

**Report of the Hon. Jim Munson to the Standing Senate Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration on International Travel to Schladming and Graz, Austria, for the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games**

**Traveller(s):** The Hon. Jim Munson, Senator — Ontario (Ottawa / Rideau Canal)

**Dates:** March 16<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

**Location(s):** Schladming and Graz, Austria

**Objective:** Represent the Senate of Canada at the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games

**Background**

My thirteen years in the Senate have been defined by advocacy for Canadians with physical and intellectual disabilities. I am a strong proponent of the Special Olympics movement and the positive influence of physical activity on the lives of persons with an intellectual disability. I often speak about Special Olympics in the Senate and have worked with the organization at the provincial, federal and international levels.

Last fall, I was invited by Special Olympics Canada to accompany Team Canada to Austria for the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games. This became the fourth games I attended as a senator following the approval of my December 2016 request by the Standing Senate Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration to represent the Senate at the event. I had previously attended Special Olympics World Games in Nagano, Japan, in 2005; Shanghai, China, in 2007; and, Athens, Greece, in 2011.

As Chair of the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights, and as a former journalist, I place tremendous value on engaging directly with people to obtain greater insight into the challenges they face. This was an opportunity to do just that and my work in the Senate has benefited from the perspective gained during this trip.

**Report on Activities**

Some 3,000 Special Olympics athletes, representing 105 countries, gathered in Austria for the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games. Team Canada was comprised of 148 members from across the country and my primary role in Austria was to connect with our Canadian Special Olympics athletes. By travelling to Austria, I had the opportunity to attend various sporting events and participate in other activities associated with the games. These included engagements where I spoke, presented medals to athletes and met with coaches and volunteers.

It was also my goal to demonstrate the Senate's commitment to protecting minorities and raise awareness about our institution. To this end, I frequently highlighted the Senate's work and also discussed disability issues with officials from the Government of Canada, Special Olympics Canada and Special Olympics International.

Watching our athletes compete and succeed after years of preparation was as memorable as it was moving. I showcased their achievements using social media and attempted to share the incredible atmosphere and inspiration that defined the games with my followers.

Upon returning to Canada, I prepared an opinion piece for the SenCAPlus website and delivered a Statement in the Senate. I believe sharing this experience with my colleagues and Canadians was a key aspect of the endeavour.

A detailed itinerary is appended to this report.

## Budget Report

### Estimate

Ground Transportation		€ 200.00	\$75.00
Air Transportation (Economy)			\$3,500.00
Accommodation Daily Cost	€ 190.00		
Accommodation Sub-Total	€ 225.00 x 6 nights = € 1,350.00		
Daily Meals	€ 71.85		
Daily Incidentals	€ 28.74		
Daily Sub-Total*	€ 100.59 x 7 days = € 704.13		
Other (Registration Fees, etc.)*		€ 0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Estimated Cost</b>		<u>€ 2,254.13 (EUR)</u>	<u>\$3,575.00 (CAD)</u>
<b>Currency Conversion</b> (December 2, 2016)		x <u>\$1.41928</u>	≈ <u>\$3,199.25 (CAD)</u>
			<u>\$6,774.25</u>

### Actual

Ground Transportation	€ 10.00	\$31.81
Air Transportation (Economy)		\$1,407.94
Accommodation	= € 135.17	
Per Diem	= € 698.62	
Other (Registration Fees, etc.)*	€ 0.00	\$0.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u>€ 843.79 (EUR)</u>	<u>\$1,439.75 (CAD)</u>
<b>Currency Conversion</b> (Performed by Finance and Procurement Directorate)	<u>€ 843.79</u>	→ <u>\$1,201.97 (CAD)</u>
<b>Total Cost</b>		<u>\$2,641.72</u>

Note: The cost of ground transportation and six nights' hotel accommodation in Austria was covered by Special Olympics Canada. In compliance with the *Ethics and Conflict of Interest Code for Senators*, a *Statement of Senator's Sponsored Travel* has been filed with the Senate Ethics Officer.

### Conclusion

As noted above, the purpose of this trip was to represent the Senate of Canada at the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games. This was achieved through the visibility I maintained during the games, whether meeting athletes, presenting medals or speaking at events.

Advocating for minorities and protecting the rights of all Canadians, including those with an intellectual disability, is central to our work in Parliament. In sharing this experience with the Senate, I hope my journey will help focus our attention on issues affecting persons with an intellectual disability and ensure their interests are considered during our deliberations.

