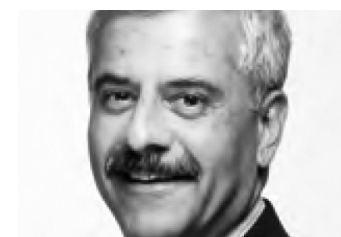
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the Legislative Assembly of
Ontario*



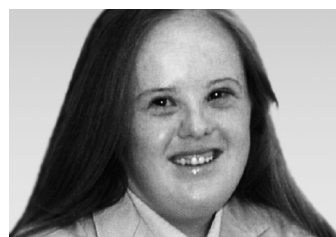
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*President, CTI Working
Environments Inc.*



Tess Trojan
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Graham White
*Chief Information Officer
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Historical Overview

The Special Olympics movement was founded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, with the very first event held in 1968 at Soldier Field in Chicago. However, the competition was inspired by discoveries made by a Canadian researcher.

In the early 1960s, a group of students at Toronto's Beverley School became the test group for Dr. Frank Hayden, a sport scientist at the University of Toronto. Dr. Hayden was studying the effects of regular exercise on the fitness levels of children with an intellectual disability.

Dr. Hayden's research was nothing short of groundbreaking. It challenged the prevailing mindset of the day – one that claimed that it was the disability itself which prevented children from fully participating in play and recreation.

Through rigorous scientific methods, Dr. Hayden proved that it was simply a lack of opportunity to participate. Given that possibility, people with an intellectual disability could acquire the necessary skills to participate in sport, and become physically fit. In other words, sport could have a transformative effect on the lives of those with an intellectual disability.

Today, Special Olympics stands as a leader in the field of intellectual disability and has sharpened the focus on its mission as not just **nice**, but **critical**. Not just as a sports organization for people with intellectual disabilities, but as an **effective catalyst for social change**. Children, youth and adults with intellectual disabilities who participate in Special Olympics exhibit boundless courage and enthusiasm, enjoy the rewards of friendship and ultimately discover not only new abilities and talents but their voices as well. Special Olympics continues to be a part of the world's largest sports community for people with intellectual disabilities. Improved health, self-esteem and self-confidence is a priority.

Special Olympics Celebrating 50 Years!



Special Olympics will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2018/19 with program celebrations taking place around the world. Canada has an honored place within the movement through the work and efforts of Dr. Frank Hayden, who pioneered the research and the structure that we now know as Special Olympics.

Harry "Red" Foster, a Canadian broadcast legend and philanthropist, was in Chicago in 1968 to witness the birth of the Special Olympics movement. He was inspired by what he saw and experienced, and worked tirelessly

to bring this global force back to Canada. His legacy lives on in the 46,000 athletes currently enrolled in the movement.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS ONTARIO VOLUNTEERS - TAKE A BOW!

As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of Special Olympics, it is clear that the past 50 years could never have happened without the energy, enthusiasm, and dedication of the thousands of volunteers who have built Special Olympics in communities across Ontario.

**"The best way to find
yourself is to lose
yourself in the service
of others."**
-Mahatma Gandhi

Today more than 11,500 volunteers bring Special Olympics to life in over 104 communities in Ontario, often waking up early and spending their weekends and holiday time coaching sports, booking facilities, organizing fundraisers, and much more. The team of volunteers is comprised of a wide variety of individuals,

including but not limited to: students, senior citizens, businesspeople, community leaders, competition hosts, service organizations, and amateur and professional athletes.

More than sport, Special Olympics provides a platform by which our athletes can play an active role in the athletic and recreational life of their communities. This is demonstrated in many ways, including: the participation of more than 3000 community athletes competing in more than 35 winter provincial qualifying tournaments in the winter of 2018; the engagement of Golf Canada in the development of our junior and elite golf athletes; and the partnership with the Ontario Speed Skating Association which has fully integrated Special Olympics Ontario skaters into their competitions.

Community volunteers and service organizations also play a huge role in the delivery of events and fundraisers which power our movement. Some of these include: The HOPE (Helping Other People Everywhere) organization in Ottawa, which has dedicated its Big Rig Summerfest Volleyball Event to Special Olympics Ontario - Greater Ottawa; athletics and swim meets hosted by the friends and family of Sarah Carman, Michael Conrad and Nerissa Pooran



in Toronto; and The Knights of Columbus who continue to run competitions and support local fundraising for community programs across the province.

With more than 2600 sport programs - and growing - it is clear that volunteers are the engine that power our success. It is through their passion and hard work that Special Olympics Ontario continues to be the global leader in improving the lives of people with intellectual disabilities through sport and competition.

GLOBAL DAY OF INCLUSION

JULY 21, 2018

presented by *Tim Hortons*®



On Saturday, July 21, we celebrated Special Olympics' 50th anniversary, helping to create a world where **all** people are recognized and included.

Together, we broke down barriers and empowered Canada's more than **800,000** individuals living with an intellectual disability.

Thank you Tim Hortons for your support of the Special Olympics movement, showing you believe in the power of inclusion.



