

For immediate release

Essilor Canada supports the Special Olympics Opening Eyes clinics for the 15th year

For Essilor Canada, 2018 marks its fifteenth year of participation in the Opening Eyes clinics of the Special Olympics, a public health program for athletes with intellectual disabilities. Participants are offered visual tests conducted by eyecare professionals and given corrective lenses when they need them.

This year, six Opening Eyes clinics were held across Canada, where 711 athletes participated in visual screenings and 406 of them, or 57%, received a pair of prescription eyeglasses.

In addition, inspired by their mission of Improving lives by improving sight, Essilor employees volunteer in the vision clinic at each event and an edging-mounting facility is set up to allow on-site delivery of the more standard prescriptions. More complex work is sent to the Essilor laboratory.

The Special Olympics' athletes are among the millions of Canadians who have unmet visual needs that impact their lives, their ability to learn and to perform, whereas a simple pair of eyeglasses could allow them to realize their full potential. This is the change that Essilor Canada wishes to bring to Special Olympics athletes, as studies show that 68% of them have not had their vision checked in the last three years, 37 % need eyeglasses and 18 % wear glasses with a prescription that is not right.

Samantha Stom-Anthony, Special Olympics Coach appreciates Essilor Canada's efforts to provide the athletes with better access to eyecare and good vision:

"Thank you so much for all of the hard work that you and your team did for all of the athletes at the 2018 Summer Games. You provide such a vital service for these athletes. Let's face it, when money is tight (as it is with most special Olympians) teeth and eyes tend to be put on the back burner. Literally, you give them a new "outlook" on life."

It is a constantly renewed pleasure for everyone at Essilor Canada to be in contact with these athletes who show unparalleled enthusiasm and determination. Congratulations to all for their performances!



About Essilor Canada

Because Canadians have visual needs that impact their lives, and because we care about their vision, Essilor Canada's mission is to *Improve Lives by improving sight*. It translates into everything we do: our products, services, technologies, trainings, philanthropic initiatives, as well as in our involvement in health, environment and safety.

We are committed to be the partner of choice for eyecare professionals by delivering innovative visual solutions and market insights that will empower them to succeed, and create value for consumers, so that together we can help them see better, every day.

Present in Canada since 1972, Essilor is proud to contribute to the growth of our country's economy with over 1000 employees, 3 digital surfacing laboratories and 40 regional and partner laboratories. Essilor Canada is a subsidiary of Essilor International, the world leader in ophthalmic optical products that invests heavily in research and development to create new products always better adapted to the needs of wearers. Essilor creates, manufactures and personalizes a wide range of corrective lenses and coating that are distributed through eyecare professionals and help prevent visual health issues, correct and protect vision. Canadians can entrust their vision to Essilor brands such as Varilux®, Eyezen™, Crizal®, Xperio® and Transitions®.

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