



Graduate Corner

On June 10th, we proudly celebrated our graduate teams! Visit our YouTube channel to watch the ceremony and catch up on past graduations!

Our next graduation will be held on July 22nd in Oakville, celebrating the incredible teams who've completed our Autism Assistance, Diabetes Alert, Service and Hearing programs.



LFCDG Happenings

All Programs Opening – July 2!

For the first time ever, we're opening applications for all seven Dog Guide programs on July 2. This includes: Hearing, Service, Autism Assistance, Canine Vision, Seizure Response, Facility Support, and Diabetes Alert programs.

We'll be accepting 50 applications in total across all programs. Please note, Poodles will not be available in this intake.

This open intake will be available for one month only, closing on August 1, 2025!

If you're interested in getting a Dog Guides, make sure to review the [Discovery Packages](#) in advance and get ready to apply starting July 2!

Featured Resource: Is an Assistance Dog the Right Tool for You? by Jennifer Gravro

Empowerment starts with informed choices. In this practical guide, Jennifer Gravro explores what it truly means to partner with an assistance dog—beyond the social media highlights. From assessing your needs and lifestyle to understanding the responsibilities involved, this book helps you decide if an assistance dog is the right fit. It's a valuable resource for anyone considering this life-changing step.

Follow Jennifer or get your copy: @understandingassistancedogs



The Difference a Dog Guide Can Make

Did you know Dog Guides are helping keep Canadians out of emergency healthcare systems, improving their mental health, and opening employment and educational opportunities?

Being matched with a specially trained Dog Guide is a key that can unlock the potential of people living with disabilities in ways almost no other intervention can, and the evidence is undeniable:

A recent client survey shows that Dog Guides provide:

- **Mobility and Independence** - 89% of clients surveyed 18 years of age or older report their Dog Guide enables them to live independently and 40% report a reduction in home care needs
- **Comfort and Compassion** - 79% of clients surveyed report decreased feelings of stress or anxiety and 71% report decreased feelings of social isolation
- **Safety and Security** - 70% of Seizure Response and 70% of Diabetes Alert clients surveyed have reduced their number of trips to the ER
- **Opportunity and Development** - 40% of clients surveyed under 64 years of age report their Dog Guide has enabled them to pursue higher education and 41% over 18 years of age have been able to start or continue paid employment
- **Empowerment and Quality of Life** - 80% of clients surveyed report improved self-esteem or confidence and 96% report their Dog Guide had a positive impact on their mental and emotional wellbeing

The data tells us our Dog Guides make an impact, but our ability to match more Dog Guide teams is limited by our lack of adequate space.

That's why the time to build is now. Your support of [The Difference campaign](#) can help turn our vision for growth into a vital resource: a new national training school. The new national training school isn't just a building, it represents a chance to help countless Canadians we can't in the current facility. With the right space, LFCDG can expand its reach, capacity, innovation, and community partnerships.

Together, we can invest in empowering Canadians for generations to come.

Call for Submissions: #Paws4Access Client Video Stories

As part of this year's International Assistance Dog Week (August 3–9), we're inviting clients to share a short 30–60 second video about a positive public access experience with their Dog Guide — a time when a business or community member truly got accessibility right.

Want to be featured?

Send your video to info@dogguides.com by July 8, and we'll submit one entry on behalf of our organization to ADI.

Let's highlight kindness, inclusion, and the everyday wins that show what true accessibility can look like.

Autism Pride Day was June 18th

Autism Pride Day is a time to honour and celebrate the diversity, pride, and lived experiences of individuals across the autism spectrum. We're proud to support families through our Autism Assistance Dog Guide Program.

Meet Kesler and his Dog Guide Wyndsor, his very first and still best friend after over 6.5 years together as an Autism Assistance team.



Kesler's mother shares:

"Wyndsor has brought joy to our whole family. Offers comfort and calm in hard times and joy and happiness the rest of the time. He is a ray of sunshine. Autism Assistance Dog Guides are just about the best thing ever. They make a difference not just for the child they support but for the caregivers supporting the child because it makes us feel like we have a partner and are working as a team to support our kiddos."

We're grateful to play a part in these meaningful connections and to celebrate the pride, joy, and strength of our Autism Assistance Dog Guide teams.

Meet Cohen & Kito: A Life-Changing Friendship

Meet Cohen and his AAD Dog Guide, Kito, from Pasadena, Newfoundland. They are wonderful representatives for the LFCDG, appearing in a number of our videos, speaking at Lions Conventions, and with the media about the impact Kito has made on Cohen and his family's life.

Watch Cohen and Kito's story on the Family Channel's "We Are Family":



Collar of Duty Kids Series Premieres on AMI-tv

Tune in to [Collar of Duty Kids](#), a heartwarming series that celebrates the incredible bond between children and their animal companions — featuring some of our clients and their amazing Dog Guides.

