



BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS

BC & ALBERTA
GUIDE DOGS

Annual Report
2014/2015



Matt Ferguson
Photography

Message from our Chair & 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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FRONT COVER:

Asher and Autism Support Dog Landon. Thanks to Matt Ferguson for allowing us to use this photograph.

MEMBER OF:



We are pleased to announce that as per the wishes of the joint Boards of BC Guide Dogs and Autism Support Dogs, that we have completed the amalgamation of the two organizations. We are now branded as BC & Alberta Guide Dogs. Last year we were preparing for this amalgamation with the introduction of our new logo representing a Guide Dog Team and an Autism Support Dog Team. On a day-to-day operational basis, there will be no change other than we will give equal weight to Guide Dogs and Autism Support Dogs. Donors may, if they wish, designate which discipline they wish their financial gift to support.


As we plan for the future of BC & Alberta Guide Dogs, we are delighted to share with you that we are now working on the final planning phase of our future Training and Breeding Centre. We hope to have approvals for the new building from the Corporation of Delta in early 2016 and we will then begin fundraising for the building. Also as part of our 2016 expansion plans, in the first quarter of

the new year, we will be welcoming a new certified Guide Dog Mobility Instructor and plan to take on two new apprentice instructors to study both Guide Dog and Autism Support Dog training.

Revenue for the year ended June 30, 2015 amounted to \$1,564,960. This was up approximately \$390,000 from 2014. At the end of the fiscal year we have Bequests receivable for a total of \$208,988. Our expenses were \$1,425,960, which leaves us with a surplus for the year of \$139,000 compared to the previous year of a deficit of \$147,950. The largest increase in spending being in the client services portion of the budget.

With heavy hearts, we report the passing of one of our serving Alberta Board members. Rob Van Biezen was a tireless advocate and fund-raiser for the organization. Rob's positive "can do approach" will be sorely missed by us all. We extend our sympathies to his wife Kim and the family.

As always, we would like to thank our family of supporters. We trust that you remain proud of the achievements of your organization through this last fiscal year. You empower us to make significant changes to the lives of others – thank you all.


Verne A. Blyth, Chair


William S. Thornton, CEO

Our Sponsors & Patrons

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRONS

Leah & Howie Meeker, CM



We are delighted with the successful amalgamation of BC & Alberta Guide Dogs with Autism Support Dogs. Congratulations to all involved. The amalgamation creates wonderful new opportunities for our dogs. Every August you will find us at the Annual Golf for Guide Dogs Tournament stationed at the 18th green, putting out with each team as they play through the course. We thoroughly enjoy being out there because it gives us a chance to meet in person some of the amazing volunteers, supporters and recipients of BC & Alberta Guide Dogs. This is truly inspirational for us. We feel so very proud and privileged

to play a part in all of this wonderful work. Thank you all for everything that you do to make these dreams come true.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT!



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Leah & Howie Meeker, CM

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Making a Visible Difference

OUR PUPPIES GROW UP TO BE GUIDE DOGS AND AUTISM SUPPORT DOGS! HERE ARE SOME OF THIS YEAR'S GRADUATES!

It takes two years and upwards of \$35,000 to produce one certified service dog. Our Dogs are provided FREE OF CHARGE to the recipient thanks to the generosity of donors like you!



Stories from our Graduates

AMBER & GUIDE DOG BEAR

I received my first guide dog, Tom, when I was thirteen years old and immediately realized how much more independence it gave me. Eight years later, I am now working with my second dog, Bear, and he is reminding me what it is like to put full trust in a dog and to have a bond that grows with each and every day. I have always told people that having a guide dog brings more positives than just having a living being with sight to assist you in mobility and finding things on your day to day routes. It provides a feeling of security, of confidence, and the knowledge that when you mess up and have a 'human' moment, your dog is there to give you a paw. My guide dog not only provides me with comfort and security when we are out walking but when we are at home as well. I honestly don't think I would

live completely on my own without having a dog to keep me company and keep an eye on the place.

There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think of the difference a guide dog has made in my life. I am forever grateful for the work that BC & Alberta Guide Dogs has done to make the lives of visually impaired people easier. Tom and Bear have allowed me to live with confidence and ease far greater than I could hope to have without them. Thank you again BC & Alberta Guide Dogs!