STAPLES®

Through their continued support of Special Olympics Canada, Staples Canada has been helping make dreams come true for over 22 years! Their support has helped make it possible for over 45,000 individuals with an intellectual disability to participate in daily sport programs across Canada. Thank you Staples Canada for continuing to have a positive impact on their lives.

Making Dreams Come True!

Brendon Vriesendorp
Special Olympics Canada athlete
and Staples Associate, Moncton, NB

staples.ca



SCHOOL AND YOUTH

Special Olympics Ontario has continued to build on the momentum of our School and Youth Programs throughout the 2017/2018 school year. The result has been a steady increase in the number of young athletes engaging in programs in communities and schools across the province.

Over the school year, 20 Sports Festivals introduced more than 3,000 young athletes to Special Olympics Sports. These festivals focused on sport development activities and games, which taught fundamental movement and sports skills in a fun and supportive environment. The response from athletes and educators was tremendous.



Sherri Gilbert, a teacher at Nelson Mandela Park Public School, spoke of her school's experience by saying: "I would highly recommend this school program - we went to two this year - ... and both were amazing experiences for our students, as the events were accessible for all different levels and the staff and volunteers were very accommodating. Thank you, and see you next year."

As noted by Chalette Kulin, an educator from St. Kevin Catholic School, these programs have a far reaching impact on their classrooms: "Our involvement with Special Olympics elementary school programs has been a fantastic addition to our class. My students love attending the Sports Festivals ... All of my students enjoyed the activities at the Sports Festivals, especially this year, as there were activities at different levels. Thanks so much to all the staff and volunteers at Special Olympics Ontario."

This evolution will continue in 2018 / 2019 with expansion programs focused on ensuring that young athletes have access to developmentally appropriate programs and competition. This includes the introduction of a junior competition series, and the development of post-secondary



programs for athletes transitioning out of high school programs.

Programs for young athletes in schools and communities, in partnership with school boards and local community agencies, are crucial to the introduction of physical literacy and fundamental sports skills to our youngest athletes. These programs promote active and inclusive environments that are introducing athletes with intellectual disabilities to sport at younger ages, and changing the face of our movement.



SINCE THE BEGINNING...



Stalwart in the cause of inclusion, Knights of Columbus has spread awareness of the Special Olympics movement since the beginning on Soldier Field in Chicago 1968. Five decades of continued support has empowered many individuals within the community and for that, we are most grateful.

For more information visit ontariokofc.ca

SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2018 School Championships, held May 29th to 31st in Peterborough, marked the perfect end to a record-breaking School Championships season which saw more than 7,000 secondary school athletes, ages 13 through 21, compete in more than 70 school qualifiers across the province. The championship games themselves had 1,260 athletes and coaches from Ontario, Alberta, and Manitoba competing in five sports (athletics, basketball, bocce, floor hockey, and soccer) making it the largest School Championships ever!

This year also saw the continued expansion of Unified Sports, with Traditional and Unified divisions in place across all sports. Unified Sport supports inclusive participation through the creation of teams that consist of both Special Olympics student athletes and their Unified partners who are recruited from their mainstream peers. This provides a unique opportunity for student athletes with and without intellectual disabilities to experience team sport together and develop lasting friendships. Educators have been quick to point out the culture change that this has created within schools in regards to inclusion. Stella Hawkins from Norwell District Secondary School said: "It encouraged the athletes with disabilities to



participate ... and to realize that they aren't so different. Those without disabilities could accept the special needs athletes as not being so different as well."

Cory Randell, a transition program educator at PEAK Central, noted: "The positive effects of school Special Olympics can never be measured. Keeping students active in a fun and safe environment is good for both physical and mental health. Unified sports have added a whole new dimension that enriches the lives of both those with and without intellectual disabilities. Building confidence, providing a sense of belonging, fostering team spirit and pride, setting goals, and improving social skills are just a few of the benefits that sport and competition provide. Starting Special Olympics at school can set a foundation of participating in

Special Olympics Ontario throughout a lifetime."

This sentiment was repeated over and over again over the course of two days of competition. It is clear that the School Championships program creates meaningful memories for athletes, and perhaps most importantly a sense of place and belonging. This feeling was perfectly epitomized in the reflections of Scott MacDonald, an educator from White Pines C.V.S. who emailed Special Olympics to say: "At the closing ceremonies one of my students came up to me and wanted to thank me so much for bringing him down. He said he had the time of his life. I told him that I had nothing to do with it, that it was his hard work, and the Special Olympics Committee that had made it happen. He turned around and looked me right in the eyes and said: 'Sir, for the first time in my life I feel like I belong.'"



The Ontario Hockey League is very proud of their partnership with Special Olympics. With their continued support they are helping to change attitudes and create a more inclusive society. Special Olympics is truly appreciative of their on-going commitment to making a difference in the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities – Athletes Supporting Athletes!



