

*Celebrating  
20 years*

1996 - 2016

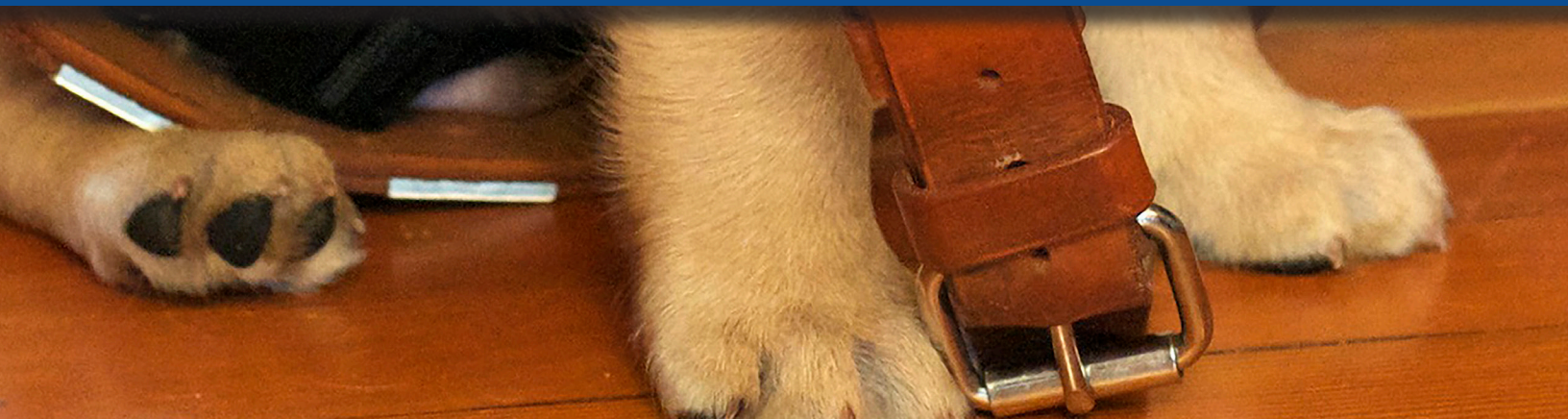


BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2015/2016**







# MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR & CEO

## Board of Directors

Chair & Treasurer:

Rupert Bullock, B.Comm

Vice-Chair: Tammy Winters

Past Chair: Verne A. Blyth

Secretary: Jeremy Gomersall,  
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Director: C. Wayne Reeves,  
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Daniel Schwartz, DVM

Joanne Sutton

## 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.



Rupert Bullock, Chair & Treasurer



William S. Thornton, CEO

This has been a milestone year for our organization as we are celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To mark the occasion, we held a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Volunteer Celebration Luncheon at Tsawwassen Springs in Delta, BC this past summer. At the event, we recognized our amazing volunteers including over 130 supporters who contributed at least 5 years to our organization, patrons, Leah and Howie Meeker, CM, the Hon. Linda Reid, MLA Richmond East, and Scott Hamilton, MLA, Delta North. In addition, we launched our new movie, *Birth to Retirement: Full Circle of a Guide Dog* which will be available for everyone to watch later this year. Thank you to everyone who attended the successful celebration and to the many sponsors, volunteers and staff who made this day possible.

Our organization also marked a significant change as Verne Blyth has stepped down as Chair of the Board after 9 years of outstanding service. Verne has been on the Board since 2003 and took over as Chair from Norm Sayfy in 2006. Thank you, Verne, for your remarkable commitment and support over the years. In addition to Chair, Verne has also been an active volunteer who along with his wife, Linda, has puppy-trained 17 dogs for us and one more starting this fall. Rupert Bullock who has served on the Board since 2009, has taken over as Chair and we look forward to his leadership and guidance for many years to come.

This year also brings expansion and we are happy to share with you that we welcomed two new apprentice instructors, Rebecca Preston and Nicola Landells, and a Puppy Training Supervisor for the Lower Mainland, Matthias Lenz. We would also like to acknowledge our very own Laura Hilbert for qualifying as a certified Autism Support Dog Instructor this past November. We are very proud of you Laura!

