

To Whom it may Concern,

Special Olympics British Columbia invites you to show leadership for inclusion and respect of people with intellectual disabilities, by participating in our upcoming Special Olympics Global Week of Inclusion.

Year-round Special Olympics BC sport programs in the Mission community create vital opportunities for your friends and neighbours with intellectual disabilities to enrich their lives through the power of sport.

Special Olympics athletes have historically experienced immense feelings of isolation and exclusion. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, those feelings have only escalated, making this year's Special Olympics Global Week of Inclusion especially important. We invite your City Council to come together with us to stand for inclusion and ensure that people with intellectual disabilities experience respect, friendship, and ongoing access to the Special Olympics programs where they belong and thrive.

During the Special Olympics Global Week of Inclusion, Special Olympics BC will highlight and celebrate Champions of Inclusion, those who step forward to show leadership for inclusion and respect of people with intellectual disabilities, who are still left behind and forgotten far too often in society. This year, we are asking for your council to make an official proclamation for the Special Olympics Global Week of Inclusion 2022, from July 18-24, 2022.

You can find more information about our organization [here](#). I look forward to working with you to celebrate our amazing athletes and help foster a more inclusive world for all. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any further questions or require any more information and I will be happy to help.

Kind regards,

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## **Special Olympics Global Week of Inclusion**

**WHEREAS** July 2022 marks the anniversary of the global Special Olympics movement, with the first International Special Olympics Games being held on July 20, 1968, at Soldier Field in Chicago; and

**WHEREAS** Special Olympics has become a global movement for change and social justice, using sports, health and education to empower more than 3 million athletes with intellectual disabilities and create inclusive communities around the world; and

**WHEREAS** Special Olympics sport programs operate year-round here in our community, providing vital opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities to show their skills, build their health and fitness, and create vital friendships; and

**WHEREAS** The pandemic has been extremely difficult for people with intellectual disabilities, who were already far too familiar with the pain of isolation, and today it is more important than ever to support them and the year-round Special Olympics sport programs where they belong and thrive; and

**WHEREAS** Special Olympics will celebrate their Global Week of Inclusion in July 2022, calling for people around the world to commit to making their communities more inclusive for people with intellectual disabilities;

**THEREFORE** I, as Mayor of the City of Mission, do hereby proclaim July 18-24, 2022, as

***Special Olympics Global Week of Inclusion***

In the City of Mission, Province of British Columbia