

***Special Olympics***  
*Manitoba*



# REACH REPORT

## 2023-2024



## OUR MISSION

Enriching the lives of Manitobans with an **intellectual disability** through **sport**.



## OUR VISION

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





# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

## **“2023-24 WAS A YEAR OF IMMENSE PRIDE AND GRATITUDE FOR WHAT WE’VE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER”**

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Reflecting on the past year, I’m filled with immense pride and gratitude for what we’ve accomplished together this past year at Special Olympics Manitoba. Our journey has been transformative, marked by resilience, community spirit, and an unwavering commitment to our athletes.

In 2023-2024, we saw remarkable growth—not just in participation numbers, but in the way our community came together. From our successful fundraising campaigns, like the Sobey’s and Tim’s campaigns, to the inaugural Ultimate Unified Games, we’ve rallied support and showcased the incredible talent of our athletes. The enthusiasm and dedication from volunteers, families, and partners truly exemplify the heart of Special Olympics Manitoba.

We also celebrated our athletes’ achievements on the national stage during the Winter Games, where Team Manitoba brought home a stunning medal tally. Each medal represents not just hard work, but also dreams realized and barriers broken.

As we move forward, we are committed to enhancing our programs, engaging new volunteers, and creating even more inclusive opportunities for all. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you—our athletes, coaches, volunteers, and supporters—because it is your passion and dedication that fuels our mission.

Together, let’s continue to empower and uplift every athlete, making a lasting impact in our communities. Thank you for being part of this incredible journey.



**Rachel Wheatley**  
Chief Executive Officer

# MESSAGE FROM THE ATHLETE REP

**I AM HONORED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AS THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS MANITOBA ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVE ON THE CANADIAN ATHLETE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

“

My newest role and one I am very excited and passionate about is I am your new Manitoba representative on the Canadian Athlete Leadership Council! I just attended my first meeting in Toronto and I am already very excited about a few of the things we are working on!

I am also the chair of the Winnipeg Regional Athlete Leadership Council and the athlete representative on the Special Olympics Manitoba Board of Directors. With these roles I am always advocating for my fellow athletes and making sure your voices are heard! One of the things that the Winnipeg Regional Leadership Team is working on right now is recruiting athlete leaders in other regions of the province.

The goal is to have athlete leadership councils in all regions of Manitoba. This way the regions could all work together to support each other and share different ideas.

Thank you for letting me represent you for the next couple of years! I hope I make all of you proud!



## **Brett Griffiths**

Athlete Representative on the Canadian Leadership Council  
Special Olympics Manitoba Board of Directors  
Chair of the Winnipeg Regional Leadership Council



**Special Olympics**  
Manitoba



# PROGRAMS



# 17 SPORTS

- 5-Pin Bowling
- 10-Pin Bowling
- Alpine Ski
- Athletics
- Basketball
- Bocce
- Cross Country Ski
- Curling
- Floor Hockey
- Golf
- Powerlifting
- Snowshoe
- Soccer
- Softball
- Speed Skating
- Swimming



**1908**

Athletes



**341**

Program Volunteers



**98**

Community Programs





# BREAKING DOWN THE NUMBERS

**Community Program Athletes** 929

**School Programs Athletes** 979

**Total** 1908

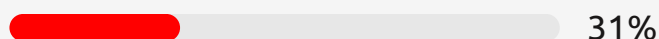
**Coaches** 243

**Volunteers** 98

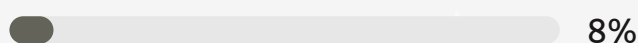
**Total** 341

## PROGRAMS BY REGION

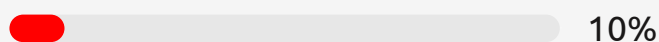
### Central



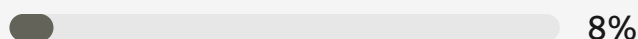
### Eastman



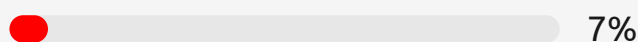
### Interlake



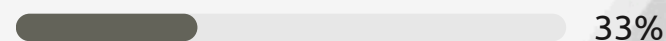
### Norman



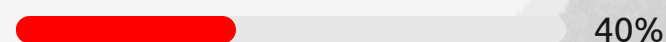
### Parkland



### Westman



### Winnipeg



REGION	PROGRAM REGISTRATIONS	PROGRAMS
CENTRAL	291	10
EASTMAN	77	5
INTERLAKE	90	6
NORMAN	75	8
PARKLAND	64	7
WESTMAN	307	19
WINNIPEG	788	43
TOTAL	1692	98





