



Special Olympics Canada Winter Games
CALGARY 2024
Jeux d'hiver d'Olympiques spéciaux Canada





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An Overview of Calgary 2024

Athletes with an intellectual disability from across Canada's 12 Provincial/Territorial Special Olympics Chapters will converge in Calgary, **February 27-March 2, 2024**, to compete with the goal of achieving personal bests, and in some cases, the opportunity to be named to Special Olympics Team Canada.

From influencing access and inclusion, to making an economic impact, the event will create an experience that will be a highlight in the lives of all participants.

Our Mission

Deliver a world-class event in a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment. From the starting line to the podium, we will create a life-changing Games experience for athletes with intellectual disabilities in the pursuit of sports excellence.

Our Vision

Through the transformative power of sport, Special Olympics Canada Winter Games Calgary 2024 will bring about a legacy of inclusive change for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Our Commitment

- 1. Create the experience of a lifetime for athletes.**
We will create safe, welcoming, and inclusive environments and experiences that generate lasting memories and life-long impacts.
- 2. Leave a legacy that benefits the community well beyond the Games.**
We will champion disability inclusion and representation by creating partnerships and programs that result in more inclusive spaces in our city.
- 3. Establish processes that benefit future Games hosts.**
We will create processes, procedures, and enhanced standards of practice to support future Special Olympics Canada (SOC) National Games hosts.





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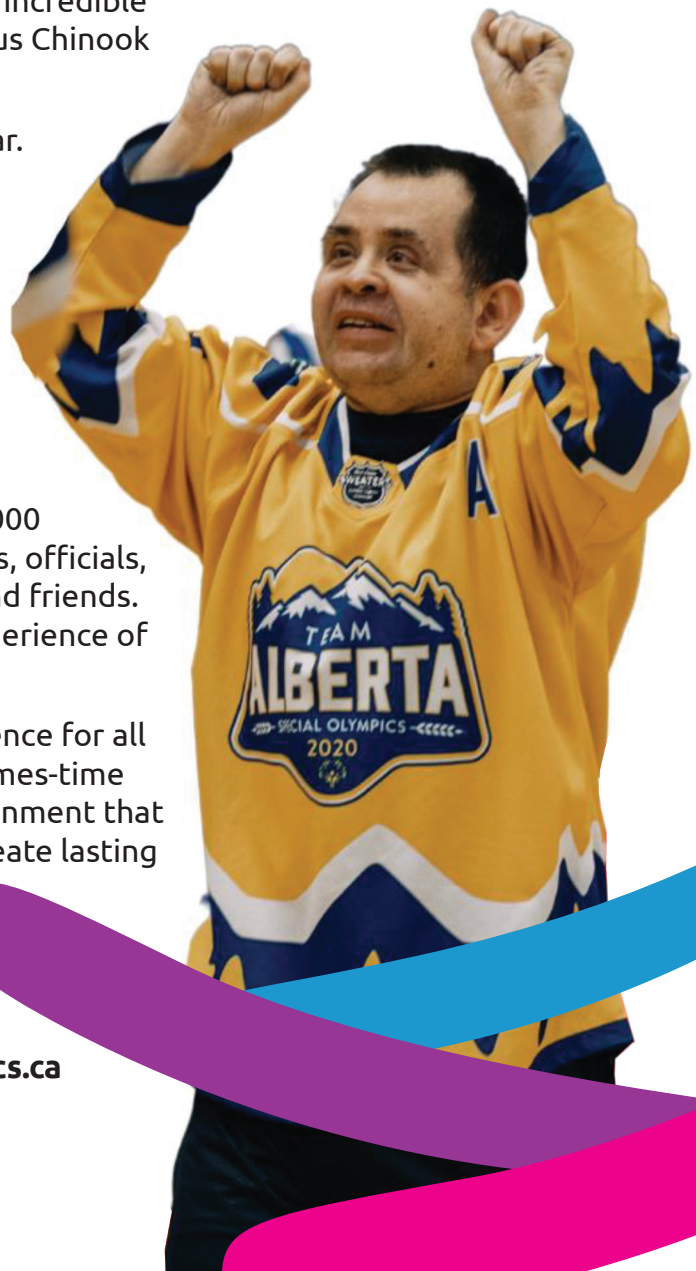