ONTARIO LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN



The Ontario Law Enforcement Torch Run (OLETR) has completed its most successful year in the proud and prestigious 31 year history of the program, raising an astonishing \$2.3 MILLION for Special Olympics Ontario. What an amazing year and a truly fantastic total, once again reinforcing its status as one of the top Torch Run programs in the world!

Peterborough Police Service hosted the 2018 Provincial School Championships (May 29-31). Over 1,000 athletes, coaches and staff attended, participating in athletics, basketball, bocce, floor hockey and soccer. Law Enforcement personnel

from across the province ran the Flame of Hope into the opening ceremony, officially opening the games – a truly memorable event.

Toronto Police Service and Special Olympics Ontario, with the support of the Province of Ontario and the City of Toronto, announced Toronto will act as the host city for the first-ever Invitational Youth Games (IYG) May 14-17, 2019. An estimated 2,500 participants (school-aged athletes, ages 13-21) from Canada, the U.S. and around the world, will join this ground-breaking event where athletes with intellectual disabilities compete against one another and alongside

their mainstream peers through unified sports. Toronto Police Service will host the games, with Chief Mark Saunders acting as the Honorary Chair. Modelled after the highly successful Ontario-wide School Championships Program, first launched by Special Olympics in 2011, the IYG will serve as a landmark event during the 50th anniversary year of the Special Olympics movement (July 2018-June 2019).

**Once again reinforcing
its status as one of the
top Torch Run programs
in the world!**

Traditionally, the Torch Run program has been driven by grassroots fundraising during the spring and summer months. As much as this trend still exists, we have seen tremendous growth in revenue throughout the calendar year. In the cold winter months, the Polar Plunge program grew to 22 plunges across Ontario and raised an astonishing \$366,000 for Special Olympics. We anticipate 25+ plunges in 2019 - stay tuned as we continue to be #FreezinForaReason.

ONTARIO LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN



In 2017, the OLETR put the “Run” back in Torch Run, hosting the first ever half marathon (and 5km) race at OPP Headquarters in Orillia. The event saw over 300 runners, with a total of \$25,000 raised for Special Olympics. The Guardians Half Marathon and 5km has unlimited potential for growth, as well as providing runners with a beautiful scenic backdrop utilizing the Rail Trail of Orillia and Oro-Medonte in the fall.

Each year, the Ontario Law Enforcement Torch Run recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the movement. Awards were presented at the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police Conference

in Huntsville, Ontario on June 13, 2018. Congratulations to the following recipients:

Award of Honour:

Raffaeli Tassone - Ministry of Correctional Services
Cheri Rockefeller - Ontario Provincial Police
Deborah Pendlebury - Peel Regional Police
Morgan Tyler - Ministry of Correctional Services

Distinguished Service Award:

Cathie Gillespie - Barrie Police Service

Torch Run continues to grow, due largely to the hard work and dedication shown from officers who selflessly give their time and energy to Special Olympics.

Support of the Law Enforcement Torch Run program has been invaluable to Special Olympics Ontario over the past 31 years, and we say thank you to the men and women of Law Enforcement who contribute so much, not only to the Special Olympics movement, but to their communities each and every day.



Left to Right - Chief Andrew Fletcher (Chair OACP Torch Run Committee), Raffaeli Tassone, Cheri Rockefeller, Cathie Gillespie, Deborah Pendlebury, Mark McGugan. Absent: Morgan Tyler.

PROVINCIAL PARTNERS

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NATIONAL PARTNERS

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



FRIENDS



ATHLETE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

ATHLETE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS SAW ONE OF THE BUSIEST YEARS IN 2018, WITH ELEVEN COMMUNITY AND SEVEN HIGH SCHOOL WORKSHOPS BEING CONDUCTED BETWEEN JANUARY AND JUNE.

Led by Special Olympics staff member and athlete Ryan Colpitts, this program has trained 237 athletes and 158 mentors in topics such as: governance and social media, healthy lifestyles, and speech writing and delivery. So successful was this program, that it attracted the attention of Elections Canada, who alongside Ryan and his team, led workshops to provide athletes with information on the electoral process, ideas about being civically engaged, and information on how to go about voting in upcoming elections.

ALPs graduates have the opportunity to receive an ALPs shirt upon completion of a public speaking event, one-on-one interview, or any local activity where their ALPs skills are put to use. This new incentive program will help guide athletes to use the knowledge they have developed in the program both at the local and provincial level.



A recent graduate of the ALPs program, Julia Romualdi from Timmins, Ontario, was asked how she felt about the training she received. She replied: "I'm really excited to be able to learn healthy tips and tricks, while respecting an affordable budget."

A welcome addition to the 2018 program is allowing ALPs graduates to be engaged in the delivery of future workshops. Each workshop has been co-facilitated by an athlete from the local community who has graduated from the ALPs program, an initiative that will grow in the coming years. A local athlete recently trained

in the program, Fareed Champsy from Aurora, Ontario, said: "The program gave me the confidence to talk about my experiences in front of a crowd."

