

HISTORY OF MAJOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS CANADA (SOC) EVENTS

1968

Canada was represented by a Floor Hockey Team from Toronto at the first International Special Olympics Games held at Soldier Field in Chicago. Canada becomes the first nation, outside of the United States, to participate in Special Olympics.

1969

The First SOC National Games and National Hockey league (NHL) Floor Hockey Tournament were held in Toronto.

1970

Canada was represented by a Floor Hockey Team from Orillia, Ontario at the second International Special Olympics Games held in Chicago, Illinois.

1971

The second SOC Games and NHL Floor Hockey Tournament were held in Toronto.

1972

7 Canadian provinces held local, regional and provincial Special Olympics events.

1974

SOC was incorporated as a national, charitable volunteer organization.

The third SOC National Summer Games and NHL Floor Hockey Tournament were held in Winnipeg. One thousand Special Olympics athletes participate.

The first Ontario Invitational Floor Hockey Tournament was held at Maple Leaf Gardens.

1975

Canada was represented by 138 Special Olympics athletes at the fourth International Special Olympics Games held in Mount Pleasant, Michigan.

Saskatchewan Special Olympics was incorporated.

1976

Development of the Ontario Floor Hockey League began with Ontario Government support through a Wintario Grant.

1977

Over 500 athletes participated in the Ontario Floor Hockey League's first Provincial Tournament held in Etobicoke.

1978

Saskatchewan Special Olympics Society hosted the National Invitational Special Olympics Summer Games in Regina. 500 athletes, drawn from every province in Canada participate.

The 2nd annual Ontario Floor Hockey League Championships were held at Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens

SOC initiated its inaugural national fundraising campaign.

1979

140 athletes represented Canada at the fifth International Special Olympics Summer Games held in Brockport, New York. Over 3,000 athletes from 27 countries participated in these games.

Special Olympics chapters were incorporated in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Ontario.

270 athletes took part in the Nova Scotia Special Olympics Summer Games held in New Glasgow.

The first Ontario Special Olympics Summer Games were held in Etobicoke; 440 athletes participated.

1980

Chapters were incorporated in Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia.

New Brunswick Special Olympics organized Summer Games in Moncton for 500 athletes.

1981

The 5th SOC National Summer Games were held in Ottawa. 500 athletes and 136 coaches participated. Prior to the Games, the first NHL Floor Hockey Training Camp was held in Toronto.

Canada was represented by 39 athletes at the International Special Olympics Winter Games held in Stowe, Vermont.

Chapters were incorporated in Quebec and Yukon Territory.

1982

A Special Olympics Chapter was incorporated in Prince Edward Island.

1983

Canada was represented by the largest team, outside of the United States, at the International Special Olympics Summer Games held at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. SOC was represented by 135 athletes and 44 coaches among the 4,500 athletes from 51 participating countries.

First Sports Celebrities Breakfast held at Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

1984

SOC hosted the International NHL Floor Hockey Tournament as part of Toronto's Sesquicentennial celebrations. Over 400 intellectually disabled athletes participated. Teams from all NHL cities were in attendance.

Special Olympics Inc. awarded SOC Honourary Head Coach, Lanny McDonald, the International Special Olympics Award for Distinguished Service to intellectually disabled people.

1985

The SOC team of 33 athletes and 11 coaches was the second largest contingent at the International Special Olympics Winter Games in Park City, Utah, second only to the Special Olympics team from the host state of Utah.

1986

The 6th SOC National Summer Games were held in Calgary, Alberta. 800 athletes and 200 coaches participated.

Soccer becomes an official summer sport.

A SOC Chapter was incorporated in Newfoundland and Labrador.



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1987

International Special Olympics Summer Games were held in the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. 51 athletes and 12 coaches represented Canada.

Toronto's Varsity Arena was the site of an International Floor Hockey Tournament in June. The final leg of the first Ontario Law Enforcement Torch Run was a feature of the Tournament.