Some facts about Calgary 2024:

- The National Games are a culmination of years of training for Special Olympics athletes from across Canada.
- Athletes qualify from their Provincial/Territorial Games to compete at the National Games and for many athletes this is the pinnacle of their competitive experience.
- Calgary 2024 is a qualifying event for the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2025.
- The brand communicates personality traits identified by SOC's Canadian Athlete Leadership Council (CALC) – Calgary's sunshine (the sunniest place in Canada), the three sisters mountain range that reflect the incredible Rockies in our backyard, and our world-famous Chinook winds along with the tagline:

We can empower. We can believe. We can soar.
Together. We Can.

- CALC is comprised of athlete leaders with an intellectual disability and their mentors who represent their Provincial/Territorial Chapter.
- Tourism Calgary is projecting an injection of over \$10.7 million into the local economy.
- The Games are expected to welcome over 4,000 visitors including over 1,200 athletes, coaches, officials, and mission staff, along with their families and friends. Together, we can give all participants the experience of a lifetime.
- To help ensure an exceptional Games experience for all participants, we're looking for over 1,500 Games-time volunteers to help create a welcoming environment that will inspire everyone who visits Calgary to create lasting memories—and a legacy of inclusive change for individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- Be part of the **Volunteer Program** *presented by TC Energy* at **Calgary2024.SpecialOlympics.ca**





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Supporting Information:

- Participants who qualified through their Provincial and Territorial Games, will compete in eight sports at seven venues throughout Calgary:
 - **5-Pin Bowling** - The Bowling Depot
 - **Alpine Skiing** *presented by EY- WinSport*
 - **Cross Country Ski** - Confederation Park Golf Course
 - **Curling** *presented by Blakes* - North Hill Community Curling Club
 - **Floor Hockey** *in memory of Michael Van Ooteghem* - Seven Chiefs Sportsplex
 - **Figure Skating** *presented by BMO* - Seven Chiefs Sportsplex
 - **Snowshoeing** *presented by Black Diamond Group* - Maple Ridge Golf Course
 - **Speed Skating** *presented by CIBC* - Olympic Oval
- In addition to the sporting competitions, various programs and events will take place prior and during the Games:
 - **Opening Ceremony & Closing Ceremony** *presented by Calgary Flames Foundation*
 - **School Program** *presented by RBC*
 - **The Safeway Champions Celebration**
 - **Family & Friends Program** *presented by Cenovus Energy*
 - **Athlete Ambassadors Program**
presented by Pembina
 - **Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR)** *presented by TD*
 - **The Team behind the Team**
presented by Scotiabank
 - **Welcome Program**
 - **Healthy Athletes**
 - **Legacy Program**



Bringing Canadians together

In Canada, more than 41,000 children, youth and adults with an intellectual disability participated in programs run with the support of local sport clubs across 12 Provincial and Territorial Chapters. They are supported by an extraordinary network of more than 17,500 volunteers – Canadians who are committed to help accomplish something remarkable.



We know that an intellectual disability doesn't prevent success – lack of opportunity does.

Creating a Lasting Legacy

Through the Legacy Fund, 100% of net proceeds from Games goes back to community programs and initiatives, with 70% staying within the local community and 30% supporting Special Olympics national programs.