We look forward to the development of Ryan's new initiative for 2019 - the Special Olympics Ontario Athlete Input Council. We anticipate the continued expansion of Athlete Leadership Programs, as a tool for expanding the representation of athletes in decision making at all levels of the organization.

There are a multitude of barriers limiting access to healthcare for people with intellectual disabilities, including: lack of awareness, socio-economic obstacles, limited self-advocacy, communication issues, and the comfort level and training of health providers. This lack of access has resulted in treatable diseases and ailments going undiagnosed and untreated. Healthy Athletes seeks to eliminate these barriers on behalf of both athletes and clinicians.

In Ontario, the Healthy Athletes program provides health screening and education across seven different health disciplines, with the overarching goal of increasing the health and well-being of the athletes. These health disciplines include: Health Promotion, Dentistry, Optometry, Podiatry, Physiotherapy, and Mental Health. Our trained volunteer healthcare providers and student volunteers have performed over 2000 screenings this year, as well as educated athletes on numerous healthy lifestyle techniques. Athletes who require follow-up care are provided with the tools and resources needed to address their healthcare needs in their home communities.

In addition to our traditional Healthy Athlete screenings, we offered our first ever “Train

the Trainer” in Canada at the 2018 School Championships in Peterborough, Ontario. The event trained an additional 15 volunteer health care professionals as Clinical Directors in four of our eight Healthy Athletes disciplines. These Clinical Directors will ensure that a larger number of athletes and communities are able to access the healthcare provided by our Healthy Athletes screenings throughout the province, while also providing additional opportunities for students and local volunteers to participate in the program.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

While Healthy Athletes serves to introduce athletes to health care, and clinicians to our constituents, Special Olympics

Ontario’s newest health initiative aims to improve access to health care services closer to home. Known as Healthy Communities, this program raises awareness about the health inequities experienced by people with intellectual disabilities, and improves knowledge among current and future health care providers through the development of continuing



education and a network of health providers in a wide variety of health disciplines.

A key part of this project has been forming new partnerships with health professional associations, health care providers, universities, and research institutes. Within the past year, we have partnered with the Ontario Dental Association, the Ontario Association of Medical Radiation Sciences, the University of Toronto Department of Occupational Therapy, as well as the University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy. These partnerships have enabled us to improve our understanding of the barriers people with intellectual disabilities often experience in accessing a variety of health services. Working collaboratively with students, health professionals, and researchers has increased our capacity to actively address these challenges.

One of our most exciting projects is the development of the Healthy Communities Web Platform, a new and innovative tool to help people find health care providers who are confident and committed to providing quality health care services to people with intellectual disabilities. This platform will launch across the province in the coming year, and will be a vital resource to connecting those with intellectual disabilities to health services in their communities.



Proud to Support SOO

... and help make a difference!

The “**Special Supporter Golf Series**” provides golf tournaments with a “**Hole-in-One**” program that brings added **VALUE** and **EXCITEMENT** to their event. By making a donation to Special Olympics Ontario, you will receive the services of this program for **FREE**, plus you will receive an invitation to play in the “**Tournament of Champions**” golf event held at a prestigious ClubLink facility. This year’s event took place on Monday, October 1st at The Country Club in Woodbridge.

To learn more about this program,
visit: www.goforthegreen.ca



THANK YOU to the following sponsors of the “Special Supporter Golf Series”

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PARTNERSHIPS

THIS YEAR THE PARTNERS IN PLAY (PIP) INITIATIVE HAS SEEN SIGNIFICANT GROWTH, AS WELL AS AN INCREASE IN SCOPE.

Special Olympics is creating additional opportunities for athletes with intellectual disabilities across the province by partnering with national and provincial sport organizations, and individual sports clubs that are already offering inclusive, all-ability programs. Special Olympics also provides resources and training for coaches and educators to support and improve existing programs.

Canoe Kayak Canada (CKC) and Canoe Kayak Ontario are two of our most recent partner organizations. CKC has provided accessible paddling programs since 2007 when they introduced the PaddleALL program. Through this partnership, Special Olympics athletes have gained a new opportunity to compete across the province, including the Ontario Provincial Canoe Championships at this year's Ontario Summer Games in London.

Paolo Paiment is a Special Olympics skater and swimmer, having won provincial medals. He is



also an accomplished paddler, and competed for the Ottawa River Canoe Club at Canoe Kayak Canada's National Championships. When asked about the impact this partnership will have on the paddling community, Paolo replied: "It is so exciting - I have always wanted to race in my kayak as a Special Olympics paddler. Going to the Ontario Summer Games will be fun!"

Special Olympics is able to support the development of canoeing programs in the province by using its expertise in programming for athletes with intellectual disabilities, and working alongside existing canoe clubs to remove barriers.

The coming academic year will feature expanded university and college partnerships.

Along with providing more competitive unified competition opportunities, university partnerships also provide an avenue for research into the efficacy of our programs, and will help strengthen the academic foundation on which our programs are based.

