



BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS

BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR AND CEO



Verne A. Blyth, Chair



William S. Thornton, CEO

MEMBER OF:



This last year has seen development in a number of important areas. You will first notice on the cover of this year's Annual Report, our new logo. The logo has been designed to better reflect the geographical areas we serve and the two specific client service programs we provide, namely Guide Dogs for the blind and visually impaired, and Autism Support Dogs for children with Autism.

Steps were taken to strengthen our representation in the Province of Alberta. You will read in this year's Annual Report that we are pleased to introduce you to Robert Van Biezen, joining Tammy Winters as our second Board member from Alberta.

Considerable effort has been put into the growth and development of our Breeding and Puppy Raising Program. We reached out to our colleagues overseas and received considerable help from guide dog organizations in the USA, Australia and the UK. In time we will be reciprocating their generous support. This important step forward will ensure the continued appropriate supply of adult dogs for our growing training department.

Also this year, we have taken important steps towards developing and finalizing minimum professional training standards for the Autism Support Dog Instructor qualification. These standards encompass both practical and theoretical components.

On the financial end of things, revenue for year-end June 30, 2014, amounted to \$1,174,929. In addition to this, we have also accrued \$630,595 from generous estates. We anticipate distribution of these funds in the next fiscal year. The year ending June 30, 2013, we had revenues of \$1,591,777, which included a one-time \$400,000 capital improvement donation from the Nemetz Foundation, assisting with the purchase of our new office and site of our future Training and Breeding Centre. As such, total revenues have been consistent for the last five years.

As always, the Annual Report provides an opportune place and time to remember and thank all of our amazing donors and volunteers. Their outstanding support enables us to meet and overcome the challenges that we are presented each and every year – thank you one and all.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Verne A. Blyth

Vice-Chair: Tammy Winters (Alberta)

Secretary: Jeremy Gomersall, B.Eng,
ACSM

Treasurer: Rupert Bullock, B.Comm

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Director: C. Wayne Reeves, B. Arch

CEO: William S. Thornton, GDMI

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Charlotte Lycett Davis

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Irene O'Brien, D.V.M.

Norman E. Sayfy, B. Comm

Daniel Schwartz, DVM

Joanne Sutton

Verne A. Blyth, Chair

William S. Thornton, CEO

OUR MISSION

The mission of BC & Alberta Guide Dogs is to meet the demand for professionally trained Guide Dogs and Autism Support Dogs for citizens of British Columbia and Alberta, at all times meeting or exceeding international standards as established by the International Guide Dog Federation and Assistance Dogs International.

OUR SPONSORS & PATRONS

New Board Member Appointment: ROBERT VAN BIEZEN

This year we are pleased to welcome Robert Van Biezen to our Board of Directors as our second Alberta representative. Rob has more than 35 years of experience as a community liaison, developing and implementing programs for the Government of Alberta and Calgary Parks and Recreation. He has served on numerous Boards, including the Airdrie Regional Recreation Board, and the City of Airdrie Community Services Board for over 18 years. Rob has also dedicated his time and leadership experience to the Canadian Red Cross Society, the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association, and the Airdrie Fire Department among other organizations.



A longtime Airdrie resident and well-known volunteer, Rob was awarded the 2012 Soul of Airdrie Award, which recognizes citizens who have made outstanding volunteer contributions to the fields of art and culture, athletics, social and community services, and/or governance.

Rob and his wife Kim live in Airdrie, Alberta.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRONS



Howie & Leah Meeker

It is with amazement that we watch our organization grow each year. We both feel so humbled to be able to play a small part in the support and development of this, our amazing organization. Whenever we have an opportunity to meet with one of the remarkable volunteers, supporters or graduates, we are in awe of their enthusiasm and dedication. We are blessed and privileged to have the opportunity to participate in some small way in the advancement of the goals of BC & Alberta Guide Dogs. Thanks to each and every one of you for your amazing support of our organization.

PATRONS

Howie Meeker C.M. & Leah Meeker

FOUNDING PATRONS

Allard Foundation
The Arthur J.E. Child Foundation
Bette and Percy Adlington
The Calgary Foundation
Charlotte Lycett Davis
Diamond Foundation
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FOUNDING DONORS

David and Susan Baker
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w.F.I.D.O.