Using sport as a catalyst for systemic change, the Games aim to address barriers to achievement by people with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The **Legacy Program** will continue to uplift, educate, and inspire us all through the following initiatives:

- 1. Awareness, education & resources**
- 2. Special Olympics Alberta volunteer recruitment**
- 3. Donation of equipment**
- 4. Sustainable, disability-inclusive employment**



The Impact of Special Olympics

Individuals with an intellectual disability:

Involvement with Special Olympics leads to:

Annual estimate benefit to society:



have a **4 out of 5** chance of being **obese or overweight**



10% fewer athletes who are obese or overweight vs average individuals with ID

\$1M
Saved in physical health spend



have **shorter lifespans** than the general population
13 years shorter  **20 years shorter**

64% of athletes engaging in aerobic activity 3+ times per week

2 years added onto lifespan of athlete



are **2X** as likely to have a mental illness vs the general population

20% fewer athletes with anxiety disorders due to access to sport, vs average individuals with ID

\$5M
Saved in mental health spend



have a **28%** rate of employment

44% employment rate for Special Olympics athletes

\$110M
Contributed to economy in incremental income

**Bain & Co Social Return on Investment Report, 2016*

The **positive social impact** Special Olympics has on an athlete carries over to their families, friends, and the community at large, delivering a powerful result far beyond that of just sports.



Did You Know?

Through the transformative power of sport, Special Olympics Canada gives individuals with intellectual disabilities the strength, determination and confidence to take on any challenge in sport and in life.

- Special Olympics has extensive programming in the areas of health, education and community building in addition to its well-established sports programs.
- Special Olympics programs are available to athletes aged 2 and above. Individuals interested in participating as athletes must register with the applicable Chapter and agree to abide by the sport rules, policies, codes of conduct, philosophies and practices of Special Olympics Canada and its applicable Chapter.
- Special Olympics is specifically designed for individuals with intellectual disabilities, and while some Special Olympics athletes may have co-existing disabilities, it is not to be confused with the Paralympics, which is specifically designed for individuals with physical disabilities.
- Special Olympics athletes are divided to compete in categories based on gender, age, and ability level by a process called “divisioning.”
- All Special Olympics activities reflect the values, standards, traditions, ceremonies, and events embodied in the modern Olympic movement. These Olympic-type activities have been broadened and enriched to celebrate the moral and spiritual qualities of persons with intellectual disabilities so as to enhance their dignity and self-esteem.
- Individuals who compete in Special Olympics develop improved physical fitness and motor skills and greater self-confidence. They exhibit courage and enthusiasm and build lasting friendships. These life skills enhance their ability to live normal productive lives. More than ever, Special Olympics athletes hold jobs, own homes, go to school and successfully confront life’s challenges.
- The Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) for Special Olympics is the movement’s largest grass-roots fundraiser, having raised more than a half-billion dollars since its inception in 1981. More than 100,000 international law enforcement officers have carried the Flame of Hope.



- Special Olympics operates worldwide in over 200 countries and jurisdictions in accordance with the following principles:
 - That the goal of Special Olympics is to help bring all persons with intellectual disabilities into the larger society under conditions whereby they are accepted, respected and given the chance to become productive citizens.
 - That comprehensive, year-round sports training is available to every Special Olympics athlete, conducted by well-qualified coaches in accordance with standardized Sports Rules formulated and adopted by Special Olympics. Each athlete who participates in Special Olympics will be well-trained in their sport.
 - That Special Olympics provides full participation for every athlete regardless of economic circumstance and conducts training and competition under the most favourable conditions possible, including facilities, administration, training, coaching, officiating and events.
 - That, to the greatest extent possible, Special Olympics activities will be run by and involve local volunteers, from school and college-age individuals to senior citizens, in order to foster greater understanding of intellectual disabilities.
 - That, although Special Olympics is primarily a program of sports training and competition, efforts are made to offer athletes a full range of artistic, social and cultural experiences through activities such as dances, art exhibits, concerts, visits to historic sites, clinics, theatrical performances and similar events.
 - That the “Spirit of Special Olympics” skill, courage, sharing and joy incorporates universal values that transcend all boundaries of geography, nationality, political philosophy, gender, age, race or religion.



Words Matter

Disability Language Guidelines

Words can open doors to cultivate the understanding and respect that enable people with disabilities to lead fuller, more independent lives. Words can also create barriers or stereotypes that are not only demeaning to people with disabilities, but also rob them of their individuality.

The following language guidelines have been developed by experts for use by anyone writing or speaking about people with intellectual disabilities to ensure that all people are portrayed with individuality and dignity.

