

# APPLICATION FORM 2025 Grant in Aid

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT:  
**Linda Robinson**  
EMAIL: [lrobinson@merritt.ca](mailto:lrobinson@merritt.ca)  
TEL: 250-378-4224, ext 205

**MANDATORY:**    **REVIEW "POLICY 4-01 COMMUNITY GRANT IN AID" DOCUMENT**  
**REVIEW "APPLICATION CHECKLIST" ON PAGE 4 OF THIS DOCUMENT**

## Applicant Information

Application Date (mm/dd/yyyy):

Full Legal Organization Name

Street Address

City

Prov

Postal Code

Organization Website

Organization President /  
Executive Director

Title

Phone Number

E-Mail

Contact Person (if different)

Title

Phone Number

E-Mail

## Organization Information

Not for profit?     Yes     No

Registration Number

Did you receive a Permissive Tax Exemption in 2025     Yes     No

Did you receive a Grant in Aid in last two years?  
(Include \$ amount of financial and/or in-kind received)    2024     2023

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# Organization Information

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## Current Fundraising Initiatives (500 characters or less)

As Special Olympics British Columbia (SOBC) Merritt begins its efforts to restart and re-establish the program in our community, we are focused on rebuilding and growing our foundation of support. Currently, we rely on the generous contributions of local businesses to provide essential resources, such as venues for fundraising events, prizes for silent auctions, financial contributions from bottle collection initiatives, and residual funds from the previous SOBC team.

To continue our revitalization and expand our impact, we have planned several upcoming fundraising activities that will support the ongoing operations of SOBC Merritt. These initiatives include:

A cookie sale in collaboration with Tim Hortons

## Mission Statement/Purpose (500 characters or less)

### Mission Statement

Special Olympics British Columbia (SOBC) Merritt is committed to enriching the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities through sport. By fostering inclusive and supportive environments, SOBC Merritt creates opportunities for individuals to reach their full potential, empowering them to achieve excellence both on and off the field.

### Purpose

The purpose of SOBC Merritt is to provide individuals with intellectual disabilities in our community the opportunity to participate in sports that promote physical fitness, self-confidence, and social inclusion.

## Brief Description of Organization (1,000 characters or less)

Special Olympics British Columbia (SOBC) Merritt is part of the larger Special Olympics BC organization, which has a rich history of empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities through sports. The Special Olympics movement began in the 1960s when Dr. Frank Hayden, a researcher in Toronto, challenged the assumption that individuals with intellectual disabilities were incapable of achieving physical fitness. His groundbreaking research demonstrated that, given the opportunity, people with intellectual disabilities could develop the skills necessary to participate in sports and improve their physical fitness. This insight led to the creation of the Special Olympics movement, with the first international competition held in Chicago in 1968 and the first Canadian event in Toronto in 1969.

In 1980, Special Olympics BC was established, initially serving 500 athletes. Today, SOBC provides year-round sports programs for over 4,800 athletes across 55 communities in British Columbia. With the support of more than 3,900 trained volunteers, SOBC offers high-quality programs in up to 18 sports, empowering athletes to develop sport skills, improve their health, and compete at local, regional, national, and international levels. SOBC's impact extends beyond athletic achievement—athletes gain confidence, form lasting friendships, and experience joy and acceptance, leading to personal growth and a sense of empowerment.

SOBC Merritt, as part of this larger network, is dedicated to re-establishing and expanding the Special Olympics program in our community. By offering inclusive sports opportunities, SOBC Merritt aims to foster a culture of acceptance, inclusion, and respect for individuals with intellectual disabilities, contributing to a more connected and supportive community. Through community engagement and fundraising efforts, SOBC Merritt is working to ensure sustainable growth and continued success in providing life-enriching opportunities for local athletes. SOBC Merritt is run by a group of dedicated and caring volunteers who do the behind the scenes work to get local programs running in the community. Special Olympics Merritt is in the process of re-establishing its team after a hiatus since 2019. Currently, we have 10 athletes, ranging in age from 23 to 55, who are actively participating in the bowling season and will transition to bocce ball in the spring. Our dedicated team of eight volunteers is committed to fostering an inclusive environment where participants can build physical skills, gain

Please don't hesitate to **attach supporting documents** with further information about your organization.

# Proposal Request

Program / Project / Event Name

Special Olympics Merritt

Description of Event (1,000 characters or less)

To ensure the continued success and growth of SOBC Merritt, we are seeking financial support to meet the following needs:

**Uniforms for Volunteers and Athletes:** We aim to provide uniforms for both our volunteers and athletes, which will promote team unity and ensure all participants feel included and valued.

**Sports Facilities and Event Expenses:** We require funding to cover the costs associated with booking sports facilities for training, hosting events, and participating in regional tournaments. These costs are vital for keeping our program running smoothly and offering athletes opportunities for growth.