ASHER & AUTISM SUPPORT DOG LANDON



This year we were given an incredible gift. Landon, an Autism Support Dog, has already improved our family's lives, and especially Asher's life in so many ways. Asher is a 9-year-old boy, who has severe Autism. He is non-verbal, and is unable to communicate for the most part. Because of his disability, Asher has a lot of challenges with compulsive behaviours.

One of the most life-changing aspects about having Landon with us is that he keeps Asher safe. Because of Landon's training and strength, Asher is not able to run into danger anymore! We have already experienced outings together that we haven't been able to accomplish in years. At home, Landon helps keep Asher calm and occupied in a safe manner, so we can carry on with household tasks, etc.

A good night's sleep is also something that has eluded Asher, as well as the rest of us, for many, many years. On the first night of Landon's arrival, he and Asher both slept SOUNDLY and through the night!

We are SO thankful to everyone who put so much hard work, finances, and love into Landon and our journey. We couldn't be where we are today, and where our journey will continue to go without the support of so many wonderful people and organizations.



Financial Highlights 2011-2015

BRITISH COLUMBIA GUIDE DOG SERVICES

Financial Highlights

As at June 30, 2015

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Results for the year:					
Revenue	\$1,564,960	\$1,174,929	\$1,591,777	\$1,099,620	\$1,118,375
Fundraising activities expenses	236,511	217,104	209,585	278,964	251,899
Training/client services expenses	999,205	934,613	820,188	771,269	782,929
Administrative expenses	190,244	171,161	160,002	176,575	193,376
Total expenses	1,425,960	1,322,879	1,189,775	1,226,808	1,228,204
Excess (deficit) revenue over expenses	139,000	(147,950)	402,002	(127,188)	(109,829)
Transfer to capital fund	118,609	0	0	0	0
Transfers to (from) endowment funds	0	(26,000)	0	(40,000)	0
Year end:					
Operating fund cash/investments	\$166,188	\$ 51,803	\$ 128,866	\$ 79,532	\$ 207,402
Endowment fund investments	185,105	185,919	190,853	188,963	217,974
V. Adams fund cash/investments	1,357,026	1,373,759	1,454,412	1,543,134	1,658,165
Capital assets at cost	1,453,756	1,421,014	1,994,098	913,526	866,014
Bequests receivable	208,988	658,504	176,893	337,320	64,459
Total assets	3,151,211	3,349,822	3,113,614	2,985,520	2,949,967
Accounts payable	70,254	56,639	66,146	36,710	48,004
Mortgage/loan payable*	0	141,949	641,949	0	0
Deferred revenue**	1,636,804	2,061,172	1,667,505	1,915,647	1,777,134
Net assets	1,444,155	1,232,011	1,379,961	977,959	1,105,147

* Bridging loan re capital purchases.

** Includes amounts for restricted use: 2015: \$1,357,026; 2014: \$1,372,134; 2013: \$1,450,567; 2012: \$1,523,299; 2011: \$1,683,115

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

Thank you to our Community

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\$10,000 - 49,999

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Grand Chapter of BC & Yukon
Hope Lions Club
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Kiwanis Club of Summerland
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Knights of Columbus 12118
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Masonic Foundation of Alberta

Masons Grand Lodge of BC & Yukon
North Delta Lions Club
Omineca Chapter 77 OES
Patience Chapter 122
Princess Pine Chapter 67 OES
Probus Club of Bastion City Nanaimo
Reflections Club - Coquitlam
Revelstoke Chapter 15
Richmond Chinatown Lions Club Society
RMSS Craft Ladies
Rotary Club of Tsawwassen
Royal Canadian Legion Laburnum
Royal Canadian Legion #8
Royal Canadian Legion #61
Royal Canadian Legion #88
Royal Canadian Legion #114
Royal Canadian Legion #171
Royal Canadian Legion # 263
Star Voyagers Club
Society of Organized Services
Tsawwassen Boundary Bay Lions Club
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Vancouver Chapter #2 OES
Victoria City Kennel Club

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We are honoured to recognize the following estate gifts:

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AND THANK YOU TO THE MANY ANONYMOUS DONORS!



BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS

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