Special Olympics prefers to focus on people and their gifts and accomplishments, and to dispel negative attitudes and stereotypes. As language has evolved, Special Olympics has updated its official terminology to use standard terminology that is more acceptable to our athletes. We use **“people-first language”** - example: refer to people with intellectual disabilities, rather than “intellectually disabled people”. See more tips below.

Appropriate Terminology

- Refer to participants in Special Olympics as “Special Olympics athletes” rather than “Special Olympians” or “Special Olympic athletes.”
- Refer to individuals, persons or people with intellectual disabilities, rather than “intellectually disabled people” or “the intellectually disabled.”
- A person has intellectual disabilities, rather than is “suffering from,” is “afflicted with” or is “a victim of” mental retardation/intellectual disabilities.
- Distinguish between adults and children with intellectual disabilities. Use adults or children, or older or younger athletes.
- A person “uses” a wheelchair, rather than is “confined” or “restricted to” a wheelchair.
- “Down syndrome” has replaced “Down’s Syndrome” and “mongoloid.”
- Refer to participants in Special Olympics as athletes. In no case should the word athletes appear in quotation marks.
- In formal documents, refer to persons with a disability in the same style as persons without a disability: full name on first reference and last name on subsequent references. Do not refer to an individual with intellectual disabilities as “Bill” rather than the journalistically correct “Bill Smith” or “Smith.”
- A person has a physical disability rather than crippled.
- Use the words “Special Olympics” when referring to the worldwide Special Olympics movement.

Terminology to Avoid

- Do not use the label “kids” when referring to Special Olympics athletes. Adult athletes are an integral part of the movement.
- Do not use the word “the” in front of Special Olympics unless describing a specific Special Olympics event or official.
- Do not use the adjective “unfortunate” when talking about persons with an intellectual disability. Disabling conditions do not have to be life-defining in a negative way.
- Do not sensationalize the accomplishments of persons with disabilities. While these accomplishments should be recognized and applauded; people in the disability rights movement have tried to make the public aware of the negative impact of referring to the achievements of people with physical or intellectual disabilities with excessive hyperbole.
- Use the word “special” with extreme care when talking about persons with intellectual disabilities. The term, if used excessively in references to Special Olympics athletes and activities, can become a cliché.

*Special Olympics International advocates for the removal of R-Word in the public domain in order to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Land Acknowledgement

The Bow and Elbow rivers meet is a place of confluence where the sharing of ideas and opportunities naturally come together. February 2024, Calgary will be gathering place for more than 1,200 Special Olympics athletes from across Canada in their pursuit of sport excellence and connection. Indigenous peoples have their own names for this area that have been in use long before Scottish settlers named this place Calgary. The Métis call the Calgary area Otos-kwunee [“oh-tus-skwahnee”]. In the Blackfoot language, they call this place, Moh-kins-tsis [“mohk-kin-tsis”]. The Îethka Stoney Nakoda Nation refer to the Calgary area as Wîchîspa Oyade [“win chee spa oy ah day”] and the people of the Tsuut’îna [“sut sinah”] nation call this area Guts-ists-i [“Goot-sits-say”]. We would like to acknowledge that the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games Calgary 2024 will be located on the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta. This includes: the Siksika [“sit-sicka”], Piikani [“peegun-ee”], and Kainai [“gay-nah”] collectively known as the Blackfoot Confederacy; the Îethka [“yitch ka”] Nakoda Wîcastabi [“wee che stahbi”] First Nations, comprised of the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Good Stoney Bands; and the Tsuut’îna [“sut sinah”] First Nation. The city of Calgary is also homeland to the historic Northwest Métis and to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3. We acknowledge all Indigenous urban Calgarians, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, who have made Calgary their home. We work, play and reside on this sacred gathering place and the Games will provides us with an opportunity to engage in and demonstrate leadership on reconciliation.

Thank you to our partners who are helping to ensure an exceptional athlete experience while leaving a lasting imprint through our Legacy Fund.



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