Revenue for the year ended June 30, 2016 amounted to \$1,457,554. Our expenses were \$1,570,942 which leaves us with a deficit for the year of \$113,388. This was due to our increased staff numbers as we grow the organization.

We are especially grateful this year as we reflect on all of the remarkable people who have supported BC & Alberta Guide Dogs over the years! We trust that you feel fulfilled by the autism support dogs and guide dogs who have changed the lives of our recipients! Thank you all for sharing our vision and empowering our organization to help others for the past 20 years. The best is yet to come!

MEMBER OF:







# OUR PATRONS & THANK YOU

## A Message from our Patrons, Leah & Howie Meeker, CM



We are very proud of BC & Alberta Guide Dogs for the major accomplishment of celebrating 20 years! We attended this year's volunteer luncheon and are in awe of the number of volunteers who have been around since day one! It was a special afternoon that showed us why we stand behind this amazing organization. We feel privileged to say that next year will be our

20th Annual Golf for Guide Dogs Tournament and we are excited for this landmark year! Thank you to all the volunteers and supporters for enabling to us to provide life-changing dogs to children with autism and visually-impaired individuals. It's amazing how much our special dogs can change their lives!

## THANK YOU FOR 20 YEARS!

from our Board of Directors



Left to Right: Bill Thornton, Verne Blyth, Jeremy Gomersall, Tammy Winters, Rupert Bullock, Kevin Redmond and Wayne Reeves

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Leah & Howie Meeker, CM

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Victor and Anna Kern Foundation





# CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF HISTORY



Kristen Hamilton & Pearl

This past summer, BC & Alberta Guide Dogs held a 20th Anniversary Volunteer Celebration Luncheon at Tsawwassen Springs in Delta, BC. It was a successful afternoon where we were able to recognize our special guests and wonderful volunteers for their many years of service. On behalf of our Founders, Linda & Bill Thornton, our Patrons, Leah & Howie Meeker, CM, and the Board of Directors, we would like to thank our dedicated volunteers, donors and community for 20 years of loyalty, commitment and support! A big thank you to the sponsors of the event for making this day possible: Dignity Memorial, Mainland Sand & Gravel, TD Canada Trust, The Flower Shop in the Village, Vancouver Graphics Group, Delta Optimist and WestJet.



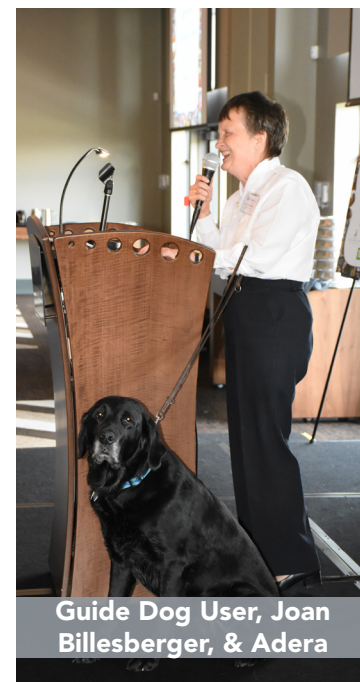
Leah & Howie Meeker, CM & Kerri Vivian, Purina



Bill Thornton, the Hon. Linda Reid, MLA, Richmond East and Scott Hamilton, MLA, Delta North.



Leah and Howie Meeker, CM, with Linda & Bill Thornton



Guide Dog User, Joan Billesberger, & Adera





# MAKING A VISIBLE DIFFERENCE TODAY

## Sarah & Autism Support Dog Brady

Sarah was diagnosed with autism at two years old. She didn't like going out in public; the noises and people were just too overwhelming for her. Her behaviors made getting through the day a difficult struggle. Everything changed this year when Sarah met her best friend, protector, companion, therapist, and brother. From the minute Brady walked into our home, he changed our lives forever! Watching the two of them together was amazing. She told me she'll never be lonely again as long as she has her trusted furry friend.

