



BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS

