



A publication for Lions
across Canada



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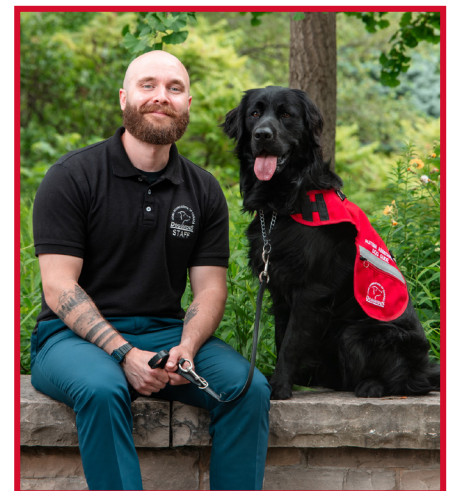


Celebrating Another Year of Service

As another Lions year comes to a close, I want to take a moment to thank Lions across Canada for your continued support of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. Whether through fundraising, volunteering, raising awareness, or sharing our mission within your communities, your dedication helps ensure Canadians living with disabilities receive the life-changing support of a Dog Guide.

This spring has been filled with inspiring moments, from the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides and Memorial Forest Ceremony to club fundraisers and community events across the country. These efforts reflect the generosity, compassion, and commitment to service that Lions are known for.

On behalf of everyone at Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, thank you for all you have done over the past year. We wish you a wonderful summer and look forward to connecting again in the fall. As we continue working toward the future of our new national training school and the growth of our programs across Canada, we are grateful to have Lions by our side. Together, we will continue changing lives for years to come.



Richard Banyard
Campaign Officer

Meet Emma Kennedy: From Training Floor to Nursery Door

For more than 20 years, Emma Kennedy has dedicated her career to changing lives at Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides (LFCDG). She spent most of that time as a Service Dog trainer, working directly with clients and dogs to build safe, reliable partnerships. Emma has seen what it means when someone can finally cross a street safely, pick up dropped items, or feel secure in public because of their Dog Guide.

About two years ago, Emma brought that experience back to the very start of the journey by joining the breeding and nursery program in Breslau. As Nursery Supervisor, she now oversees everything from the moment an expectant mom arrives to the day her eight-week-old puppies head home with foster families.



Her role is hands-on and demanding. Emma coordinates 24/7 staffing and overnight coverage, so moms are never alone during labor. She monitors pregnancies, supports whelping, and works closely with veterinarians when complications arise. She also manages strict hygiene and infection control, including up to 12–15 loads of laundry a day, and ensures that every puppy receives thoughtful early enrichment, careful handling, and close tracking of their health and development.

Because Emma has spent decades on the training side, she understands exactly how much these early weeks in the nursery matter. To her, each puppy is not just a cute face, but a future Dog Guide and a future partner in independence for someone who is counting on them.

Where It All Begins: Inside the Breslau Nursery

When people think of Dog Guides, they usually picture a highly trained partner walking confidently in harness. That journey begins in the Breslau nursery at Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides (LFCDG), where a small, specialized team provides intensive, round-the-clock care to moms and puppies.

This is where future Dog Guides take their first steps, supported by careful monitoring, detailed records, sleepless nights and a great deal of work the public rarely sees.



Preparing for Birth

The journey starts about a week before an expectant mom's due date, when she arrives at the nursery. From that point, the staff monitors her closely. They track temperature, watch for changes in behavior and comfort, and look for physical signs that labour may be approaching. All of this information is documented so the team can spot patterns over time and respond quickly if something seems off.

In the days around each due date, the nursery operates around the clock. Staff work overnight to check moms every few hours, and once labour begins, someone stays with her in the room. They time each puppy's arrival, record birth weights and collar colours and note any concerns. If labour slows or complications arise, the nursery team consults with veterinary partners to determine the safest next step, which can include emergency procedures to protect both mom and pups.

The Critical First Days

The first twenty four to forty eight hours after birth are some of the busiest in the nursery. Staff watch moms for signs of infection and conditions such as mastitis, and check that each puppy is latching, feeding, and gaining weight. In some situations, care is organized into half hourly tasks that run through the night, with staff rotating in shifts to provide continuous attention.

Because newborn puppies are so vulnerable, hygiene is essential. For the first ten days, moms stay with their litter and outings are very limited. When a mom is ready for short walks with volunteers, her feet and underside are cleaned with special solutions before she returns to the pups, helping to keep outside dirt and germs away from the whelping area.

Behind the scenes, the laundry is constant. Towels, bedding and cleaning cloths cycle through the machines all day, often reaching twelve to fifteen loads in a single day. It is demanding on our equipment, but it is a key part of keeping the nursery clean and safe.

