

BC Lions Society Quarterly Update September 2022

I am happy to share some updates regarding all the great programs and services that the BC Lions Society offers our communities.

Easter Seals Camps

- Easter Seals has been offering summer camp experiences to individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities since 1968.
- From day camps, to week-long overnight camps, there are options available for all interests, and for all children and adults with disabilities aged 6-49 years old.
- Trained counsellors bring out the fun and silly in every activity and event, creating experiences and memories that will last a lifetime.
- Our goal is to provide our Camper community with the self-esteem, self-confidence and sense of independence that is needed to help them live their best life.
- Overnight camps have a camper to staff ratio of 3:1 and a 24-hour medical team on-site. All camps, in-person and virtual, have counselors trained specifically to work with persons with disabilities.
- We offer a variety of different camps:
 - Overnight Camps (4 and 5 nights)
 - In-Person Day Camps (one day and week-long)
 - Virtual Camps (week-long)
 - Family Camps (weekends)
- We had 12 weeks of Overnight Camps at Camp Winfield and Camp Squamish with 407 Campers in total.
 - Camp Squamish had 4 weeks of Overnight Camp and it was a resounding success. Camp Squamish also hosted 2 weekends of Family Camp. The first weekend sold out right away so another weekend was organized.
 - Camp Winfield had 8 weeks of Overnight Camp and it was another great success and fun was had by all. Camp Winfield also hosted 1 weekend of Family Camp.
 - We were able to host 75 Campers from Vancouver Island (and the Gulf Islands) at Camp Winfield this year. The Campers had such fun time going on the ferry and bus back and forth to the Camp and had such a great time camping at Winfield. We heard from Camper families how grateful they were that our Camp staff was able to pivot to make this all work out great.
- We ran 9 weeks of City Adventure Camp in Vancouver, Surrey and Kelowna. Campers had such a great time exploring their city and participating in so many fun activities.
- Virtual Summer Camp has also been another great success with the Campers having so much fun. Other Virtual Camps run throughout the year as well.

Easter Seals House Updates

- Easter Seals House is a home away from home, a place to stay when traveling to Vancouver for medical treatment and appointments.
- Suites are also available for respite to parents and families needing a place to stay to relax and recharge.
- The House is at just over 90% occupancy overall. We are usually full Sunday – Thursday and then the weekends drop a bit as appointments/procedures aren't commonly scheduled for weekends.
- Guests love the newly renovated Garden. Lots of BBQs, chalk drawings and families enjoying their time out there. It is a wonderful respite area.
- Easter Seals House finished a room renovation recently, and they have just a few rooms left to renovate. They have also made some renovations to the lobby, including paint and new flooring.

Drop Zone

- On September 9th, 4 Lions Members from District A participated in the Drop Zone Vancouver event. Linda Li, Dave Weightman, Vince Moule and Fred Lackmance along with a friend of Fred's, John Gunson.
- Thank you, Lions, for making the day a great success!
- We have 4 locations throughout BC - Vancouver, Burnaby, Surrey and Kelowna. The events have been going great and everyone has been having a wonderful time.
- The events have raised over \$196,000 so far and fundraising continues until October 15th. We will announce the grand totals next month.

MD19 Fall Annual Convention

- BC Lions Society is looking forward to seeing everyone soon in Penticton at the MD19 Fall Annual Convention.
- Saturday morning we will be presenting at a 10:45am panel and we hope to see you there.
- We will also have a vendor's table at the Convention so please come by during the weekend and say hello to our BC Lions Society staff and Board members.

Thank you for 75 years of service.



Lisa Beck
President & CEO