



## ***Rewarding Volunteer Opportunities***

**What:** Delivering free health screenings for people with intellectual disabilities

**Where:** James Park Elementary School - Port Coquitlam, B.C.

**When:** Saturday June 1st, 2024 | **Time:** 11a.m. to 5p.m.

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Through our year-round sport, youth, and health programming, Special Olympics BC empowers people with intellectual disabilities and builds inclusion. Through our work, we have learned there are [critical health challenges](#) faced by people with intellectual disabilities throughout our province. We have been working with health care professionals and other essential partners to understand the issues and change the game. The need is urgent.

Our province's citizens with intellectual disabilities are dying up to 20 years earlier than the general public. They experience two to three times more preventable hospitalizations, and suffer from dramatically higher rates of obesity, mental illness, over-medication, and poor oral health. This is not because a person with an intellectual disability is inherently less healthy – but because of structural, social, and communication factors that stop them from getting the same level of health care as everyone else. They're dying earlier because of things we can change.

The Special Olympics **Healthy Athletes** program addresses the unique issues that many people with intellectual disabilities face when accessing health care and communicating their needs. Through Healthy Athletes, Special Olympics trains volunteer health practitioners to deliver free health screenings and education to people with intellectual disabilities. Healthy Athletes screenings lead to referrals back into the health care system, to ensure the individuals get the treatment they need.

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, SOBC will offer Healthy Athletes screenings in **Health Promotion** and audiology (**Healthy Hearing**). Volunteer health professionals and students are needed in all of these areas, as well as general volunteers. This fun and rewarding experience requires no prior knowledge – just the desire to make a difference.

***To get involved, please contact Bailey at 604.737.3081 / [health@specialolympics.bc.ca](mailto:health@specialolympics.bc.ca)***

***If you are unable to be involved yourself, please pass along our message to your colleagues.***

***Thank you!***