



Annual Report 2012

Revealing the Champion in All of Us

**Special
Olympics**
Alberta



Special Olympics Alberta is an accredited chapter of Special Olympics Canada.

We have come a long way since Special Olympics Alberta was founded in 1980, growing from an organization with only a few dozen athletes and a handful of sports, to over 2,700 athletes that train and compete in 18 official sports:

5 Pin Bowling	Basketball	Figure Skating	Rhythmic Gymnastics	Speed Skating
10 Pin Bowling	Bocce	Floor Hockey	Snowshoeing	Swimming
Alpine Skiing	Cross Country Skiing	Golf	Soccer	
Athletics	Curling	Powerlifting	Softball	

We are not just an event!

Special Olympics programs operate daily year round offering sport training and competitive opportunities to athletes of all abilities and interests. Athletes are provided with the opportunities at the local, provincial, national and international level with the focus being on inclusion, personal achievement and athlete empowerment.

These programs are made possible thanks to the SUPPORT and LEADERSHIP of over 1,000 VOLUNTEERS from across the province.

Mission

Special Olympics is committed to enriching the lives of Albertans with an intellectual disability through sport.

Vision

Special Olympics Alberta will provide individuals with an intellectual disability, of all ages and abilities, opportunity to realize their full athletic potential, with appropriate training, coaching and competitions, to develop life skills, a healthy body and self-esteem.

Special Olympics Alberta offers sports programs in communities around the province:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Airdrie | 17 Leduc |
| 2 Barrhead | 18 Lethbridge |
| 3 Brooks | 19 Lloydminster |
| 4 Calgary | 20 Medicine Hat |
| 5 Camrose | 21 Olds |
| 6 Crowsnest Pass | 22 Peace River |
| 7 Drumheller | 23 Red Deer |
| 8 Edmonton | 24 Rocky Mountain House |
| 9 Edson | 25 St. Albert |
| 10 Foothills | 26 St. Paul |
| 11 Fort McMurray | 27 Strathcona |
| 12 Grande Prairie | 28 Vegreville |
| 13 Hinton | 29 West Central |
| 14 Innisfail | 30 Westlock |
| 15 Lacombe | 31 Wetaskiwin |
| 16 Lakeland | 32 Whitecourt |





Karen Saunders
Board of Directors Chair

Message from the Board of Directors Chair

Revealing the champion in all of us! That is the guiding idea, the heart of Special Olympics. The Promise: Special Olympics unleashes the human spirit through the transformative power and joy of sports everyday around the world.

For Special Olympics Alberta, 2011/2012 was a year that saw our athletes achieve their goals and celebrate success. 78 athletes proudly represented Alberta at the 2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in St. Albert. In their own backyard, they had many personal bests resulting in 11 of our athletes heading to South Korea for the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games.

The Special Olympics Alberta Board of Directors is committed to bringing even more awareness to our athletes. Through Law Enforcement Torch Run events and local initiatives we strive to raise funds but also educate others about the strengths and abilities of those with an intellectual disability. By telling the story of Special Olympics athletes we hope to make the world a more welcome place bringing dignity, acceptance, pride, joy, fitness, friendship and a sense of community to our athletes. We cannot do this without your continued support.

Thank you for all you do.



Kirk De Fazio
President and CEO

Message from the President and CEO

As I continue to travel throughout Alberta meeting friends and fans of individuals with an intellectual disability, I see firsthand the transformation in our athletes' lives, and the empowerment gained by experiences through sport; it often brings one to tears of joy.

There is so much potential in this province for growth within the Special Olympics movement. St. Albert & Jasper hosting 650 athletes from all across Canada was an overwhelming success and 700 volunteers demonstrated the true spirit of community and brought an amazing sense of pride to the 2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games. Our everyday volunteers continue to be the biggest difference makers in all of our communities throughout Alberta. You are the heart of our organization!

We officially added three new sports this year: basketball, bocce, and golf and have a new games model for the 2013 Provincial Games to accommodate them. The Spring Games will be held in Red Deer, April 19 - 21 and a Summer Games in Devon, June 21 - 23.

We continued to build relationships. Our government supporters are strong advocates for Special Olympics and we are working hard to develop our corporate sponsors.

I look forward to a great year ahead as we continue to bring communities together, recognizing our athlete's humanity and driving change to create an environment of tolerance.

Albertans continually remind me that no physical or mental barrier can restrain the power of the human spirit.