**Travel and Tournaments:** As we strive to expand the reach of our athletes, we aim to cover travel expenses for participation in regional tournaments, allowing them to compete, gain experience, and develop skills at a broader level.

**Wrap-Up Dinner and Awards Ceremony:** At the end of the season, we plan to host an awards ceremony and dinner to celebrate the athletes' achievements, recognize the efforts of volunteers, and foster a sense of community and accomplishment.

Looking ahead, we aim to expand the program by recruiting additional volunteers to help

Please don't hesitate to **attach supporting documents** with details about your program, project or event.

**Type of Funding Request**

Financial Aid

In-Kind

Contact Facility Booking Department at (250) 315-1050 for a quote for your event

Amount Requested

1500

Maximum of \$7,500 per organization or \$500 per teams/individuals participating in recognized competitions

Program Budget

3620

Percent of your Program Budget covered by this request  %

(i.e. a \$1,000 grant would cover 10% of a \$10,000 event)

Tell us how much money you have fundraised for this event. \$

Please explain how your Organization or Event plans to increase external fundraising in the future. (500 characters or less)

A cookie sale in collaboration with Tim Hortons

A St. Patrick's Day-themed beverage promotion at Valley Graze Box

A steak dinner event at the Grand Bar & Grill

A film and pizza night at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT)

Hotdog sales in partnership with Save-On-Foods

## Declaration (Two Authorized Signatures Required)

- 1) On behalf of and with authority of the Organization, I certify that the information given on this grant application and attachments is true, correct and complete in every respect and if the Organization is awarded the grant, agrees to abide by the established grant terms and conditions.
- 2) The personal information collected on this form is done so pursuant to the *Community Charter* and/or the *Local Government Act* and in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The personal information collected herein will be used only for the purpose of processing this application or request and for no other purpose unless its release is authorized by its owner, the information is part of a record series commonly available to the public, or is compelled by a Court agent duly authorized under another Act.
- 3) Neither the City of Merritt or any Member of Council, individually or collectively, is in any way responsible for any deficits or cost over-runs in relation to any event or initiative.

Print Name of Board Chair or  
President

Val Whomes

Signature

Print Name of Person  
completing the application

Amber Moonen

Signature

Date Signed (mm/dd/yyyy)

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### APPLICATION CHECKLIST - ALL REQUESTS

- 2025 Grant Report** - If you received a Grant in Aid in 2024 you will be required to submit a final report to Council in order to be considered for 2025 funding. This may include actual revenues/expenses, attendance, and economic/social impact of the grant.
- Completed and signed Grant in Aid application.**

### APPLICATION CHECKLIST - REQUESTS OVER \$1,500

- Budget** - Include a detailed budget for the program, project or event, including all potential revenue sources.
- Financial Statements** - include annual financial statements that are certified (signed) by a Director (or alternate) of the organization.
- Organization Budget** - Include the current annual operating budget for the organization.
- Long-Term Plan** - For recurring applications, please provide a business plan showing how the organization intends to become more self-sufficient and less reliant on the City Grant in Aid program in the future.

SUBMIT TO: FINANCE@MERRITT.CA

**Declaration (Two Authorized Signatures Required)**

- 1) On behalf of and with authority of the Organization, I certify that the information given on this grant application and attachments is true, correct and complete in every respect and if the Organization is awarded the grant, agrees to abide by the established grant terms and conditions.
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- 3) Neither the City of Merritt or any Member of Council, individually or collectively, is in any way responsible for any deficits or cost over-runs in relation to any event or initiative.

Print Name of Board Chair or President	<input type="text" value="Val Whomes"/>
Signature	<input type="text" value="Valerie Whomes"/>
Print Name of Person completing the application	<input type="text" value="Amber Moonen"/>
Signature	<input type="text" value="Amber Moonen"/>
Date Signed (mm/dd/yyyy)	<input type="text" value="12/09/2024"/>

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## **2025 Grant in aid Proposal Special Olympics BC - Merritt**

### **Current fundraising**

As Special Olympics British Columbia (SOBC) - Merritt begins its efforts to restart and re-establish the program in our community, we are focused on rebuilding and growing our foundation of support. Currently, we rely on the generous contributions of local businesses to provide essential resources, such as venues for fundraising events, prizes for silent auctions, financial contributions from bottle collection initiatives, and residual funds from the previous SOBC - Merritt team.

To continue our revitalization and expand our impact, we have planned several upcoming fundraising activities that will support the ongoing operations of SOBC - Merritt. These initiatives include:

- A cookie sale in collaboration with Tim Hortons
- A St. Patrick's Day-themed beverage promotion at Valley Graze Box
- A steak dinner event at the Grand Bar & Grill
- A film and pizza night at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT)
- Hotdog sales in partnership with Save-On-Foods

These events not only serve to raise crucial funds but also engage the community, raising awareness and fostering long-term support for the Special Olympics movement in Merritt.

