

# Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides

Report by: Richard Simonson, Director - BC/Yukon

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## Key Messages from the Board meeting February 2023

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As we settle into 2023, this is an exciting time for Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides (LFCDG). The Board of Directors recently met in person at the school in Oakville. The following is a summary of key discussions held at the Board meeting in February:

### **Lions Clubs**

- Plans are underway to welcome the District Governors Elect for a visit and tour of the Dog Guides school and facilities in June. We are excited to welcome you for a full weekend of activities and a chance to learn more about the impact our dogs have on the lives of their handlers, as well as show you the plans for our new school
- Convention season is a busy time and we are preparing to attend as many as possible. If you need anything from LFCDG for your convention, please reach out to Danielle Rosenblum [drosenblum@dogguides.com](mailto:drosenblum@dogguides.com)
- As part of the normal rotation of Board Directors, we are in the process of recruiting and selecting 2 new directors- 1 from Nova Scotia, and 1 from Quebec - to serve a 3 year term starting October 2023. Any Lion in good standing from those provinces is invited to submit their application. The board is looking to find someone who has a legal background or is familiar with the issues in the disability sector but anyone is welcome to apply. If you have any questions about their experiences as Directors on the Board.

### **Capital Campaign**

- We have launched the capital campaign to raise \$25 Million for our new school campus and training facilities. Our hope is to raise \$5Million from Lions Clubs across Canada. To date, 140 presentations have been made to Lions clubs across Canada and more are planned for the next few months. A total of \$1.6 Million has been pledged by Lions from across the country so far and we are excited by this initial outpouring of generosity.
- We are hoping to break ground in the summer of 2023. The process of finalizing building designs and applying for approvals and permits has been a long one but the end is in sight and we are so excited to see our plans come to fruition.

### **Fundraising**

- While the capital campaign is a major undertaking, we still need to raise money to support the day to day ongoing operations. Lions play a big part in supporting the school and we are grateful for your ongoing support as both clubs and as individual donors.

### **Programs**

- We are still recovering from the impact Covid had on reducing the number of dogs we were able to breed and therefore match with clients. However, we are returning to a more normal schedule and hope to match 100 clients with dogs in 2023 - that is an impressive growth of 32% over last year.

### **40th anniversary**

We are excited to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> year of operations. Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides first opened as a result of the vision and leadership of Lions back in 1983 under the name Canine Vision Canada. Over the past 40 years, we have grown and expanded to include 7 distinct programs and provide support on an annual basis to over 1000 clients across Canada. As Lions, you should all be very proud of the role you have played in making LFCDG a reality to help transform the way so many individuals live their lives with confidence and independence

### **BC/Yukon**

I have not had much opportunity to visit any District events as I have not been made aware of them so I am asking if the District Governors could contact me with regard to attending your Spring Conference. I would be happy to coordinate with your District Chair. As well, PCC Polly Voon is the Provincial Capital Campaign Coordinator and she would greatly appreciate and opportunity to speak at your conference. Congratulations to District A for their sizable donation raised for the Capital Campaign. Recently, I have received donations from Quesnel Lions and the Kwantlen Park Leos.