Moving forward, universities will be important allies in generating academic interest in Special Olympics programming. Partners in Play will continue to seek out like-minded organizations with a passion for providing sporting opportunities to athletes with intellectual disabilities. Through these organizations, Special Olympics can advise and support passionate people in their pursuit of providing programming for all ability levels.

MAJOR GAMES

The 2018 National Bowling Championships were held in Prince Edward Island, May 14-20. Team Ontario consisted of 92 athletes and 24 coaches, leadership, and mission staff.

It was a week full of competition and hospitality. Athletes and coaches were treated to many local cultural activities, including trips to Confederation Bridge and Anne of Green Gables. Residents of PEI were extremely proud to be hosting the event, made evident by the warm welcome everyone received.

Five out of twelve of the Ontario 5-pin teams competed in the playoff games, with all teams winning a medal. Two teams had to compete against each other for the gold medal in their division. In the individual competition, 11 bowlers returned home with a medal, with a complete sweep of the podium in one division. The 10-pin team arrived home with a total of 78 medals. Once again, another complete sweep of the podium!

Overall, Team Ontario bowlers remained competitive in all of their divisions and were outstanding ambassadors representing our province.



Antigonish, Nova Scotia played host to the 2018 National Summer Games, July 31-August 4. Team Ontario consisted of 275 athletes, along with 100 coaches and leadership staff. Members of the team exceeded their goals, coming home with a terrific sense of pride and accomplishment.

In all three team sports, two Ontario teams competed in the same division, resulting in nail biting games as they played against each other. In softball, Durham and Almaguin played against each other for the gold medal. Although Almaguin tried their best, a win was sustained for Durham. The Peterborough soccer team

had some tough competition in their division, resulting in them playing the bronze medal game versus Mississauga. Peterborough played hard the entire game, however Mississauga edged them out and took the bronze.

Athletes participating in bocce did extremely well – 14 of 18 athletes competed in playoff games, 12 of whom took the podium. The rhythmic gymnastics team completely dominated the competition with the level four athletes sweeping the podium in three out of four disciplines. The three groups' routines secured gold and silver in their respective events.

MAJOR GAMES

Powerlifting was once again a highlight of the games. Their strength not only carried them successfully through competition, but allowed them to carry the 31 medals that they won!

In total, Team Ontario came home with an outstanding 374 medals.

MESSAGE FROM CHEF DE MISSION - JULI PROKOPCHUCK-BRATTAN:

I am so proud of all Team Ontario members! Every team member carried themselves with great pride and sportsmanship. While the athletes showed off their skills and expertise, the coaches showcased positivity and energy. The Team Ontario leadership team was first-class! Some members had never attended national level competition before. Nevertheless, they did a wonderful job leading their teams. Our medical team ensured that the athletes were in good health and able to compete at the highest level.

Special thanks to Team Manager Elaine Wilcock and the Provincial Team Liaisons who worked hard in the background to ensure that Team Ontario had a safe and enjoyable experience at National Games - #ONOurGame

I wish to end with a noteworthy statement that reinforces the impressive improvement in national level competition. In 2014, Team Ontario received 437 medals. In 2018, 468 medals arrived home in Ontario! Congratulations to everyone who helped to make this happen.

Together, Special Olympics Canada and the Sobeys Inc. Better Food Fund are providing thousands of Canadians with intellectual disabilities – as well as their families, caregivers and coaches – access to nutrition guides, cooking classes and fresh, accessible food.

More than 100 Sobeys Inc. employees across the country have signed up to lead Better Food Nutrition Sessions where athletes, coaches, volunteers and caregivers will learn how to incorporate better food into their lifestyle.

Together we will help over 40,000 Canadians with intellectual disabilities and their loved ones to “Eat Better, Feel Better and Do Better.”

Proud Partner



motionball is a National not-for-profit, founded in 2002 with an idea – to introduce the next generation of supporters to the Special Olympics movement through integrated social and sporting events in 20 cities across Canada. Powered by the young professional community across Canada, motionball has delivered over **\$10 million** to the Special Olympics Canada Foundation, providing more opportunities and breaking down barriers for Canadians with intellectual disabilities.



To learn more, visit
www.motionball.com



2017 AT A GLANCE



1.5M Raised



750 Volunteers



7500 Participants



25 Events



a LoyaltyOne
program



PROVINCIAL AWARDS



Female Coach of the Year **Kathy McCarroll**

25 years ago, Barrie boasted a small but active Special Olympics program. Kathy began her journey with Special Olympics after seeing a call for volunteers for the upcoming provincial games in Barrie. She was amazed by the entire experience and was inspired to become more involved. At the start of her coaching career, she was teaching wellness and fitness at Community Living. She quickly began encouraging individuals that she supported to become involved in Special Olympics sports programs.

With a background as a cross country ski instructor, Kathy soon began coaching a ski program in Midland, and eventually developed the current program in Barrie. In the following years, Kathy took on roles volunteering and coaching athletics, alpine skiing, floor hockey, and bowling programs. Most recently, Kathy helped to develop a new bocce program in Midland.