Schedule Details: 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Schladming and Graz, Austria

Event	Time	Additional Details
<b>Friday March 17 2017</b>		
<b>Arrival in Austria; Pick up Accreditation</b>	2:30 – 4 p.m.	SOC Staff member to review evening programming/next day with guest.
<b>Saturday March 18 2017</b>		
<b>Alpine Skiing, Schladming-Rohrmoos (Slope 32 and Slope Schwaiger)</b>	10 -11 a.m.	Alpine Skiing Divisioning
<b>Snowboarding, Schladming-Rohrmoos (Slope 32 and Slope Schwaiger)</b>		SOC Athletes: Alexia Barre, Christopher Innes, Michael Langridge, Erin Thom, Susan Wang, Michael Wimbs
<b>Meet Team Canada</b>	12- 1:30 p.m.	Remarks from SOC Staff, Minister of Sport, Board Chair, Ambassador and Special Olympics athlete
<b>Opening Ceremonies</b>	6:30 – 9 p.m.	
<b>Sunday March 19 2017</b>		
<b>Alpine Skiing Schladming-Rohrmoos (Slope 32 and Slope Schwaiger)</b>	10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Super G Finals for Intermediate & Advanced Slope 32:  SOC Athletes: Alexia Barre, Christopher Innes, Michael Langridge, Erin Thom, Susan Wang & Michael Wimbs
<b>Cross Country Skiing (WM Stadium)</b>	12:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	2.5k Divisioning  SOC Athletes: Jacqueline Gravel, Kristen Hudson, Dennis Lynch, Sarah McCarthy, Tracey Melesko, Michael Roy, Justin Sigal, Francis Stanley
<b>Snowshoeing (Jumping Stadion)</b>	12:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	100m Divisioning  SOC Athletes: Kevin Dooks, Brianna Harris, Nancy Leduc, Sandra Smith  100m Finals  SOC Athletes: Darren Boryskavich, Ronald Brandt, Julien Cardinal Moffet, Janet Charchuk, Matthew Cormier, Valerie Delorme, Justin Dodge
<b>Visit to Special Olympics Festival &amp; Olympic Town</b>	3 – 4:30 p.m.	
<b>Monday March 20 2017</b>		
<b>Cross Country, Ramsau (WM Stadium)</b>	10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	1K Divisioning
<b>Divisioning 1 km Free</b>		SOC Athletes:

<b>Finals 5km Classic &amp; Free</b>		Ernest Chua, Jacqueline Gravel, Allison Libertini, Dennis Lynch, Sarah McCarthy, Michael Roy  5K Final  SOC Athletes: Kristen Hudson, Tracey Melesko, Justin Sigal, Shane Stewart
<b>Snowshoeing, Ramsau (Jumping Stadion)</b>  <b>Warm Up &amp; Divisioning 5km</b>  <b>Warm Up &amp; Finals 800m</b>	12:30 - 2 p.m.	800m Final  SOC Athletes: Matthew Bedard, Kevin Dooks, Nancy Leduc, Dnaile Martin  5K Divisioning  SOC Athletes: Sebastien Hamel-Bourdeau, Renee Pelletier, Crystal Young
<b>Tuesday March 21 2017</b>		
<b>Speed Skating, Graz (Merkur IceHall)</b>  <b>Finals 777m</b>	10 – 11 :45 a.m.	777m Final  SOC Athletes: Evan James, Veronique Leblanc, Terry Livingston, Kathryn Saunders
<b>Floor Hockey, Graz (Convention Center)</b>  <b>Round Robin Games</b>	10 – 11 :45 a.m.	
<b>Floorball, Graz (Convention Center)</b>  <b>Round Robin Games</b>  <b>Unified Event</b>	10 – 11 :45 a.m.	
<b>Stick Shooting, Graz (Convention Center)</b>	10 – 11:45 a.m.	
<b>Figure Skating, Graz (Merkur Ice Hall)</b> <b>Free Program Singles</b>	1-3 :30 p.m.	Free Skate Singles  SOC Athletes: Adelina Bailey-Lopes, Emilie Baz, Alyssa Chapman, Jack Fan, Robert Fougere, Timothy Goodacre, Darlene Jakubowski, Rosie Laider, Benjamin Maeseele, Tijana McCarthy, Sara McKelvie, Alexander Pang, David Robertson, Kailinda Stewart, Michael Sumner, Marc Theriault, JorDen Tyson, Katie Xu

<b>Team Canada Reception for athletes and families stationed in Graz</b>	6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Remarks by SOC, Honorary Coach and Athlete.
<b>Wednesday March 22 2017</b>		
<b>Speed Skating, Graz (Merkur Ice Hall)</b>  <b>Finals 222m</b>  <b>Finals 1500m</b>	9 – 11:45 a.m.	222m Final  SOC Athletes: Sara Albers  1500m  Final SOC Athletes: Stephen Graham
<b>Floorball, Graz (Convention Center)</b>	9 – 11:45 p.m.	
<b>Floor Hockey, Graz (Convention Center)</b>	9 – 11:45 p.m.	
<b>Stick Shooting, Graz (Convention Center)</b>	9 – 11:45 p.m.	
<b>Figure Skating</b>	2 – 4 p.m.	
<b>Thursday March 23 2017</b>		
<b>Depart back home for Canada</b>		