Growing, Learning and Exploring

From around ten days of age, puppies begin with gentle, age-appropriate enrichment. Staff and volunteers introduce soft sounds, calm handling, and simple activities that help build confidence and resilience without overwhelming them.

At about five weeks, the puppies move into the older pup area. Here, they are gradually exposed to recorded sounds such as traffic and thunderstorms, a variety of surfaces underfoot and, in suitable seasons, an outdoor play space. They experience stairs, changing footing and natural sounds like wind and rustling leaves. During this stage, they begin wearing collars and, later, puppy coats. They are also introduced to the very beginnings of good manners, including early sits and calm handling.

Even feeding is managed with care. Instead of crowding around a single bowl, puppies eat from a system that gives each one a clear place at mealtime. This makes it easier to see who has eaten and how much and helps ensure that every pup grows steadily rather than a few stronger ones taking more than their share.

The Team and Community Behind the Nursery

The Breslau nursery is powered by a small, dedicated team supported by volunteers and community partners. A full time staff member lives on site, working alongside part-time nursery staff and cross-trained colleagues from Dog Care and Welfare. Volunteers help with walking, enrichment, and, when needed, even emergency laundry.

Community support, including Lions clubs, plays an important role. Donations of supplies help with practical needs and the willingness to step in when equipment fails; all make a direct difference to what the nursery can do each day.

It is truly a twenty-four-hour environment. Staff arrive late at night, early in the morning, and on weekends so that moms and litters are never without support.

Eight Weeks: A New Beginning

At about eight weeks of age, foster families arrive in Breslau to pick up their puppies. For those families, it is an exciting new beginning. For the nursery team, it marks the end of weeks of concentrated, mostly invisible work that quietly underpins every successful Dog Guide partnership.

Long before harnesses and formal training, the foundation for each Dog Guide is built here in the Breslau nursery, in the care, attention and dedication that give every puppy the best possible start.



Paws & Practice: Lions Learning Hub

Directing Your Donation

Lions continue to show incredible generosity in support of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. We receive many different types of donations throughout the year, and we want to ensure every gift is directed exactly where your club or district intends.

Whether your support comes through cheque, e-transfer, EFT, online giving, or another electronic method, we kindly ask that you include a short note indicating the purpose of the donation. This may include support for The Difference Campaign, pledge payments, Scholarships, General Funding, the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides, Memorial Forest purchases, tributes or in-memory donations, or other designated initiatives.



A simple note on the cheque memo line, in an email message, or included with the donation is all that is needed. Providing these details helps our team process gifts accurately, ensure proper recognition and receipting, direct funds where intended, and put your generosity to work as quickly as possible.

Questions? Contact Richard Banyard, Campaign Officer – rbanyard@dogguides.com | 1-800-768-3030 Ext. 202

Legacy Giving: Leaving a Lasting Gift of Independence

Every day, generous supporters help match Canadians with life-changing dog guides. Most do this through annual donations, walks or special events. Some choose to go one step further and make a gift that continues their support long into the future: a legacy gift.

Legacy gifts are a quiet, powerful way to ensure that future generations can count on well-trained dog guides, whatever is happening with urgent appeals or the economy. They help provide something every client depends on: stability.

Become a Dog Guide Legacy Leader

A Dog Guide Legacy Leader is someone who is including a gift to Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides in their Will. These special donors recognize that their gift can benefit people for generations to come and is an opportunity to support future training and placement of Dog Guides.

What Is a Legacy Gift?

A legacy gift is a gift you arrange now that will be made in the future, usually through your estate. Common examples include:

- A bequest in your will for a specific dollar amount
- A residual bequest in your will which allocates a percentage of your estate remaining after personal property gifts and estate expenses have been paid
- Naming Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides as a beneficiary of a RRSP, RRIF, TFSA or a life insurance policy.

Why Legacy Gifts Matter

Legacy gifts help the Foundation:

- Plan beyond a single fiscal year
- Invest in program development and capacity
- Maintain support for clients during times of change

Your Values, Living On

A legacy gift is not about the size of your estate. It is about the values you want to carry forward.

You do not need a large estate to make a meaningful legacy gift. Many supporters simply leave a specific amount, or a small percentage of their estate, which can still help fund training, veterinary care, and ongoing client support.

Instead of a one-time boost, legacy gifts create a steady, reliable stream of support. This helps ensure that when a person needs a dog guide, whether for vision, hearing, seizure response, autism assistance, service or facility support, the program is there at no cost to the client.

"I want the independence and partnership I believe in today to still be there tomorrow."

This is the heart of every legacy gift.

How to Leave a Legacy to Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides

If you are considering a legacy gift, there are two simple steps:

1. Speak with your lawyer or financial advisor

Let them know you wish to include Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides in your estate plans. They can help you determine the type of gift that best fits your situation.

2. Connect with us

Complete the short contact form and a member of our team will follow up with you.

We do not provide legal or tax advice, but we are happy to work with you and your professional advisors to ensure your wishes are clearly documented.

By including Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides in your estate plans, you help ensure that:

- Future clients can regain and maintain their independence
- Dog guides receive the training and care they need to serve those clients well

To explore a legacy gift, please visit <https://www.dogguides.com/legacy-giving/> and let us know when you would like to talk.

Together, we can make sure that the partnership between clients and dog guides continues for years to come.



Lions Spotlight - Green Capes Puppy Calendar Program Returns for 2027

The Green Capes Puppy Calendar Lions Sales Program is back for its eighth year, continuing to give Lions Clubs across Canada a simple and successful way to raise funds for their communities while also supporting Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.

Since the program began, Lions Clubs have raised more than \$400,000 through the sale of over 40,000 calendars, an incredible example of Lions supporting local communities while also helping support life-changing Dog Guide programs across Canada.

The program is designed to be easy for clubs to take part in. Clubs purchase the calendars for \$10 each and sell them for \$20, allowing \$10 from every sale to stay within the club to support local projects and community initiatives. A portion of proceeds also helps support Dog Guides and other Lions initiatives.

Calendars are ordered in boxes of 25, with no upfront payment required at the time of ordering. Orders ship in late August, making them a great fit for fall fairs, holiday markets, workplace sales, community events, and more. Clubs also have access to promotional materials and sales tools to help support their efforts.

Clubs that place their order before June 30 will also be entered into a draw for a \$200 credit toward their order.

This program continues to be a great example of Lions helping Lions while creating meaningful impact in communities across Canada.

To learn more about the Green Capes Puppy Calendar Lions Sales Program, please see the [flyer](#) or visit www.GreenCapesForLions.com

Raise money for
Dog Guides and your
local community with the

Green Capes
Calendar Program



greencapesforlions.com

Thank You for Your Generosity

(Donations: March– May 2026)

Ongoing Support

Andrew Lions Club	District N-2	Activity	Repentigny Lions Club Inc
Athabasca Lions Club	District N-4	Lucknow & District Lions Club	Riverview Lions Club Inc.
Athens Lions Club	Dorchester Lions Club	Maple Ridge Lions Club	St. Agapit Lions Club Inc.
Aurora Lions Club	Duncan Lions Club	Markham Lions Club	St. Jacobs Lions Club
Beaver Bank Kinsac Lions Club	Eastern Passage Cow Bay Lions Club	Medicine Hat Lions Club	Salt Spring Island Lions Club
Binscarth & District Lions Club	Eckville Lions Club	Mississauga Central Lions Club	Seeley's Bay & District Lions Club
Bridgeport Lions Club	Enderby & District Lions Club	Mississauga Cooksville Lions Club	Sheffield Lions Club Inc
Brussels Lions Club	Estevan Lions Club	Mosborough Busy Lions Club	Simcoe Lions Club
Calgary Southridge Lions Club	Glencoe District Lions Club	Nashwaaksis Lions Club Inc	Smoky Lake Lions Club
Canada True Vision Cyber Club	Green Capes Trust Foundation	Newcastle (ON) Lions Club	Sooke District Lioness Club
Churchbridge Lions Club	Hare Bay-Dover Lions Club	Norris Point Lions Club	Storrington Lions Club
Clive Lions Club	Havre St Pierre Lions Club	Penticton Lions Club	Thistletown Lions Club
Club Lions de Trois-Rivieres Inc.	Indian Bay Lions Club	Petrolia Lions Club Inc	Toronto Central Lions Club
Coldbrook & District Lions Club	Irvine & District Lions Club	Pitt Meadows Lions Club	Trenton Lions Club
Coldwater Lions Club	Kitchener Waterloo Community Spirit Lions Club	Powassan Lions Club	Weston Lions Club Inc.
Community 5 Lions Club	Lake Country Winfield Lions Club	Preeceville & District Lions Club	Westport Lions Club
Crystal City Lions Club	Leduc Breakfast Lions Club	Radway Lions Club	Williams Lake Lions Club
Denbigh-Griffith Lions Club	LCI District A-16,	Red Lake District Lions Club	Woolwich Community Lions Club

In Memory/ In Honour

Annapolis Royal Lions Club

Ayr-North Dumfries Lions Club

Blyth Lions Club Inc.
Lions Club of WinghamLions Club Of
Kitchener

Milo Lions Club

Multiple District C
Lions
Rockyford Lions Club
Sage Creek & Area
Lions Club
Sorrento Lions ClubTisdale Lions Club
Trenton Lions Club
Vulcan Lions Club
Wilmot Lions/Lioness
Club**Capital Campaign**