A Year in Review

Sports Excellence

- Two new Young Athlete Outreach Programs
- Alberta hosted its first National Games since 1996 with St. Albert welcoming the country at the 2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games
- Team Alberta 2012: 78 athletes, 23 coaches, 8 mission staff, 3 mental trainers
- Provincial Spring and Summer Games hosts selected - Red Deer and Devon
- Four swimmers at Western Canada Summer Games; Team Alberta Speed Skaters took part in Alberta Amateur Speed Skating Association competitions
- Eleven athletes, four coaches and one mission staff selected to 2013 Team Canada
- Coach Forums engaged over 100 coaches





Building Communities

- Official endorsement and distribution of The Athlete Rights and Responsibilities by both the Athlete Leadership Committee and Board of Directors
- Affiliate Representative Council actively engaged
- New community programs established in Innisfail and Rocky Mountain House

Connecting Fans & Funds

- Youth Development funded by the Government of Alberta through their Healthy Active Living Grant, and the Government of Canada
- Investment in Team Alberta last year \$124,471
- \$617,476 invested in Community Development
- The MDA Charity Classic Golf Tournament raised \$275,000 in 2011
- Alberta Law Enforcement Torch Run hosted the first International Conference in Calgary, the first time outside of the United States
- ATCO Gas Employees Participating In Communities raised more than \$78,000
- Government of Alberta grants supported 2012 Team Alberta and Special Olympics Canada Winter Games

Alberta on the International & National Stage



For the first time in 30 years, the International Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference for Special Olympics took place in Canada. Calgary and Alberta's Rocky Mountains provided the beautiful backdrop for the conference November 3 to 6, 2011. With participation of over 950 individuals from 10 countries it was an overwhelming success! Those in law enforcement certainly followed the theme "Reaching New Heights"!



All eyes from across the country were on Alberta as St. Albert and Jasper hosted the 2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games. Over 700 athletes, coaches, and mission staff from across the country took part competing in Canada's seven official winter sports.



Team Alberta was represented by 78 athletes and 34 coaches at the Winter Games. A testament to the quality Team Alberta was that 11 athletes from four different sports were selected to represent Canada at the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea.

Draft an Athlete Supporters

We are proud to have the support of the following groups and individuals that drafted our athletes and supported their dreams of competing on the national stage:

AFA Forest Products Edmonton

Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission
Social Committee

ATCO Gas

Attia Reeves

Burger King

Camdon Construction Ltd.

Canadian Western Bank

Craig Simpson Never Say Never Charity
Golf Tournament

Darby Taylor & Family

David Pelletier

Delta Bow Valley Hotel

Delta Edmonton South Hotel

Diversity Technologies Corp

El Tigre Silver Corp

First Truck Centre

GranTierra Energy Inc

Harry & Stacy Myeers

High Performance Coating

Jamie Salé

Joan & Jack Donald

John Cameron

John Pinsent Professional Corp.

Kurtis & Chelsea Ashton

MacMillan Team - RE/MAX

Marie Hughes

MNP LLP

Physiotherapy Alberta College &
Association

Prism Flow Products

Ric's Grill St. Albert

Roll'n Oilfield Services

Rotary Club of Calgary Olympic

Rotary Club of Rocky Mountain
House

Simmer Fine Wine & Spirits

SNF Canada

Sunshine Door

The Luxus Group

The Pipe Yard

Yardstick Technologies



Male Athlete of the Year



Nicholas LeBlanc
Grande Prairie

Nicholas has been with Special Olympics for 16 years and participates in 5-pin and 10-pin bowling, golf and floor hockey. He is known for his love of sport, determined work ethic and boundless sportsmanship. In 2011 Nicholas represented Canada at the World Summer Games in Athens, Greece. In preparation for World Games his work ethic was on full display through his commitment to his fitness and bowling technical training. His hard work helped him lose 55 pounds allowing him to have a more accurate bowling delivery, run faster and score more goals in floor hockey, and have more upper body strength for golf.

Female Athlete of the Year



Janelle McGinley
Edmonton

In her five years with Special Olympics Alberta, Janelle has demonstrated great perseverance, commitment and consistency in improving her skills and techniques in her sports: figure skating, basketball, and indoor and outdoor soccer. She is attentive in practice and committed to perfection. Janelle's confidence and self-esteem have improved since joining and she always celebrates the successes of her teammates. She is a true ambassador and demonstrated this past winter when she was one of the athlete representatives that helped lead the Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg before the 2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games.