Since the first provincial games in Barrie in 1993, Kathy has been a fixture at provincial and national games, having attended the games every winter and summer. She has played a prominent role in the development of Special Olympics Barrie and Midland, and has also been very involved in community council and various fundraising events.

Kathy's primary passion and commitment is hands-on coaching and working with athletes. She has helped so many athletes benefit from Special Olympics programs.

Congratulations Kathy on being named the 2018 Female Coach of the Year!



Male Coach of the Year **Paul Turner**

Paul Turner's involvement with Special Olympics started 39 years ago, after witnessing a bullying situation that really bothered him outside of his local YMCA. He was inspired to combine his love of sport and his respect for all people, and decided to volunteer for Special Olympics and help coach programs where athletes could participate in a fun and inclusive environment.

Paul has coached softball and floor hockey for many of his years with Special Olympics. Floor hockey is his love, and he has attended numerous local, provincial, national, and international games. His team from Guelph has been fortunate enough to attend national games in: Ottawa in 2000; Quebec City in 2008; Alberta in 2012; and Newfoundland in 2016. The Bunsmaster Rollers Floor Hockey team attended the World Games in Boise in 2009 and the 2016 World Games in Austria. These amazing experiences were very successful, as the team won silver medals at both competitions.

Over the years, Paul has built many lasting relationships with the local athletes, as well as with athletes and coaches from all over Ontario and Canada. Paul loves seeing them and having the opportunity to visit and catch up at any competitions he attends. When he is not involved with Special Olympics, you can find him with his children or grandchildren, watching their sporting events.

Congratulations Paul on being named the 2018 Male Coach of the Year!

PROVINCIAL AWARDS



Volunteer of the Year
Barbara King

Barbara King has been working with special needs individuals and their families in numerous capacities for over 25 years. As a special education teacher, Barbara has had the opportunity to support individuals and their families, and to play a role in their personal development. Being part of their journey - their struggles, celebrations, accomplishments, and "growing up" - has taught Barbara so much about courage, determination, humility, and fun.

Volunteering with Special Olympics has allowed Barbara to provide even more opportunities for individuals, providing another avenue in which they can grow, flourish and be happy. Barbara is dedicated to enriching the lives of athletes and their families, and has an obvious passion for helping athletes work towards personal and physical development. She has helped to develop numerous programs in Owen Sound, and has played a key role in recruiting many new volunteers and athletes.

Now retired, Barbara enjoys spending time with her family, animals, and friends, and continues to enjoy being part of the Owen Sound Special Olympics community. Barbara is very gracious, and is held in high regard by her fellow volunteers and the Owen Sound athletes.

Congratulations Barbara on being named the 2018 Volunteer of the Year!



School Athlete of the Year
Jake Nelson

The School Athlete of the Year award is presented to an individual who exhibits excellent sportsmanship, commitment, and continuous personal growth. Jake Nelson is a shining example of those traits.

Jake is an athlete at Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes High School. He is a dedicated and resilient student athlete, who competes in basketball, soccer, floor hockey, bocce, and athletics. This past year he travelled to Peterborough where he competed in Unified Basketball at the School Championships.

Jake has always been a fun-loving and caring teammate, but he has also assumed a leadership role in the community. He is at the forefront of many fundraising campaigns - including public speaking engagements - for a children's camp in his area. Through his actions, Jake has demonstrated that in addition to being a committed and exceptional athlete, he is a truly selfless individual who gives back whenever the opportunity presents itself.

Jake embodies the spirit of Special Olympics not only when competing, but off the sports field as well. He is a role model to other students and an inspiration to his school community. This coming year he will be moving to Huntsville High School where he hopes to begin a Unified Basketball program and qualify for the Youth Games in Toronto.

Congratulations Jake on being presented with the 2018 School Athlete of the Year Award!



Female Athlete of the Year Sara Albers

Special Olympics programs often have a prominent impact on the personal and physical growth of an athlete. Sara Albers is a prime example of this.

Sara joined the London chapter of Special Olympics at the age of 9, and has been a dedicated member ever since. In her 13 years with Special Olympics, Sara has participated in numerous sports and has achieved frequent success. Sara began her career in floor hockey, and then quickly joined athletics and speed skating. In 2011, Sara became the youngest member of Team Canada at that year's Special Olympics World Summer Games in Greece, and captured gold and bronze medals in athletics. Sara then

switched her focus to winter sports, and in 2017 she represented Canada at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria, taking home silver and bronze medals in speedskating.

Outside of Special Olympics, Sara has a number of activities that keep her busy. After graduating high school, Sara now works for a local GoodLife Fitness in their "Jump" program, and also volunteers her time helping long-term care residents attend their hair salon appointments. She helps to walk neighbourhood dogs, and enjoys working out, improving her sports skills, and building models.

Sara has developed into a confident and exemplary athlete. She has a very active and vocal cheering section of friends and family that have been along for the exciting ride - every step of the way!

Congratulations Sara on being named the 2018 Female Athlete of the Year!



