



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 23, 2006

Special Olympics Awareness Week -

Across the Atlantic Provinces, **October 23-29th** is being celebrated as **Special Olympics Awareness Week.**

Did you know..... it's more than the games?

Each week in every community across the island, Special Olympics PEI is working to ensure that individuals with intellectual disabilities have access to sport.

Community sport programs give persons with an intellectual disability the opportunity to participate in various sports no matter what their athletic experience or ability. Any person with an intellectual disability has the chance to play a sport in a recreational environment. Community sport programs are offered in each region across PEI. They run once a week for one hour.

Within community sport programs, Special Olympics PEI has the opportunity to introduce new sports into the program that are not official SOPEI sports.

Community sports programs are available in adult, youth and special friends programs.

These programs introduce individuals to a variety of Special Olympics PEI sports. Each of the nine official sports will be offered for 5 to 8 weeks in the setting in which the sport is played. From these programs, individuals will have the opportunity to advance to the Competitive Sport programs. These programs run once a week for 1.5 hours. Individuals from these programs are not eligible for Provincial Team selection. Individuals from 13 to 113 years of age are welcome to participate.

Community Sport Programs gives Special Olympics PEI athletes the chance to interact with peers and reap all of the social and physical benefits of sport that will enrich their lives.

Special Olympics PEI is a charitable organization dedicated to enriching the lives of Prince Edward Islanders with an intellectual disability through sport. Athletes can participate in either community or competitive sport streams and have the opportunity to train year-round and compete at games held provincially, nationally and internationally.

For more information regarding our organization please contact Special Olympics PEI Executive Director, James McClean at 368-8919 or via e-mail at james@sopei.com