Team of the Year



Orange Tigers
Edmonton

The Orange Tigers were formed three years ago as the first all-girls soccer team in Alberta. This blazed trails and not only brought out the girls skills, but allowed them to come together off the field as well, building strong, lasting friendships. The confidence gained through the Orange Tigers program has propelled them to take on greater roles at speaking events, the Torch Run and within the community, creating greater awareness for Special Olympics. Their bond as teammates and friends has also flourished creating many new opportunities off the field as strong female role models and on the field as a quality, successful soccer team.

Volunteer of the Year



Karen Mengersen
Olds and District

Karen has dedicated 26 years and an enormous number of hours to helping persons with disabilities. She is a woman of endless drive, filled with kindness, commitment and humanity. Since Karen took over as chair of her local affiliate the program has doubled in athlete numbers and added nine new sports. She leads by example through coaching, volunteering or administrating. She is never hands off at an event and always ensures that she contributes in every possible aspect. Karen has been a part of both Provincial and National Games and has held every possible role within the organization, she truly lives and breathes the movement.

Male Coach of the Year



Darren Brown
Olds and District

Darren has been part of Special Olympics for five years. In that short time he has evolved from coaching a single sport to taking over both softball and floor hockey programs as well as creating a new curling program. Darren has recruited knowledgeable coaches and volunteers which have ensured the delivery of quality sport programs that emphasize personal achievement and teamwork amongst the athletes and volunteers. Darren's innovation and commitment has led to the doubling of enrollment in his programs and to attracting new athletes to the program.

Female Coach of the Year



Kelly Edwards
Calgary

Kelly has been involved with Special Olympics since 1986, and has served as the head coach of swimming for the past 15 years. She is accomplished at all levels including being member of Team Alberta numerous times and Team Canada twice. Kelly has made her biggest impact at the grassroots level where her influence resulted in a significant increase in athletes leading to multiple expansions of her swim program in order to accommodate numbers and the needs of various ability levels. Her openness to new ideas and approaches to working with athletes are the keys to her success and her impeccable reputation among other coaches, athletes and supporters.

*Murray Koch Youth
Development Award
Robin Hood Association*

The Robin Hood Association partnered with Special Olympics Alberta to offer the young athletes programs, Active Start and FUNdamentals. They initiated a pilot program in 2011 and received extremely positive response. There were 16 participants and 4 paid staff running the program. The Active Start program had a great start; the children were excited to be there and had so much fun. The FUNdamentals group also showed great potential as feedback from parents involved in the programs has also been well received. Robin Hood is now on the 2nd year of the program and is expecting to build on this success.

*MDA Community
Leadership Award
Edmonton*

Edmonton has taken numerous measures to inject a refreshed approach to their operations, including a renewed Affiliate Management Committee to focus on driving athlete growth and creation of a strategic business plan. They are actively involved with all sport programs and engaged in revenue sharing and governance that benefits the local program and Provincial and National fundraising programs. Their support of the 2012 Winter Games showcased their commitment to the advancement of Special Olympics in both Edmonton and the province. The forward movement and planning is a framework for their continued success for the sport programs in Edmonton.

*LETR Community
Spirit Award
Edmonton*

This past year Edmonton hosted numerous events, including a very successful Walmart Free the Fuzz and first ever Polar Plunge, now to be created as an annual event. Without hesitation, Special Olympics Edmonton consistently and enthusiastically over delivers when it comes to administrative, volunteer, and athlete support, from set up, to helping cheer on the participants. They are also very involved in the actual event fundraising initiatives. They are truly dedicated to ensuring the success of LETR in Edmonton.



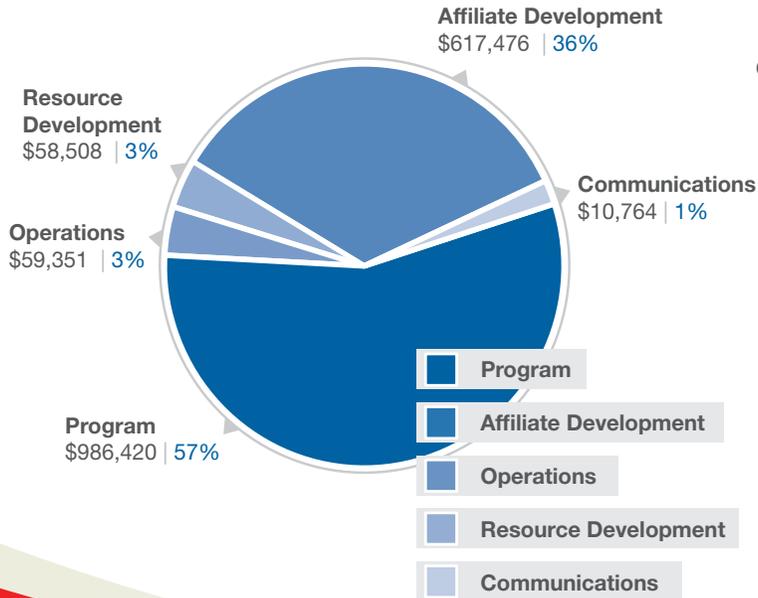
To date, \$5 million has been raised at the Motor Dealers Association of Alberta Golf Charity Classic.