CHANGING LIVES

#ChallengeAcceptedSOC



**Special
Olympics**
Canada Foundation

PROVINCIAL AWARDS



Male Athlete of the Year James Walker

"Work hard and have fun" is the mantra that best describes James Walker's view of sport and life. In 1994, at the age of 8, he developed an admiration for Western University hockey player Mark Guy. James, who until that point was non-verbal, immediately took an interest in sport and in learning how to read, write, and speak. He soon became involved with London's floor hockey program.

James developed an interest in other sports, including: basketball, soccer, softball, and powerlifting. His tenacious style of play in floor hockey earned him the respect of teams from Peterborough and Guelph. They had chosen

him as a "pick-up" to play at the national and world levels. The Guelph team affectionately nicknamed him "Dozer" (short for bulldozer) due to his style of play. James has now attended three national games and two world games in floor hockey, and two national games in powerlifting.

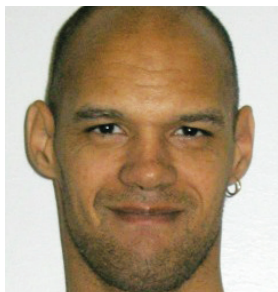
Since 2006, James has worked for the Western University Bookstore. His bookstore family has been most supportive of his ambitions to be the best that he can be. In 2010, James became an athlete ambassador for London, where he presented at numerous public speaking engagements to supporters of Special Olympics. James has had many incredible experiences in his time with Special Olympics, and is grateful to have had the opportunity to pursue and achieve his dreams.

Congratulations James on being named the 2018 Male Athlete of the Year!



This year, Kelly Santini LLP will be hosting their 14th Ottawa Special Olympics Festival Breakfast. Their continued support through this event, as well as through their participation in many other local activities, is greatly appreciated by Special Olympics athletes, coaches, volunteers, and staff!

KELLY SANTINI LLP|SRL
lawyers | avocats



Athlete Lifetime Achievement Award Wayne Morton

Special Olympics athletes regularly demonstrate incredible sportsmanship, work ethic, and leadership. For more than 30 years, Wayne Morton has been an outstanding personification of these values, and has become a tremendous role model and ambassador for the Special Olympics movement.

Wayne is passionate about many sports, and has achieved success at the provincial level in: swimming, powerlifting, figure skating, curling, basketball, golf, and softball. He has attended four Special Olympics world games, where he medaled in swimming.

Wayne enjoys sharing his gift of sport success, and is always ready to help his teammates improve their skills while emphasizing fun. His fellow athletes respect him and are enthusiastic learners. Wayne is a natural leader and role model in the Central Bruce community. He has also given back by helping to coach younger swimmers, and works at swim meets organized by his local generic sport club, the Port Elgin Breakers Swim Team.

Wayne enjoys being busy and has taken on three part-time jobs. He has also volunteered at numerous local Special Olympics fundraisers over the past 30 years, and volunteered for 5 years on the Central Bruce Special Olympics community council as a representative for his fellow athletes.

Congratulations to Wayne on being presented with the 2018 Athlete Lifetime Achievement Award!



Team of the Year Brantford Competitive Floor Hockey Team

The Brantford Floor Hockey Team had an unbelievably successful season in 2018, and the team exemplified many of the qualities that the Special Olympics movement holds in high regard. The team consists of athletes: Peter Charnish, Scott Gowing, Jesse Jewson, Ryan Murphy, Chris Tavener, Neil MacDonald, Keith Davies, Dave White, Rick Knight, Donny Tobicoe, Jennifer Sywyk, Brendan Van Horn, Matt Garvey, Steven Samwell, and Jess Horvath; and is coached by Kyle Van Horn, William Caradonna, Andrew Polidori, and Brian Van Horn.

Knowing it was a qualifying year, athletes came out very eager to begin working hard in order to have their best showings. The team competed in three tournaments this year, winning them all and finishing undefeated for the season in 10 games. The goaltenders also had a tremendous amount of success, having 4 shutouts in 10 games, while having an undefeated record.

Outside of their success on the scoreboard, the team also exhibited a tremendous amount of leadership, sportsmanship, dedication, and perseverance. Athletes supported one another, and helped to build each other's skills and confidence when practicing. The coaches credit their high level of success this season to their dedication and work ethic.

Congratulations to the Brantford Competitive Floor Hockey Team for being named the 2018 Team of the Year!

For Special Olympics programs to truly grow and blossom in a community,

PROVINCIAL AWARDS



Educator of the Year
Ernie Ellement, St. Peter's
Catholic Secondary
School, Peterborough

it often takes a special "champion" to lead the way. In the Peterborough Special Olympics School Championship family, Ernie Ellement was that champion, and played a huge role in ensuring the 2018 School Championships were a big success.

Ernie first became involved with Special Olympics after seeing a news story about how Holy Cross High School were preparing for their provincial basketball tournament. He was inspired to develop a program at St. Peter's Catholic Secondary School. For the past four years, he has worked with his team to support students with intellectual disabilities, and has helped them live their dream of being a part of something amazing.

