

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 27, 2026

Bailed out: NPD Jail'n'Bail raises over \$10,000 for local Special Olympics athletes

Nelson, BC—All twelve business owners and community leaders posted bail yesterday, raising over \$10,000 for local athletes participating in BC Special Olympics events.

The inaugural Jail'n'Bail, organized by the Nelson Police Department and the BC Special Olympics Nelson Chapter, collected a dozen community figures on Thursday and 'booked' them at the Nelson Squash Club while they worked their contacts to raise bail money. By 5 pm, the total was over \$10,000; donations are still being received.

The Nelson Police Department would like to extend sincere thanks to our 'arrested' volunteers:

- Rebeckah Hournung (Baldface Lodge)
- Trent Alcock (Bridge FM)
- Arthur Andrews (The Sports Lab)
- Dean Centrone (City of Nelson)
- Slava Doval (Slava's Dance Fusion)
- Mike Garbula (Thor's Pizza)
- Wayne Germaine (Valhalla Path Realty)
- Lua Gurun (Nelson Safeway)
- Ryan Martin (Hume Hotel / Martin Hotel Group)
- Jesse Pineiro (Nelson Boxing & Athletics Club)
- Cory Scanlon (Western Auto Wreckers)
- Matt Walker (Nelson Brewing Co.)

"We knew this would be a really great group of people to spend an afternoon with," says Nelson Police Constable Lisa Schmidtke, "but we are absolutely blown away by how much the community came out to support the event and our incredible local athletes."

Beyond the laughter and fundraising, the event also led to an unexpected bonus: The Sports Lab has offered free training for all of Nelson's Special Olympics athletes.

Special thanks to the Nelson Squash Club for hosting, to Thor's Pizza for providing the afternoon snacks, BC Special Olympics and to Mr. Pineiro and Ms. Doval, who got time off for good behaviour thanks to their costumes and dance moves.

The money raised is contributed to the 'Cold in the Koots' team, who will be taking the Polar Plunge® on Sunday, March 8. The team has surpassed their original goal of \$3,000 by 375 per cent as of Friday, February 27.

Visit <https://plunge4specialolympics.crowdchange.ca/128000> to donate online, and come down to Lakeside Park on Sunday, March 8 to cheer them on.