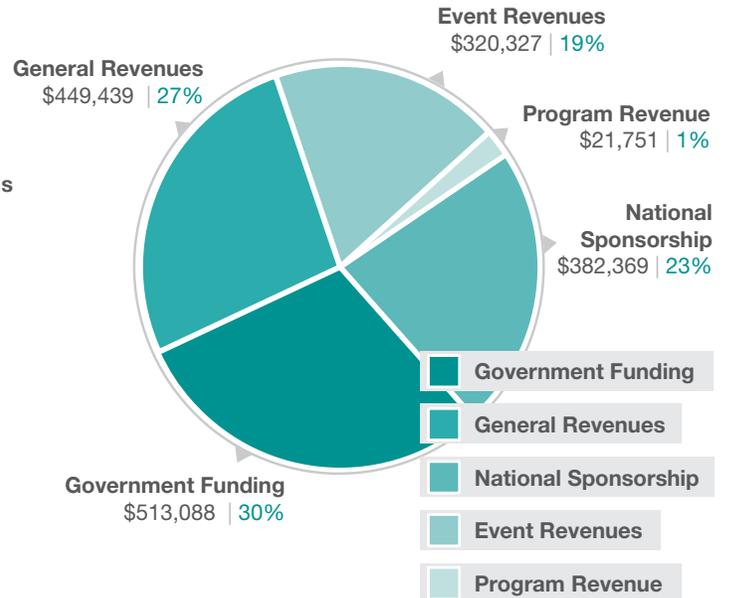
Officers from Law Enforcement Agencies across Alberta participate in Torch Run programs to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics athletes.

Financial Information

Where Does Your Money Go? Actual 2011/2012
Total Expenses \$1,732,519



Sources of Funding Actual 2011/2012
Total Revenue \$1,686,974



Donors

1474297 Alta. LTD.
AGLC Social Committee
Airdrie Dodge Chrysler
Airdrie Rotary Club
Alberta Law Enforcement
Torch Run
All Systems Contracting
Calgary Inc.
Ashton, Kurtis & Chelsea
Associated Canadian Travelers
Aston Hill Financial Inc.
Atchinson, A.
ATCO Gas
Ayvet Foods LTD
Ayotte, Roger
Battle River Community
Foundation
Big Al Baseball
Black Diamond Land
& Cattle Company Inc.
Boulanger, Brian
Braund, Rick
Buchanan Barry LLP
Chartered Accountants
Burnswest Corporation
C.R.C.P. Society
Calgary Flames Foundation
Calgary Flames Hockey Club
Calgary Old Time Hockey
Players Association
Calgary Rotary Challenger
Park Society
Calgary Stampers
Football Club
Cameron, John

Canadian Pacific Railway
Company
Canuck Industrial Sales
(1982) Ltd
Cardel Homes
Cash Casino
Castiglione Family Foundation
Cenovus Energy Foundation
Charitable Foundation
Clauson Cold & Cooler Ltd.
Continental Imaging Products
Country Hills Golf Club
Croezen, Greg
Custom Electric Ltd.
DeeThree Exploration LTD
Donors Servus Credit Union
Dundee Securities
Edmonton Journal
Edmonton Police Foundation
Edward, N. Murrays
Ellert Law
Ellis-Don Construction
Services Inc.
Emes, Dr. Claudia & Allen
Encana Cares Foundation
Energy Drilling Services Inc.
Energy for Friends
Golf Classic
Engbloom, B & N
FGL Sports LTD
Fitzpatrick, Dean
Flaman Fitness
Frank J. Flaman Foundation
Gernandt, R.
Gernandt, Rita
Gibson Energy ULC
Global Edmonton

