

SOPEI Board of Directors
Athlete Leadership - 2024 AGM Report

Good Evening Everyone,

For anyone who does not know me, my name is Ellen MacNearney, and I am Special Olympics PEI's representative on the Canadian Athlete Leadership Council (C.A.L.C.) and the Athlete Representative on Special Olympics PEI's Board of Directors.

This is my Athlete Leadership Report for the 2023-2024 year. It was another big year for Special Olympics PEI, and I am going to share some athlete leadership highlights.

I'm going to start by sharing some important notes from the C.A.L.C. Early in the year the C.A.L.C. helped create the Athlete Feedback Survey for the National Games that were hosted this winter in Calgary Alberta. The purpose of this survey is to help make sure we get feedback about the Games from athletes who competed.

I was also one of the C.A.L.C. members who were at Games, so I got to help collect responses during the closing ceremonies from athletes from across the country. This is important because we can learn about the Games, what worked, what did not work, and help make the next ones better for all athletes.

One of my highlights from our C.A.L.C. in-person meetings in September was a session about inclusion. In this session we learned about creating safe spaces in Special Olympics. We talked about why it is important to make sure that people from all kinds of different backgrounds feel welcome and safe at Special Olympics.

Next, I would like to talk about the Special Olympics PEI Athlete Leadership Academy. This year we do not have any new graduates from the academy. However, we hosted Health Messenger and Speaker workshops this year with 5 athlete leaders completing new workshops. We also have 5 athletes active in the Academy, completing their leadership reports every 3 months.

While Special Olympics PEI plans to use athlete leaders as much as possible throughout the year, we would also like to get new athletes involved and trained in the Academy.

Having new athletes in the Academy is important because it gives more athletes leadership skills, but we would also like to have more leaders active in the Academy so that we can start looking at new athlete leadership ideas, like having an athlete input council.

Thank you

Ellen MacNearney