House of Commons
Chambre des communes
CANADA

House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance – Pre-budget Consultations 2013

This brief is submitted by:

(•) **an organization** **Organization name:** Special Olympics Canada

or

( ) **an individual** **Name:** _____

Topic: Disabled persons

*Recommendation 1: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

Special Olympics Canada asks the Federal Government to provide graduated, incremental funding, over a four-year period, to support the growth and on-going delivery of high-impact, cost-effective, community-based programs for athletes with an intellectual disability.
Request total funding of $10,730,000 in annual increments as follows:
2014-2015 - $1,680,000
2015-2016 - $2,800,000
2016-2017 - $3,000,000
2017-2018 - $3,250,000

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

$10 million-$99.9 million

4 years

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

Special Olympics Canada is currently funded by Sport Canada at an annual reference level of $1,800,000. Since 2010 Special Olympics Canada has also received an incremental $1,000,000, which sunsets in 2015. While the focus remains on sport, this funding request includes opportunities that impact areas such as health, diversity, volunteerism, and job creation, that reach beyond sport participation and are not typically funded by Sport Canada.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

Increased funding would benefit:
- 35,880 athletes with an intellectual disability currently registered in Special Olympics' 12 provincial/territorial chapters;
- Individuals with an intellectual disability not currently benefiting from involvement in sport;
- Families of individuals with an intellectual disability who gain a valuable support network;
- Volunteer coaches who contribute to a vibrant culture of civic engagement;
- Communities that benefit from transformed attitudes and a more inclusive society.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

- Increased # of individuals with an intellectual disability benefiting from sport - growth goal of 7% per year;
- Improved grassroots program and competition delivery through expanded community outreach and public education;
- Increased # of trained volunteers - growth goal of 6% per year;
- Increased research data that confirms Special Olympics' impact on athletes, families and communities;
- Creation of jobs in all 12 chapters to amplify and strengthen organizational capacity;
- Individuals with an intellectual disability as active, healthy, empowered and engaged citizens.

Topic: Please select from the pull-down menu

Recommendation 2: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

Please select from the drop down menu

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Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

Topic: Please select from the pull-down menu

Recommendation 3: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

Please select from the drop down menu

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Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

Please use this page if you wish to provide more explanation about your recommendation(s).

In order for Special Olympics Canada to grow and expand its reach, additional funds are required to:

I. Athlete Growth
- Reach more athletes in all twelve provincial / territorial chapters.
- Reach more young athletes and their families.
- Assess current demographics and develop a diversity strategy that identifies and reduces barriers to participation by diverse cultural groups.
- Conduct community outreach, cover grassroots program costs and provide quality competitions.
- Support the planning and execution of larger national games.
- Implement Special Olympics Healthy Athletes Programs in communities across Canada – helping to improve health and reduce chronic health conditions for people with intellectual disabilities.

II. Volunteer Growth
- Recruit more volunteer coaches and ensure quality volunteer training.

III. Sustainable Capabilities
- Undertake research that can provide quantitative and qualitative facts and figures that confirm Special Olympics' impact on athletes, their families and communities.
- Implement a public education initiative that increases awareness which ultimately leads to achieving athlete, volunteer and revenue growth targets.
- Amplify and strengthen organizational capacity. Improvements in technological capabilities and increased manpower are imperative to Special Olympics Canada being able to provide more opportunities to more people with intellectual disabilities.

Our Aspirations:
• Reaching a far greater portion of Canadians with an intellectual disability;
• Programs extended to specific target markets: youth, diverse cultures;
• More trained volunteer coaches to support "best in class" programs and increased numbers of athletes;
• More sport programs and competitions that promote and encourage an active and healthy lifestyle;
• Financial growth and stability across all 12 provincial/territorial chapters;
• A brand well known and understood by all Canadians; and
• Being widely regarded as a strong leader in delivering sport opportunities that contribute to social change.

The impact and benefits of sport are multi-dimensional. Special Olympics develops healthier athletes with life-long physical fitness habits and instills confidence, self-esteem and other life skills. These attributes extend far beyond the field of play and establish lasting positive impacts for the individual, their families and their communities. Special Olympics contributes to social change by transforming attitudes and creating a more inclusive society that fights negative stereotypes and misperceptions. Special Olympics builds communities by bringing people together and promoting volunteerism and civic engagement. In order for these benefits to be sustained and extended, additional support is required to ensure both the quality and the growth of sport programs that contribute to personal development and result in building stronger, more inclusive Canadian communities.

*Please note that at least one recommendation must be provided