Catch all the inspiring stories starting June 23 at 8 p.m. Eastern on AMI-tv and AMI+.

It's a feel good show you won't want to miss!

(Dog Guides piece starts at 10:05 - Puppy bath time at Breslau)

Behind the Research: Dr. Michelle van Lienden's Groundbreaking Case Study

Dog Guides do more than change lives. They help advance science too.

Dr. Michelle van Lienden, one of our incredible veterinarians, recently published a case report on multimodal treatment for chronic diarrhea. While antibiotics like Metronidazole and Tylosin may offer short-term relief, they can disrupt the microbiome and often lead to relapse.

Michelle's research highlights a more effective long-term approach using diet, psyllium, corticosteroids, and fecal microbiota transfer. This combination supports digestive function, resolves clinical signs, and helps return the microbiome to a healthy state.



We are proud to have experts like Dr. Michelle leading the way in caring for our Dog Guides.

Dog Park Safety: What to Know Before You Go

Dog parks can be great fun but come with risks! Before you go, check if the park is fully fenced and accessible, and ensure your Dog Guide's recall is reliable or bring support. Be aware that other dogs may play rough or ignore your dog's signals, so consider quieter times if needed. Keep vaccinations and parasite prevention up to date, and check for ticks afterward. Watch for harmful litter like discarded food or cigarette butts. Choose a park that fits your

Dog Guide's needs and contact your Instructor if you have any concerns.

Pawtner Spotlight

We're incredibly grateful to be the Q4 recipient of the Prophix Purpose Project and honoured to receive a generous \$50,000 donation in support of our mission.

This gift from Prophix will have a direct and lasting impact, helping us create more life-changing partnerships between people and their Dog Guides.

To everyone at Prophix—thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your belief in our mission truly means the world to us.

And the winner of the Q42024 Purpose Project is...

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides

Phixer Champion:
Andrea Canonico

A special thanks to Sabrina Khan, Theresa Gernay and all other Phixer Champions for all their support with the Q42024 Purpose Project!

Volunteer Corner

Meet Ute: A Passionate Dog Guides Volunteer

In May 2021, Ute and her family welcomed their first foster puppy, Franklin, a standard poodle. What started as a way to find purpose during a difficult time quickly became a lifelong passion. Now on her third foster pup, Ute has also puppy-sat countless future Dog Guides, volunteers in the Puppy Program, and helps first-time foster families navigate their journey.

"Volunteering allows me to give back, but the personal rewards are even greater. The sense of purpose, belonging, and gratitude I've gained is life-changing. The staff, the volunteers, the amazing dogs, and the inspiring clients make this experience truly special."— Ute

For Ute, volunteering with LFDG is the perfect blend of her love for dogs and her passion for making a difference. "It allows me to combine my energy and enthusiasm for a remarkable cause while giving me the opportunity to spend time with puppies. It's a perfect match for me, as I've been a huge dog lover since I was a young child."

Some of her most cherished memories include bringing home her first foster puppy, celebrating Zap's graduation—later renamed Winston—as a Facility Support Dog Guide, and meeting a client with her Service Dog, with whom she has since formed a friendship.

Ute encourages prospective fosters, saying, "If you're considering fostering, just do it. Will there be sleepless nights? Absolutely. But nothing truly worthwhile comes easy. It will be one of the most rewarding things you ever do—not just for others, but for yourself."

Interested in volunteering like Ute?

[Learn more and get involved today](#)



Community Quilts Help Improve Our Training Space

We recently reached out for quilts to help make the upstairs/CVC hallway a bit quieter, and thanks to the generosity of our community, we received an overwhelming response. Donna Williamson led the charge, and with the support of Marlene Creech, the Etobicoke Quilters Guild, and several foster families, we were gifted with 20 beautiful quilts.

The quilts have made a significant difference! The CVC hallway is now quieter, creating a more comfortable environment for training, free from the echoes of the bare walls. We are deeply grateful for the kindness and generosity of everyone involved in this thoughtful initiative.



Litter Update

We're excited to share the arrival of several new puppies who have joined the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides family. Welcome to the world, little ones!

N Litter: Hovis (yellow lab) and Taco (yellow lab) – 8 puppies born May 12th – 4 yellow males and 4 yellow females.

O Litter: Presley (black lab/golden X) and Gibbs (black lab/golden X) – 6 puppies born May 17th – 1 black male, 1 yellow male, and 4 black females.

P Litter: Blaire (yellow lab) and CGDB Nitro (chocolate lab) – 4 puppies born May 22nd – 1 black male, 1 yellow male, and 2 yellow females.

