



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### SPECIAL OLYMPICS MANITOBA AND MHSAA PARTNER FOR THE 2019 MILK PROVINCIAL TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Winnipeg, Manitoba** – Special Olympics Manitoba (SOM) is pleased to announce that there will be five inclusive Special Olympics events at this year's Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association (MHSAA) 2019 Milk Provincial Track & Field Championships; two of these events are new to the championships. The event runs **from June 6<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> at the University of Manitoba.**

For the first time ever, there will be a Unified 4x100m relay. *Unified Sport* brings together people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. While the idea is about thirty years old, SOM introduced *Unified Sport* about four years ago. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding. Having sport in common is just one more way that preconceptions and false ideas are swept away.

We are also excited to have our athletes compete in 4 para-intellectual events at this competition. The five events are as follows:

- **Unified 4x100m relay \*new**
- **400m Para-Intellectual Male & Female \*new**
- **200m Para-Intellectual Male & Female**
- **100m Para-Intellectual Male & Female**
- **Shot Put Para-Intellectual**

Darren Hemeryck, Director of Sport for Special Olympics Manitoba remarked, "Thank you, MHSAA, for helping to break down barriers for athletes with an intellectual disability and helping them to reach their full potential. The inclusion of these events at a Provincial level competition are a step towards inclusive communities for our athletes."

**Special Olympics Manitoba** uses the transformative power and joy of sport to reveal the full potential of athletes with an intellectual disability and create inclusive communities. As the provincial sport governing body responsible for the delivery of sport for people with an intellectual disability we serve over 1800 Manitobans, from seven regions across the province offering opportunities in 18 different sports. For more information please visit our website [www.specialolympics.mb.ca](http://www.specialolympics.mb.ca) or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (@SpecoManitoba).

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