To say thank you to all of the people responsible for bringing Brady into our lives seems so inadequate. You have given us a gift that has brought us such joy and happiness. It has changed our family forever. Our daughter is happy and safe. The quality of her life has improved beyond anything we could have ever hoped for. We are so very grateful! Sarah often refers to her dog as a superhero and we agree, his superpower is unlocking his best friend's superpowers too.

- Sarah's Family



## Sabrina & Guide Dog Dia



My beautiful new guide dog, Dia, is the cleverest partner in crime I could have asked for. She is adored by everyone in my family and my community. In the beginning I was concerned for Dia as I have a fairly unique living situation; I live on an island without sidewalks and take a water taxi to school. Dia is fearless, even trying to get on the taxi before me, and as far as routes go, I only have to show her once and she's got it down.

I am much more confident traveling with her. There is so much love and dedication that goes into raising a rambunctious little puppy into a highly trained guide dog and I want to thank every one who made our partnership possible; from Dia's puppy trainers for raising such a genuine sweet dog to Dia's guide dog instructor for training us both, to all the staff, volunteers and donors from BC & Alberta Guide Dogs for supporting us throughout our training. The independence you have provided me is incredible; there are no words for how grateful I am for all your efforts.

- Sabrina

For full stories, please visit our website: [bcandalbertaguidedogs.com/dogblog](http://bcandalbertaguidedogs.com/dogblog)





# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS 2012-2016

## British Columbia Guide Dog Services

Financial Highlights

As at June 30, 2016

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
<b>Results for the year:</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenues	1,457,554	1,564,960	1,174,929	1,591,777	1,099,620
Fundraising activities expenses	315,538	236,511	217,104	209,583	278,964
Training/client services expenses	1,016,794	999,205	934,613	820,188	771,269
Administrative expenses	238,610	190,244	171,161	160,002	176,575
Total expenses	1,570,942	1,425,960	1,322,879	1,189,775	1,226,808
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	(113,388)	139,000	(147,950)	402,002	(127,188)
Transfer to capital fund	-	118,609	-	-	-
Transfers to (from) endowment funds	7,500	-	(26,000)	-	(40,000)
<b>Year end:</b>					
Operating/gaming fund cash/investments net of bank indebtedness	38,528	166,185	51,803	128,866	79,532
Endowment fund and internally restricted fund investments	74,745	74,745	185,919	190,853	188,963
V. Adams fund cash/investments	1,338,701	1,357,026	1,373,759	1,454,412	1,543,134
Fisher fund investments	98,228	98,228	98,228	100,000	100,000
Capital assets at cost	1,441,282	1,453,756	1,421,014	1,994,098	913,526
Bequests receivable	60,031	-	658,504	176,896	337,320
Total assets	2,920,855	2,942,223	3,349,822	3,113,614	2,985,520
Accounts payable and payroll liabilities	75,963	70,256	56,639	66,146	36,710
Mortgage/loan payable	-	-	141,949	641,949	-
Deferred revenue	1,543,981	1,550,424	2,061,172	1,667,505	1,915,647
Net assets	1,215,655	1,321,543	1,232,011	1,379,961	977,959

A complete set of financial statements audited by Crowe MacKay LLP is available upon request.





# THANK YOU TO OUR 2015/16 DONORS

## \$50,000 - 149,999

BC Gaming & Enforcement Branch  
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Estate of Margaret Anne Donigold  
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## Wills & Legacy Gifts

We are honoured to recognize the following estate gifts:

Bernice Gibbeson  
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And thank you to the many anonymous donors!





**BC (GREATER VANCOUVER)**

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Toll-free (Canada): 1.877.940.4504  
Fax: 604.940.4506

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1027 Pandora Avenue  
Victoria, BC V8V 3P6  
Tel: 250.413.3095  
Toll-free (Canada): 1.877.940.4504

**ALBERTA**

Unit 102 4 -14th Street NW  
Calgary, AB T2N 1Z4  
Tel: 403.258.0819  
Toll-free (Alberta): 1.877.258.0819

Legal Title: British Columbia Guide Dog Services

Registered Charity Number: 89131 1763 RR0001

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