In 2018, St. Peter's hosted all of the local qualifiers for the Provincial School Championships, and Ernie was instrumental in growing the support of schools throughout the community and ensuring the qualifiers were a huge success. This resulted with Ernie playing a key role on the Games Organizing Committee for the 2018 Provincial School Championships in Peterborough. His personal contributions were extremely important to the success of the games.

Congratulations to Ernie on being named the 2018 Educator of the Year!



THREE DECADES!

For over 30 years, the Wizard Foundation has continued to support the Special Olympics movement and has made a lasting impact on thousands of lives. On behalf of athletes from across the province, thank you!

WIZARD
FOUNDATION

PROVINCIAL AWARDS



School Team of the Year **J. Clarke Richardson** **Traditional Floor Hockey** **Team**

The J. Clarke Richardson Traditional Floor Hockey Team concluded their 2018 season with another gold medal performance at the Provincial School Championships, their third gold in three years!

When the team first began practicing, it was evident that there was a lot of raw talent. The athletes committed to the program, often giving up their lunch hour to work on plays and systems. Veteran players trained new players, and taught them how to refine their skills. The inclusivity of the team encouraged many players to try out and strive to be a part of the team, whether it was as a returning member, or a beginner to the sport.

As the team grew and developed over the years, the team captains also developed and improved their character traits, which is evident not only through the Special Olympics program, but also through their contributions to the school and community. Outside of the team, many players hold jobs or volunteer positions in the community, where they continue to apply the character traits developed through the Special Olympics program.

The team's current core group of athletes are entering their final year of high school, and aspire to lead the team to another gold at the 2019 Invitational Youth Games in Toronto.

Congratulations to the J. Clarke Richardson Traditional Floor Hockey Team on being named the 2018 School Team of the Year!



President's Award **Rick Walker**

Rick was destined to become involved in Special Olympics in some capacity. Rick's son has an intellectual disability, and Rick was determined to help develop his son's natural athletic abilities. In 2003, Rick started with Special Olympics as a floor hockey referee. He soon began to coach and volunteer, while winding down his career in forensic accounting with the federal government.

In 2009, Rick retired and accepted a position on the local executive with Special Olympics in London. He has initiated efforts to start Active Start, golf, figure skating, speed skating, and bocce programs, and is the Head Coach for the local golf program.

Rick was aware of the many demands on head coaches and saw a need to have competitions run by persons not associated with the sport. He has enlisted volunteers and convened annual competitions in basketball, bocce, floor hockey, golf, powerlifting, and softball. Rick has also convened the golf competition at provincial games, and has been the referee-in-chief for floor hockey qualifiers. In addition, Rick has been the provincial convener for golf and bocce, and was the head coach for powerlifting for Team Ontario at the 2018 Special Olympics Canada National Summer Games.

Another legacy initiated by Rick in London, was an award called the Badge of Courage. In conjunction with Torch Run, this award recognizes volunteers and athletes who experience severe health challenges, and still return to sport.

Congratulations Rick on being presented with the 2018 President's Award!

Celebrating the movement, the mission and the man

Dr. Frank Hayden Chair in Sport and Social Impact

To honour Dr. Hayden's life work, Special Olympics, in conjunction with the University of Western Ontario (UWO), will establish the "Dr. Frank Hayden Chair in Sport and Social Impact." This will provide the opportunity to further his legacy in the interest of sport and people with intellectual disabilities.

Dr. Hayden's significant personal artifacts and papers will also be collected and archived at the University to ensure they are available to historians and academics.

A legacy with global impact

As a young PhD student, Dr. Frank Hayden believed Canadians with an intellectual disability should not be condemned to a life of inactivity and isolation.

His testing in the 1960s of students at the Beverley School in Toronto confirmed his theory that their inclusion in society through sport would allow them to lead fuller, healthier and happier lives, allowing Canada to benefit from their many gifts.

Dr. Hayden's "seed of an idea" that became Special Olympics would not have been given the chance to grow exponentially without the exposure, leadership and funding from the Kennedy Foundation and the Kennedy and Shriver families. Working with Eunice Kennedy Shriver and the Kennedy Foundation in the late 1960s, Dr. Hayden played a vital role in the creation and growth of the movement over the coming decades.

The Dr. Frank Hayden Chair in Sport and Social Impact will integrate interdisciplinary research on intellectual and developmental disabilities to understand the social impact of sport/physical activity.

Dr. Frank Hayden changed the world as a young PhD academic more than 50 years ago. Imagine how the world will change over the next 50 years with this funded Chair.





**WE LOOK FORWARD TO
HEARING FROM YOU**

**Special Olympics Ontario is
dedicated to enriching the lives
of Ontarians with an intellectual
disability through sport.**

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Thank you for your continued support and providing safe
travels for Special Olympics athletes, coaches and families.

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Sincere thanks and appreciation to the **Government of Ontario** for their on-going support. Their generosity funds initiatives that encourage Ontarians of all ages and abilities to lead healthier and more physically active lives.