1988

First SOC National Winter Games held in Edmundston, New Brunswick in March 1988. Approximately 300 athletes and coaches attended.

1989

International Special Olympics Winter Games were held in Reno and Lake Tahoe; 70 athletes and coaches made up the Canadian Team, bringing home 20 gold, 13 silver and 11 bronze medals.

National Floor Hockey Championships were held in Edmonton, Alberta, marking the 20th Anniversary of SOC.

1990

The 7th National Summer Games were hosted by the city of Vancouver, BC. 1000 athletes and coaches representing all provinces and the Yukon attended this major event.

Softball becomes an official summer sport.

1991

Canada sent a team of 102 athletes and coaches to the International Summer Games held in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

1992

The second SOC National Winter Games were held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

National Floor Hockey Championships were held in Summerside, PEI, the first time a National Special Olympics event was hosted on the Island.

1993

SOC was represented by a team of 150 athletes and coaches at the World Winter Games held in Schladming and Salzburg, Austria. These Games were the first World Games held outside of the United States.

1994

25th Anniversary of SOC.

The 8th SOC National Summer Games held in Halifax, Nova Scotia. National Tenpin Bowling Championships were held in Calgary, Alberta.

1995

World Summer Games, New Haven, Connecticut. Team Canada was represented by 73 athletes and 23 coaches.

Special Olympics Northwest Territories is incorporated.

1996

The 3rd SOC National Winter Games, Calgary and Canmore, Alberta. 750 athletes and coaches participated, competing in the world-class facilities of the 1988 Olympic Games.

National 5-Pin Bowling Championships were held in St. John's/Mt. Pearl, NF.

1997

World Winter Games, Toronto and Collingwood, Ontario. Canada represented by 113 athletes and coaches. Canadian sport of snowshoeing included as a demonstration sport for the first time. Team Canada members introduced for the first time in House of Commons.

1998

The 8th SOC National Summer Games hosted by Sudbury, Ontario. Attended by 1,200 athletes and coaches from across Canada.

SOC Foundation is established with first Chairman, Bill L'Heureux.

1999

30th Anniversary of SOC; Special Olympics World Summer Games, Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina. Team Canada represented by 57 athletes, 13 coaches and 9 mission staff, participating in 8 sports.

2000

The 14th SOC National Winter Games held in Ottawa, Ontario, attended by 600 athletes. These were the second National Games held in Ottawa.

2001

Special Olympics World Winter Games held in Anchorage, Alaska. Team Canada represented by 72 athletes, 17 coaches and 9 mission staff.

Special Olympics athletes compete in Canada Games for first time in full medal events, and Opening & Closing Ceremonies with generic team mates.

SOC Offices move to new location – the first move since its foundation in 1969.

2002

The 10th SOC National Summer Games held in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, attended by 1200 athletes from across Canada.

For the first time, Special Olympics coaches were included in the Petro-Canada Coaching Excellence Awards.

2003

Special Olympics World Summer Games, Dublin, Ireland. Team Canada represented by 72 athletes, 17 coaches and 9 mission staff. For the first time, Team Canada participated in the Host Town program in Enniscorthy, Ireland.

2004

The 15th SOC National Winter Games, Charlottetown, PEI. 600 athletes and 175 coaches, and 59 missions staff participated from across Canada in 7 sports. There were several "firsts" during these Games: Curling was an official winter sport; Opening Ceremonies were broadcast live; first Games to be held during a declared state of emergency due to biggest snow storm in PEI history.

2005

World Winter Games were held in Nagano, Japan. Team Canada consisted of 72 athletes, 18 coaches and 9 mission staff. The Games were the first Special Olympics World Games ever held in Asia and only the fourth to be held outside the US.

2006

SOC National Summer Games will be held in Brandon, Manitoba.

2007

World Summer Games will be held in Shanghai, China

2008

SOC National Winter Games will be held in Quebec City, Quebec

2010

SOC National Summer Games will be held in London, Ontario



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