

## SOPEI President's Report-2024

Each year, at this time, we are afforded the opportunity to first reflect on the past 12 months and then look forward to the busy year ahead.

Despite facing some difficult years, our organization remained dedicated to providing Islanders with intellectual disabilities access to sports. A total of 697 athletes, including young athletes, were able to join community programs, SO Fun days, and competitive events both on the island and throughout the Atlantic region. Our achievements can be largely attributed to our extensive network of 432 volunteers and our ongoing partnerships with schools.

One of many highlights in 2024 fiscal year was our contingent representing Team PEI at the 2024 National Winter Games in Calgary in February 2024. PEI was represented by 33 athletes, 14 coaches and 6 mission staff who competed hard in 7 sports and made our organization and entire Province of PEI proud. Many personal bests were achieved and our medal count included 8 gold, 9 silver and 4 bronze. Not only was success achieved on a National level, but also on an International level as we had 3 athletes named to Team Canada as well as our very own Charity and Genna being named to the Mission staff.

We had another record-breaking year at our Enriching Lives Gala, in June where \$415,878 was raised to support our mission. This along with motionball's Marathon of Sport, LETR events and the continued generosity of organizations and individuals in our community has helped ensure financial viability for the current and foreseeable future.

SOPEI is very fortunate to have a staff that combines their skill with their passion to make SOPEI the best it can be. Our team works tirelessly every day to improve the organization, and for that, SOPEI is deeply grateful to all of you. A sincere thank you to Charity, Matthew, Sarah, Genna, Ellen and Amy for your leadership, dedication, passion and tireless efforts to SOPEI.

The Board of Directors at SOPEI comprises a diverse group of individuals from different backgrounds to ensure effective governance and guidance. This team has evolved over time and gained significantly from board development sessions with Amie Dugan from Special Olympics International. It has been a privilege to collaborate with this dedicated group, and I extend my gratitude to everyone for their hard work.

SOPEI continues to achieve big milestones in the smallest province in Canada and I look forward to continuing to work side-by-side with all the amazing members of the Special Olympics PEI family. Please accept my sincere thank you to each and every one of you who strive every day to achieve and uphold the ever-so-important SOPEI mission:

***"Special Olympics PEI exists so that the lives of Islanders with an intellectual disability will be enriched through sport."***

Regards,

Robert Horne  
President, Special Olympics PEI Board of Directors