Gran Tierra Energy Inc.
Gratton, Neal
Gregg Distributors
Ham, Hugh
Harry & Martha Cohen
Foundation
Heredity Homes
Hesje, Murray & Shirley
Holiday Inn Express Airdrie
Hudson, Robert
Hughes, Marie
Jack Dawe Fund
Jarislowsky Fraser LTD
Jennings Capital Inc.
Kayak Foundation
Keg Steakhouse and Bar
Kenaco Capital
Kiwanis Club of Edmonton
Oil Capital
Knights of Columbus # 1732
KPMG Foundation
Landmark Group of
Builders Ltd
Lecuyer, Christina
Leduc Lions Club
Leesman, B & J
Leesman, Bill
Lethbridge Auto Association
Lodge, Gordon
MacDonald, Myles
MacLeod Dixon LLP
Mann, Jeffrey
Marjoram, K & S
Marsh Canada LTD
McDonald's Camrose
Miles, Thomas
Motor Dealers Association
of Alberta
Myers, Harry & Stacy
Nickle Family Foundation
Northlands
Nucleus Information
Service Inc.
Nufarm Agriculture Inc.
O'Rourke Engineering Ltd.
Old Timers Hockey
Players Assoc.
Order of the Royal
Purple #125
Pace Oil & Gas Ltd.
Parkland CLASS
Perfco Investments Ltd.
Petasky, Stephen
Pinsent, John
Precision Drilling
Corporation
Profitco Energy Propak
QV Investors Inc
RBC Royal Bank
Red Deer Elks Lodge #85
Red Deer Motor Dealers
Association
Regional Office
Ric's Grill
Richardson GMP Limited
Roll'n Oilfield Services
Ross, D & L
Rotary Club of Calgary
Rotary Club Sunrise
Rumpel, Glen
Salé, Jamie
Savanna Energy Services
Corporation
Saxon Energy Services

Second Gance
Servus Credit Union
Sherrofs Posse
Signature Authentics Inc.
Snyder, D & M
Sophia Restaurants Ltd.
o/a McDonalds
Spanach, Rob
Stephenson, Kenneth M
Stevenson, Dr. Thomas
Stoneham Drilling Inc.
Strathcona County
Sunterra Quality Food
Markets Inc.
Switzers Investments LTD
T. Otoole (Gateway
Tubulars)
TD Canada Trust, Prairie
Telus Corporation
The City of Calgary
The City of Edmonton
The Muttart Foundation
Tuxedo Source for Sports
Unified Systems Group
Vanderwell Contractors
(1971) Ltd.
Vantage Point
Wal-Mart Canada
Weidner Motors Ltd
Westminster Savings
Credit Union
Whitecap Resources Inc
Wideman, Carol
Wideman, Graham
Women of the Moose
Wood Automotive Group
Woodpath Investments Ltd.

Provincial Partners



National Sponsors

Government of Canada
Toyota Canada
Toyota Canada Foundation
STAPLES Canada
Home Hardware
Wolseley Canada
Canada Safeway
Law Enforcement Torch Run

RBC Foundation
 The Forzani Group Ltd.
 JYSK
 The Harry "Red" Foster Foundation
 The Canadian Progress Club
 Veritas Communications
 Rub A535
 Canada Life

Grey Canada
 The Globe and Mail
 Jolera
 TSN
 Mary Browns

Special Olympics Alberta Board of Directors

Karen Saunders	Chair
Bill McLaren	1st Vice Chair
Dale Ellert	2nd Vice Chair
James Melnyk	Finance Director
Tom McKenzie	Secretary
Chris Doty	Athlete Leadership
Lisa Kerr	Youth Leadership
Grant Howell	Director
Robert Parmenter	Director
Mary Payne	Director
Georgette Reed	Director
Jamie Salé	Director

Provincial Sport Council

Michelle Deering (Chair)	Katie McGillivray
Mary Payne	Sallie Szanik
Chris Doty	Jodi Flanagan
Martha McCormack	

Athlete Leadership Committee

Chris Doty	Chair
Jeff Riddell	Past Chair
Brian Erickson	North
Chantel Payne	Central
Emily Ross	Calgary
Rodger Gratton	Edmonton



Percy Page Centre
11759 Groat Road
Edmonton, Alberta
T5M 3K6

Phone: (780) 415-0719
Fax: (780) 415-1306
Toll Free: 1-800-444-2883
Email: info@specialolympics.ab.ca

www.specialolympics.ab.ca