

# City of London - City of London Diversity, Race Relations and Inclusivity Award - Nomination Form

## Section 1 - Information of Youth/Group/Organization Being Nominated

Name of Youth, Group or Organization you are nominating: **London Track 3 Adaptive Snow School**

Address of Nominee (please include City, as well as postal code): **P.O. Box 36040 Talbot Village P.O., 3090 Colonel Talbot Road, London, ON N6P 080**

Nominee Phone #: **226-289-2943**

Nominee E-mail address: [info@londontrack3.ca](mailto:info@londontrack3.ca)

Category (check one): **Social/Community Services (50 or more)**

## Section 2 - Initiative Information

What is the initiative this group/organization implemented?: **London Track 3 Adaptive Snow School is a volunteer-run, not for profit organization dedicated to providing inclusive instruction for students with diverse physical and cognitive challenges to allow them to learn how to ski or snowboard. This program offers opportunities to experience winter activities that would not be possible without the support of London Track 3. Students have the ability to interact with dedicated volunteer instructors and fellow students in a nonjudgmental setting.**

When did this initiative take place? (eg. Spring 2023): **Winter 2023. However, we have been teaching students annually during winter months since 1987. Enrollment for the 2024 winter season starts October 15, 2023. Our program is so popular that enrollment reaches capacity two months before Boler Mountain opens for the winter season.**

Do you know which key department(s) or committees were involved? If yes, please name: **The Board of Directors and the Training Committee are integral to making London Track 3 the successful program that it has become.**

Key people involved: **Board of Directors: Dan Elliot - President; Erin Bainbridge – Secretary; Tyler Robson – Treasurer; Axie Kauser-Kawaguch – Director Instructor Registration; Marc Mitchell – Director Student Registration; Shannon Foster – Director of Programs; Don Campbell – Director Training; Jamie Spencer – Director Risk Management**

Brief description of initiative: For over 35 years, London Track 3 has been delivering on our mission to provide safe and enjoyable skiing or snowboarding instruction for students and adults with a variety of physical (hearing, vision, mobility, developmental) and/or cognitive challenges. Our volunteers use specialized teaching methods and adaptive equipment to allow students to learn how to ski or snowboard in a safe and supportive environment. Track 3 runs an annual seven-week adaptive snow school from the second week of January to the end of February. Each weeknight and on mornings and afternoons on the weekend (for a total of 8 program sessions per week) students take to the hills at Boler Mountain (<https://www.bolermountain.com>) for 3 hours of skiing or snowboarding. Each student is typically paired with two instructors to ensure safety and provide a high level of attention and care needed so the student has a great gliding and learning experience. Continued

How has the initiative contributed to the promotion of diversity, race relations, inclusivity and human rights in London and promoting London as a welcoming city?: **Continuation of Brief Description of Initiative: While students with complex needs will remain under the support of London Track 3, the goal is for each student to become an independent skier/snowboarder so that they ultimately graduate from Track 3. Former students have returned to give back to Track 3 as volunteer instructors or coordinators. We have approximately 115 students in our program and 220 volunteers. We value and appreciate our volunteers' unique traits and skills as they provide instruction with dignity, respect and compassion. Many of our volunteers in the Track 3 Program are students at Western University and Fanshawe College who are participating in academic courses specializing in disability studies or health care (medicine, nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy to name a few). Their experiences at London Track 3 helps prepare them for their future careers. Training Committee Don Campbell Jamie Spencer Mike Mahler Jennifer Cross Larry Marchand Nancy Marchand Doug Ferguson Rod Gallagher Tom Kontio Shannon Foster Leela Sharma Pam Poole Isaac Rigby Jonathan Fangrad Steve Robinson Josyln Reid Paige Berrigan Elias Boussoulas Dan Elliot At London Track 3, we remove accessibility barriers to winter sports while hosting an inclusive and accessible program to which individuals of all abilities are able to engage fully in our sessions. Track 3 is hosted in a welcoming accessible building. Wheelchairs, walkers, guide dogs and support animals are welcome in our program. London Track 3 at Boler Mountain has participants from both London and surrounding communities who are not able to find this service elsewhere. Volunteers from all walks of life are given education about various disabilities, skiing instruction and adaptive techniques to promote student and volunteer success.**

What short or long-term impact has/will the initiative have on the promotion of diversity, race relations, inclusivity and human rights in London and promoting London as a welcoming city?: **Receiving the Diversity, Race Relations and Inclusivity Award will provide more recognition of the value of the London Track 3 Program and will hopefully inspire volunteers to consider joining us in teaching our students and also encourage financial contributions as well as donation of adaptive equipment or building supplies.**

What is the potential for expansion and/or inspiration for replication of the initiative?: **With more awareness and more resources (volunteers, equipment, and finances) we may be able to enroll more students in our program and inspire fully accessible programs for other organizations.**

How can receiving this Award be used to further promote diversity, race relations, inclusivity and human rights in London and to further promote London as a welcoming city?: **If we are a successful candidate in receiving this award, the City of London will provide the opportunity to recognize London Track 3 as a long-standing organization that promotes diversity, equity and inclusion in teaching skiing and snowboarding for people with challenges. We already know this is so when we see the mile-wide smiles of our students and feel the excitement in the Track 3 building. London Track 3 makes fully accessible programing a reality. I would be happy to answer any questions or provide a tour of our facility.**

Do you wish to attach a document or photo in support of your nomination?:

Another document or photo?:

Another document or photo?:

Another document or photo?:

## **Section 3 - Nominator Information**

Your Name: **Jennifer Cross**

Your Address (please include postal code):

Your Phone #:

Submitter E-mail:

Submitted on: **10/2/2023 4:50:42 PM**