### **Mission Statement / Purpose**

#### **Mission Statement**

Special Olympics British Columbia (SOBC) - Merritt is committed to enriching the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities through sport. By fostering inclusive and supportive environments, SOBC - Merritt creates opportunities for individuals to reach their full potential, empowering them to achieve excellence both on and off the field.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of SOBC - Merritt is to provide individuals with intellectual disabilities in our community the opportunity to participate in sports that promote physical fitness, self-confidence, and social inclusion. As we restart and rebuild the Special Olympics programs in Merritt, we aim to create a strong, sustainable foundation through community engagement and support. By hosting a variety of fundraising events, we will ensure the continued success of the programs and work to further SOBC's vision of creating inclusive communities across British Columbia, where all individuals are respected, valued, and celebrated.

### **Brief description of Organization**

Special Olympics British Columbia (SOBC) - Merritt is part of the larger Special Olympics BC organization, which has a rich history of empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities through sports. The Special Olympics movement began in the 1960s when Dr. Frank Hayden, a researcher in Toronto, challenged the assumption that individuals with intellectual disabilities were incapable of achieving physical fitness. His groundbreaking research demonstrated that, given the opportunity, people with intellectual disabilities could develop the skills necessary to participate in sports and improve their

physical fitness. This insight led to the creation of the Special Olympics movement, with the first international competition held in Chicago in 1968 and the first Canadian event in Toronto in 1969.

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SOBC - Merritt, as part of this larger network, is dedicated to re-establishing and expanding the Special Olympics programs in our community. By offering inclusive sports opportunities, SOBC - Merritt aims to foster a culture of acceptance, inclusion, and respect for individuals with intellectual disabilities, contributing to a more connected and supportive community. Through community engagement and fundraising efforts, SOBC - Merritt is working to ensure sustainable growth and continued success in providing life-enriching opportunities for local athletes.

SOBC - Merritt is run by a group of dedicated and caring volunteers who do the behind the scenes work to get local programs running in the community. While under the umbrella of Special Olympics BC, they have a Local Coordinator who is the lead for the committee and initiatives within the community.

Special Olympics BC - Merritt is in the process of re-establishing its team after a hiatus since 2019. Currently, we have 10 athletes, ranging in age from 23 to 55, who are actively participating in the bowling season and will transition to bocce ball in the spring. Our dedicated team of eight volunteers is committed to fostering an inclusive environment where participants can build physical skills, gain confidence, and enjoy meaningful social interactions

### **What we re asking for funds for**

To ensure the continued success and growth of SOBC - Merritt, we are seeking financial support to meet the following needs:

- **Uniforms for Volunteers and Athletes:** We aim to provide uniforms for both our volunteers and athletes, which will promote team unity and ensure all participants feel included and valued.
- **Sports Facilities and Event Expenses:** We require funding to cover the costs associated with booking sports facilities for training, hosting events, and participating in regional tournaments. These costs are vital for keeping our program running smoothly and offering athletes opportunities for growth.
- **Travel and Tournaments:** As we strive to expand the reach of our athletes, we aim to cover travel expenses for participation in regional tournaments, allowing them to compete, gain experience, and develop skills at a broader level.
- **Wrap-Up Dinner and Awards Ceremony:** At the end of the season, we plan to host an awards ceremony and dinner to celebrate the athletes' achievements, recognize the efforts of volunteers, and foster a sense of community and accomplishment.

Looking ahead, we aim to expand the programs by recruiting additional volunteers to help establish a Junior SOBC league for athletes aged 8 to 18. We also aspire to provide opportunities for our athletes to

participate in Provincial tournaments, further enhancing their skills and fostering a deeper sense of achievement.

Our dedicated volunteers are essential to the success of the program. They provide individualized support, create a positive and inclusive environment, and foster social connections among participants. For many athletes, SOBC - Merritt is a rare opportunity for social interaction and community engagement, offering a space where they can form friendships, develop self-confidence, and experience a sense of belonging.

Financial Request for 2025 Season:

The approximate costs for the 2025 season are as follows:

Bowling fees: \$1,120 (\$70 per week x 16 weeks)

Shirts for athletes (10) and volunteers (8) and 2 spares: \$1,000

Travel and regional tournaments: \$250

Wrap-up dinner and awards ceremony: \$1,000

Total Requested Funds: \$3,370

We respectfully request financial support to help us achieve these goals and continue to provide an inclusive and empowering environment for our athletes. Your contribution will directly impact the lives of individuals in Merritt, offering them opportunities for personal growth, social inclusion, and meaningful community involvement.