Barrie Lions Club

Boissevain Lions Club

Bowness Lions Club

Calgary Eastport Lions
ClubCamrose Swans &
Roses Lions ClubClarence Creek Lions
Club Inc.Conception Bay South
Lions Club

Cremona Lions Club

Dorset Lions Club

Dundalk & District

Lions Club

Esterhazy Lions Club

Goodsoil & District
Lions Club Inc.Green Bay South Lions
Club

Ham-Nord Lions Club

Hunter River Lions
Club

Huntsville Lions Club

Minitonas & District
Lions Club

Mossleigh Lions Club

North Newmarket
Lions Club

Okotoks Lions Club

Oyen Lions Club

Paradise Centennial
Lions ClubPeterborough Lions
Club

Plumas Lions Club

Rossburn Lions Club
Inc.Saskatchewan Lions
FoundationSaskatoon Millennium
Lions ClubStephenson District
Lions Club

St. Thomas Lions Club

Swan River Lions Club
Inc.Teulon & Area Lions
Club

Trenton Lions Club

Waskada Lions Club
Inc.

Wawanesa Lions Club

York Region GRACE
Lions Club

Scholarships

Aurora Lions Club
Aylesford District Lions Club
Bears paw Lions Club
Chase Lions Club

Flin Flon Lions Club
Fort Langley Lions Club
Galt Cambridge Lions Club Inc.
Kamloops Aberdeen

Lions Club
King City Lions Club
Mill Bay Lions Club
Saskatoon Lions Club
Saskatoon Millennium Lions Club

Tillsonburg Lions Club
York Region GRACE Lions Club

Fellowships and Memberships

Arnprior Lions Club
Athens Lions Club
Baccalieu Lions Club Inc.
Barrington Area Lions Club
Bath & District Lions Club
Bears paw Lions Club
Beaver Bank Kinsac Lions Club
Belle River Lions Club
Bethune & District Lions Club
Burton Lions Club
Calgary Filipino Lions Club
Cobourg Lions Club
Coldbrook & District Lions Club

Devon Lions Club
District A-12
District A-16
Duncan Lions Club
East Peterborough Lions Club
Fort Saskatchewan Lions Club
Fowlers Corners & District Lions Club
Goulds Lions Club
Grande Prairie Lions Club
Gravenhurst Lions Club
Kanata Hazeldean Lions Club
Kincardine Lions Club
Kingston (NS) Lions Club
La Tuque Lions Club Inc.
London East Lions Club

Markham Lions Club
Marmora Crowe Valley Lions Club
Marystown Lions Club Inc.
Millet & District Lions Club
Mount Seymour Lions Club
Musquodoboit Harbour & District Lions Club
Oro District Lions Club
Oshawa Airport Lions Club
Penticton Lions Club
Peterborough Lions Club
Port Williams & District Lions Club Inc.
Regina Lakeside Lions Club
Russell (ON) Lions Club

Sackville (NS) Lions Club
Sage Creek & Area Lions Club
Sault Ste. Marie Lions Club
Simonds Lions Club Inc.
Southwest Arm Lions Club Inc.
St. Adolphe-d'Howard Lions Club Inc.
St. Albert Breakfast Lions Club
St. Jacobs Lions Club
Stony Plain Lions Club
Toronto Kaitour Lions Club
Vancouver Point Grey Lions Club
Ville St-Georges Lions Club
Winsloe Lions Club

Memorial Forest

Alliston Lions Club

Barkers Point

Northside Lions Club

Brighton Lions Club

Burton Lions Club

Conception Bay South
Lions Club

District A-12

Georgetown (ON)
Lions Club

Kitchener Waterloo
Community Spirit
Lions Club

Lions Club
International N-1

London Central Lions
Club

Magnetawan Lions
Club

Malvern Onyx Lions
Club

Merritton Lions Club

Nashwaaksis Lions
Club Inc

Parkdale Sherwood
Lions Club

Pickwauket Lions Club

Quispamsis Island View
Lions Club Inc

Riverview Lions Club
Inc.

Shelburne & District
Lions Club Inc.

St. John's Lions Club

Summerside (PE) Lions
Club

Toronto Kaitour Lions
Club

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For further questions and additional support, please contact your Lions Liaison:

Richard Banyard

Campaign Officer

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Phone: 905-842-2891 Ext. 202

**This newsletter is meant for all Lions, so please share freely
within your network.**

**If you know of a club that is not receiving updates from
LFCDG, please let us know.**