AUTISM SUPPORT DOGS FOUNDING PATRONS

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Diamond Foundation
Grand Chapter of Alberta -
Order of the Eastern Star
Grand Chapter of British Columbia and Yukon -
Order of the Eastern Star
Vanderkerkhove Family Foundation
Variety – The Children's Charity
Victor & Anna Kern Foundation

THE LIFE OF A WORKING DOG

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1) Dogs start working at two years old and retire at 10 years old.
- 2) We have 40-60 puppies in training at any one time in Greater Vancouver, Victoria and Calgary.
- 3) It takes two years and up to \$35,000 to breed, raise and train each dog. They are provided to the recipient at no cost.
- 4) We have graduated 139 dog-human teams to date.
- 5) Non-qualifying dogs go on to live life as regular pets: having fun but being well-behaved.
- 6) If a guide dog is wearing a special harness or vest, it means s/he is working and must not be distracted. You should not talk to, pet or feed a dog wearing a harness or vest.
- 7) When a guide dog's vest or harness is removed, s/he is "off duty" and is like any other dog.
- 8) We rely on voluntary contributions from individuals, foundations, corporations, fundraisers and special events to provide our services.
- 9) BC Guide Dog Services was founded in 1996 and has a division in Alberta. Our sister charity, Autism Support Dogs, provides support dogs for children with moderate to severe autism aged 3-10.
- 10) You can help a puppy become a life-changing dog! Sponsor a puppy for as little as \$15 a month and get regular letters with updates and photos!

CAREER CANINES

The life of a working dog

Guide dogs change the lives of blind and visually-impaired individuals in many important ways. Beyond facilitating safe navigation, guide dogs enhance their partner's mobility and independence. You may have seen one of these extraordinary pups at the mall, on public transit, or walking down the street – but have you ever wondered how guide dogs enter their line of work?



GROWING UP TO GUIDE

BC & Alberta Guide Dogs puppies are bred in-house and are usually Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers or Lab-Golden crosses. These dogs are gentle, intelligent, energetic and good-natured, making them excellent companions and working dogs.

At 7-8 weeks of age, puppies are placed in the loving homes of volunteer Puppy Raisers. They attend obedience classes three

times per month, preparing for advanced training by learning obedience, confidence and socialization skills.

TRAINING TO CHANGE LIVES

At 15-18 months old, dogs enter advanced training with a Guide Dog Mobility Instructor. This takes approximately 18 weeks, depending on each dog's individual needs. Training includes ringing a bell when they need to go out; waiting for a whistle to be blown before eating meals; and stopping at doors, curbs/intersections, and at the top/bottom of stairs.



When dogs complete approximately 75% of their training, the process of matching them with their prospective partner begins. Once paired up, the duo trains with an instructor for three weeks, and then they officially 'graduate' together, starting their new life as a team.

STORY FROM A GRADUATE

BARB & GUIDE DOG SKYLAR

Team Sponsor: Rix Family Foundation

When my first guide dog, Heidi, retired in 2012, for the first time in eight years, I was dependant on my family and friends. We lost her in June 2013. I was devastated when I called Bill at BC & Alberta Guide Dogs to let him know. Bill asked me if I wanted to be put on the wait list. I said I wasn't sure if I could. He told me to take some time and get back to him. By October, I had come to the realization that it was hard on my family, although no one ever complained. With a little more than one percent of my sight left, I needed and wanted another friend. I gave Bill a call and asked to be put on the wait list. He told me he already had me on the board, and that he knew I would call. Thank you for that, Bill.

In March, I got a call to meet Skylar. I thought I was one of many clients seeing the dog, and that I would find out later if we were a match. I had no idea that those who knew me at the organization said Sky would be perfect for me. Sky came to the door, and for the first few moments I thought I was seeing a ghost: she looked so much like my Heidi. But Sky flew in the door with such spirit, ran upstairs, and made herself at home. I was in love with her. At the end of our test drive, Nick [Sky's trainer] said we could start training in three weeks if I wanted. I said yes, but what about the other interviews? He told me then that he had brought her just to meet me. Thank you all for thinking of me.



"Sky is a lovely gift to my world."

Training with another dog proved to be a challenge. I knew all the steps and commands, but my new friend sometimes looked at me with a 'what are you doing mom?' look all over her face, bless her heart. So, we spent time blending my habits with hers, and we still are. Nick is a very patient instructor and I thank you for all your hard work getting us going together. I am so happy to be walking down the street or through a store independently again. Sky is a lovely gift to my world.

Sky is a very cuddly soul and loves snuggles, belly rubs, camping and tearing around the back yard with my Chocolate Labrador grand-puppy. She is also, much to my delight, a lovely dancer. I warn family and visitors, if you sing along with the radio, be prepared to dance.

