



# Special Olympics Canada & Concussion Education

SIRC Symposium

January 20, 2022

# Who we are

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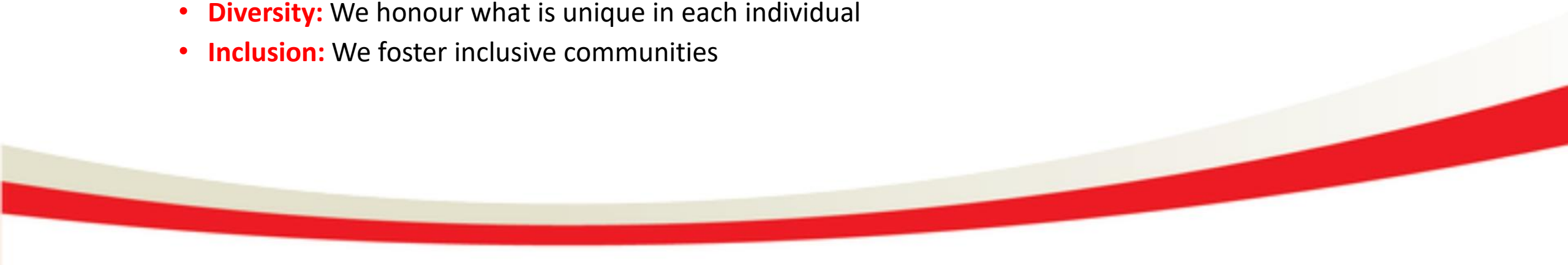
## Our Mission

- Special Olympics Canada is dedicated to enriching the lives of Canadians 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 inclusive communities all across Canada.

## Our Values

- **Empowerment:** We create opportunities to pursue full potential
  - **Excellence:** We elevate standards and performance
  - **Respect:** We operate in an environment of cooperation, collaboration and dignity
  - **Diversity:** We honour what is unique in each individual
  - **Inclusion:** We foster inclusive communities
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# Special Olympics in Canada



# Our numbers (based on August 2019, pre-pandemic)



**93,000+**

*(49,392 individuals)*

athlete participations;  
most athletes  
participate in  
2+ sports  
(ages 2-70+)



**22,876**

volunteers,  
including more than  
14,000 trained  
coaches



**6,133**

sport programs  
running daily.  
18 summer and  
winter sports offered  
year-round



**343**

communities  
across Canada

# HOW IT STARTED


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- Need to have protocols in place for our National Games in early 2020
  - Worked in collaboration with Parachute to develop concussion protocols and a recognition tool specifically for the Games
  - Held information session with our 12 Chefs de Mission pre-Games
  - Reviewed protocols at head coaches meeting prior to start of the Games
  - Held separate training for Games medical team
  - Piloted the use of an online tool called PRIVIT



# PAN-CANADIAN APPROACH

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- Following the Games, enlisted the help of Parachute to develop a Pan-Canadian policy, protocols and recognition tool that SOC and our 12 Chapters would follow
  - Adapted the existing Parachute tools
    - Customized them to work for a multi-sport organization
    - Tweaked the language to ensure our stakeholders would be able to understand
    - Addressed verbal and non-verbal athletes when identifying signs of a concussion
    - Changed the memory questions to better suit our athletes
      - What venue are we at today vs. Where are we now
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# ATHLETE EDUCATION


- Our athletes are both high and low functioning and they all learn and comprehend in different ways
- Enlisted the help of our Canadian Athlete Leadership Council (CALC) to develop athlete guidelines specific to Special Olympics athletes
  - Initial guidelines were drafted by SOC and Parachute
  - CALC reviewed and provided feedback on readability and comprehension of the written document
  - Educational video was developed to accompany guidelines



# NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM

- Now using Privit as the registration portal for our National Team (we have an EN & FR version)
- Allows us to capture personal information and have our team members sign various forms
- Specific concussion protocols for our National Team will be incorporated into our Emergency Action Plan

Kendra Isaak Information

<b>JOINED TEAMS</b> You have not yet joined any teams of Special Olympics Canada.	UPDATE
<b>COMPLETE PERSONAL DETAILS</b> 100% 	UPDATE
<b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	COMPLETE
<b>SOI COVID 19 STAFF FORM</b>	COMPLETE
<b>COACH REGISTRATION FORM</b>	COMPLETE

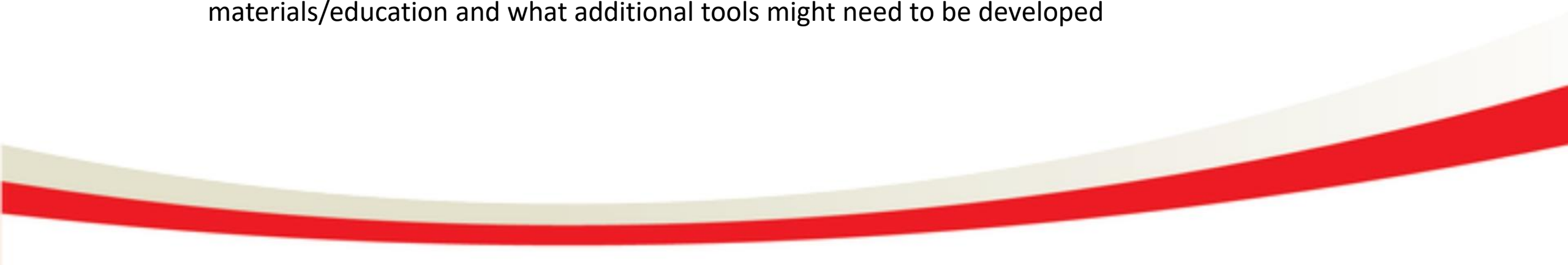
  

<b>COACH RELEASE FORM</b> ✓ Signed By Athlete	COMPLETE
<b>DECLARATION FORM</b> INCOMPLETE	START
<b>MISSION STAFF AGREEMENT</b> ✓ Signed By Athlete	COMPLETE
<b>CONCUSSION RECOGNITION TOOL</b> ✓ Signed By Athlete	COMPLETE
<b>CONCUSSION PROTOCOL</b> ✓ Signed By Athlete	COMPLETE
<b>UPLOAD DOCUMENTS</b> ✗ Passport ✗ Headshot ✗ Last page of the Medical Form with Doctor's Signature	UPLOAD



# WHAT'S NEXT?

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- Currently working with Parachute and the CAC to develop an SO specific Making Headway course
    - Our Chapters told us that coach education was the next priority for us to tackle
  - In collaboration with Dr. Nick Reid, from the University of Toronto, developed an evaluation plan that was rolled out last week
    - Surveys deployed to coaches as well as parents/caregivers across the country
    - Gathering feedback on their knowledge and attitudes towards concussions as well as the tools we've created
    - Surveys will be open for 6 weeks
    - Feedback from the surveys will inform what updates/changes we may need to make to our current materials/education and what additional tools might need to be developed
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# WHERE YOU CAN FIND OUR RESOURCES

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- Our Pan-Canadian policy, protocol and recognition tool as well as our athlete guidelines and educational video are posted to the Safe Sport page on our website
    - [Canadian Safe Sport Helpline | Special Olympics Canada](#)
  - For information specific to our National Games and National Team Program, including the online tool we use, you can contact me directly at [kisaak@specialolympics.ca](mailto:kisaak@specialolympics.ca)
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