

The Ontario Online 50/50 raffle is back!

The Ontario Online 50/50 raffle is back for the summer and will run from July 25th to August 25th. Half of the proceeds will go to Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides and half will go to one lucky WINNER! Plus, there's an Early Bird Draw taking place on August 12th for a \$500 cash prize. Tickets may be purchased by any resident of Ontario over the age of 18. Check out the 50/50 raffle website for all of the details and to purchase your tickets. If you have any questions, please contact <u>events@dogguides.com</u>.

Please note: LFCDG senior management, board members, staff directly involved in the raffle coordination and members of their households may not participate in the raffle.









Courtroom Superdog Marielle

Sometimes we need someone to simply be there for us and just being there is more than enough.

Facility Support Dog Marielle has proven this to be true...

The court room can be a very scary place, especially for a child. Thankfully, Marielle is there to lend a paw. She provides love and support to children who have been through traumatic experiences.

"It can be very isolating in the witness box," says handler Kristal Leblanc. " Family members or safe supporters are seated far back in the gallery. It can be intimidating to have to tell a room full of adults details of what has happened, especially in sexual assault cases."

Since graduating from the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, Marielle has worked on more than 75 trials. She is the first and only accredited facility support dog to be used in a New Brunswick courtroom. Her impact has been immeasurable.



"I don't know what we would do without her," says Kristal. "There are things as professionals we can't offer. We can't go into the witness box and provide comfort and compassion. She just gives something that no other human could ever give."





Building the Future of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides

The time has come to expand into a proper facility to allow us to provide the very best experience for Canadians with disabilities who can benefit from a Dog Guide. As demand for Dog Guides grows, we need a new facility that can help us grow as well. Our current facility has reached it's capacity for both dogs and people, and is not fully accessible. We require a building that takes into account client needs and incorporates leading- edge design to be not just fully accessible but goes beyond AODA compliance, which is why we have plans to build a new, state of the art training school, which will be the first of it's kind in Canada. Building completion is targeted for early 2025 and will help us serve more people, raise and train more dogs, and do so in a comfortable and accessible manner.

To do so, we are embarking on a mission to raise \$25 million, the largest fundraising campaign the Lions Foundation of Canada has ever taken on. Working together as a community, we can raise the funds necessary to make sure Canadians with disabilities have access to this one-of-a-kind training facility in Canada.

Building highlights include:

- 89,000 sq. ft. new training school that is designed and built specifically for Dog Guide training.
- fully accessible for people with disabilities to experience the best learning environment possible.
- A larger and improved kennel, with indoor and outdoor spaces to learn, play and relax.
- An expanded veterinary clinic for all puppies and dogs in training.
- 36 accessible and comfortable client bedrooms for people in training with their Dog Guide.
- Dedicated training spaces and classrooms for each of the 7 Dog Guide programs.

Please stay tuned for details in September as LFCDG will embark on 'The Difference' Campaign. Together we can build the largest service dog school in Canada, increasing our impact by matching more Dog Guides with recipients. Because when a dog's potential is unleashed, so is a person's.







Dog Guides in the news

Here are a couple heartwarming stories from some of our Service Dog Guide teams:

My Service Dog Guide Changed My LIfe - A Tribute to Fanta - (My service dog changed my life, and then the unthinkable happened | CBC News)

CBC story with Alex and Fanta - This First Person article is the experience of Alex Lytwyn who lives with cerebral palsy

More Than Just A Service Dog - (More than just a service dog)

Kiwi the Service Dog Guide has allowed Tammy Walsh to keep her independence in her own home while navigating life in her power chair.

Future Dog Guide Tulip tiptoes into the hearts of older adults at Bradford day program https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/10678260-future-dog-guide-tulip-tiptoes-into-heartsof-older-adults-at-bradford-day-program/

Tulip, a yellow Labrador retriever puppy, was quick to give her new friends many kisses when she was introduced at the <u>Community and Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS)</u> Bradford Adult Day program July 18.

International Assistance Dog Week

International Assistance Dog Week is August 7-13 this year! It is a week to celebrate the incredible impact our furry friends make in the lives of their handlers, and recognize their hard work and devotion. This year's theme is "The Other End of the Leash", so we will also be highlighting the efforts of so many who foster, raise, train and volunteer to make these Dog Guide matches a reality.



If you want to give a shout out to someone special at "the other end of the leash" be sure to tag us, so we can share.

Dog Guides is proud to be internationally recognized and accredited by Assistance Dogs International. Like so many other incredible organizations, we do our part in helping people with disabilities feel safe and live independently.







Travelling with your Dog Guide

Travelling should be a fun experience. To help reduce any worries you may have about travelling with your Dog Guide, there are a few things for you to keep in mind to help you plan.

When travelling, it is important to research your destination well in advance. Not every country has the same laws as Canada and may require different supporting documentation, or even extra vaccinations to protect your Dog Guide.

No matter where you go, it is important to travel with a copy of the dog's most recent vaccination records including up- to- date rabies information along with your certificate letter and ID card from Dog Guides.

If you are travelling using a mode of transportation that requires booking seats, you will need to contact the company ahead of time to add your Dog Guide to the trip. We recommend doing this at the same time that you book your trip. You may be required to submit a form or give further details on your Dog Guide to the company.

A great resource to support your travel research is TravelPaws, they can help to provide information about travelling with your Dog Guide around the world.

If you have any questions about what it is like travelling with your Dog Guide or need an updated certificate letter to support your travel, please reach out to <u>client-services@</u> <u>dogguides.com</u> and we will be happy to help answer your questions about travel.

Sparky's Dog Days of Summer Continues through August in Oakville

We have been having so much fun with the Sparky's Dog Days of Summer events with Oakville Fire and Panago Pizza. These pop up events will continue for the next three Wednesdays at Oakville area splash pads. Each week will be hosted at a different park where volunteers representing Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides will be selling the pizza and drinks, and the proceeds will be donated to our seven Dog Guide programs. We hope to see you there.









Litter Updates

We are pleased to announce the arrival of 39 new LFCDG puppies!

- Z Litter: Beechy and Jaguar 11 puppies on June 20th
- A Litter: Neeko and Jaguar 6 puppies on June 23rd
- B Litter: Flower and Goose 8 puppies) on June 29th
- C Litter: Quinta and Bennett 6 puppies on June 29th
- D Litter: Gala and Denver- 8 puppies on July 4th

Welcome to the Dog Guide world little ones!