I really want to thank all those involved with BC & Alberta Guide Dogs. You are all so wonderful, you always check in to see how things are. Mike, Cathy and Dave – I thank you and all the other volunteers that do so much: teaching manners and obedience, and socializing these puppies so they can go on to give people like myself freedom again.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS 2010–2014

BRITISH COLUMBIA GUIDE DOG SERVICES

Financial Highlights
As at June 30, 2014

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Results for the year:					
Revenue	\$1,174,929	\$1,591,777	\$1,099,620	\$1,118,375	\$1,210,371
Fundraising activities expenses	217,104	209,585	278,964	251,899	197,294
Training/client services expenses	934,613	820,188	771,269	782,929	777,332
Administrative expenses	171,161	160,002	176,575	193,376	140,957
Total expenses	1,322,879	1,189,775	1,226,808	1,228,204	1,115,583
Excess (deficit) revenue over expenses	(147,950)	402,002	(127,188)	(109,829)	94,788
Transfers to (from) endowment funds	(26,000)	0	(40,000)	0	0
Year end:					
Operating fund cash/investments	\$ 51,803	\$ 128,866	\$ 79,532	\$ 207,402	\$ 258,143
Endowment fund investments	185,919	190,853	188,963	217,974	215,736
V. Adams fund cash/investments	1,373,759	1,454,412	1,543,134	1,658,165	495,680
Capital assets at cost	1,421,014	1,994,098	913,526	866,014	802,847
Bequests receivable	658,504	176,893	337,320	64,459	1,168,959
Total assets	3,349,822	3,113,614	2,985,520	2,949,967	2,945,549
Accounts payable	56,639	66,146	36,710	48,004	29,344
Mortgage/loan payable*	141,949	641,949	0	0	0
Deferred revenue**	2,061,172	1,667,505	1,915,647	1,777,134	1,701,229
Net assets	1,232,011	1,379,961	977,959	1,105,147	1,214,976

* Bridging loan re capital purchases.

** Includes amounts for restricted use: 2014: \$1,372,134; 2013: \$1,450,567; 2012: \$1,523,299; 2011: \$1,683,115; 2010: \$1,590,000

A complete set of financial statements audited by The L. M. Vermeulen Group Inc. is available upon request.

THANKING OUR COMMUNITY & LEADERS

2013/2014 DONORS

\$50,000 - \$99,999

BC Gaming & Enforcement Branch
Eric Forst
Variety – The Children's Charity *

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Brian and Christine Lavergne
Diamond Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

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Foundation *
Sherritt International Corporation
The Belmont Foundation
The Rix Family Foundation
Victor & Anna Kern Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Blair Family Foundation
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Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation
(James and Phillipa Kerr)
The Barraclough Foundation
Zoetis (Pfizer) Animal Health

\$1,000-\$4,999

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Royal Canadian Legion #114
Safe Haven Foundation of Greater
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The Byler Foundation
The Hindle Family Foundation
The Maja Foundation at the Calgary
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The Scotlyn Foundation Trust Fund
Union Steamship Company Ltd.
Vetcor Canine Reproduction Services
Victoria Foundation *
Victoria Foundation - Vital Youth
Program
Virginia Hambley
Wayne Luck
Wendy Caywood
William & Linda Thornton
William Bamford
Williard Lutes

* These donors have designated their funds to our sister charity Autism Support Dogs

SERVICE CLUBS

Alberni Chapter #100 OES
Ambulance Paramedics
Arbutus Chapter 68 OES
BC Masonic Foundation
Burnaby Loughheed Lions
Club Meat Draw
Chinook Chapter OES 133
Dunbar Lodge 118 AF and AM
Florence Chapter 53 OES
Fraser Chapter 30 OES
Grand Chapter of Alberta
Grand Chapter of BC & Yukon
Hope Lions Club
Kiwanis Sunrisers Gaming Fund
Ladies Auxiliary Canadian Legion #6
Ladner Lions Activities Club
Martha Chapter 24 OES
Order of the Eastern Star Chinook
Past Matrons, Edmonton Chapter #19

Peace Arch Monarchs Lions Club
Primrose Chapter OES
RCMP Veterans Association
Richmond Chinatown Lions Club Society
Rotary Club of Coquitlam
Centre Foundation
Rotary Club of Sidney by the Sea
Royal Canadian Legion #114
Royal Canadian Legion #171
Royal Canadian Legion #179
Royal Canadian Legion #289
Royal Canadian Legion #61
St. Hilda Chapter #72
St. Mark's Men's Club
The Masonic Foundation of Alberta
Tsawwassen Order of Old Bastards
Victoria Imperial Lions
West Shore RCMP Social Club
White Rock Lioness Club

WILLS & LEGACY GIFTS

Victoria Adams
Bette Adlington
June Baker
Thelma Blackburn
Janice Canning
Kathleen Clarke
John Creswick
Dora Darling
Susan Dodd
Margaret Donigold
Marjorie Fackerell

Donald Flood
Joan Freeman
Jane Galliford
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Muriel Jones
Muriel McKeown
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Winifred Wen-Min Yu
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BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS



PROUDLY POWERED
BY NESTLE PURINA
PETCARE



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