# SCHOOL PROGRAMS



This year, our School Programs continued to thrive, with a remarkable surge in participation from both athletes and Unified partners. Over the course of the school year, we proudly organized 16 engaging sport events, including Bocce, Soccer, Basketball, and Athletics. These events brought together students from 159 schools across Manitoba, fostering inclusion, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

The growth in participation highlights the ever-expanding reach of our programs, inspiring a new generation of athletes and Unified partners to embrace the values of Special Olympics.



## **BREAKING** DOWN THE NUMBERS

School Program Unique Athletes	979
Total Schools	159

**Special Olympics**  
Manitoba



# SPORT & COMPETITION







SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
MANITOBA



**NATIONAL WINTER GAMES  
CALGARY, AB  
FEB 27 - MAR 2, 2024**



# MEDAL COUNT 60

16

25

19





# RETURNING TO CALGARY: A 28 YEAR LEGACY

Meet Terry-Linn Johnson and Brita Hall, two seasoned athletes from Special Olympics Manitoba who have a rich history at the National Games.

Rewind to 28 years ago, and you would have found these two stars on the Provincial Team at the 1996 National Winter Games in Calgary! At that time, both Terry-Linn and Brita showcased their prowess in cross-country skiing.

Fast forward to this year, and we see Terry-Linn taking on a new challenge with zeal, speed skating at the Olympic Oval. Meanwhile, Brita has returned to her roots, seeking to recreate the magic of her initial cross-country skiing experiences in the same city where it all began.

## The best news?

Brita brought home 2 silver and 1 bronze medal, and Terry-Linn won 2 Gold, 1 Silver, and 1 Bronze medal at these National Games!

Terry-Linn and Brita have not only competed with heart and determination but have also brought honor to our community with their outstanding performances and sportsmanship. We are incredibly proud of both of them and their remarkable achievements at these games.





# DRAFT AN ATHLETE



Thank you to all sponsors, donors, family, friends, and supporters! Your generosity and encouragement is unmatched. With heartfelt gratitude, we thank you for your belief in our mission and for standing with us in creating more inclusive communities. Team Toba's National journey was made possible because of YOU!

## TEAM MANITOBA PRESENTING SPONSOR



## TEAM MANITOBA OFFICIAL MEDIA SPONSOR



## DRAFT AN ATHLETE SPONSORS



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# FUND DEVELOPMENT





# FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHT

## ULTIMATE UNIFIED GAMES



The inaugural Ultimate Unified Games in May 2024 brought together members of our community and Special Olympics Manitoba athletes for an unforgettable day of inclusion, camaraderie, and spirited competition. Participants bonded through a series of exciting events like soccer, bocce, and team building activities, that showcased the true power of sport, breaking down barriers and creating lasting friendships.

This event not only highlighted the importance of inclusion in sport but also served as a testament to the strength and unity within our community, leaving everyone eager for the next Ultimate Unified Games.

## POLAR PLUNGES

The 2024 Polar Plunges were a huge success, with strong community support raising vital funds for Special Olympics Manitoba athletes.

Plungers took part in events held across the province, including our first ever Polar Plunge at True North Square in Winnipeg. The funds raised directly impact the lives of our athletes, offering them vital resources, training, and opportunities to compete.



# Thank You!

We are grateful to be able to create inclusive communities with the support of our sponsors, community champions, and donors.

## DIAMOND SPONSORS

Canada 

*Tim Hortons*

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Sport  
MANITOBA

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## COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

  
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*motionball* 

  
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Olympics**  
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CONSTRUCTION

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 **Johnston**  
group

 **POWERLAND**



# FOUNDATIONS





# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE  
2023-2024 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS](#)**







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Contact Us:



Website  
**specialolympics.mb.ca**



Office Address  
**304-145 Pacific Ave, Winnipeg,  
MB**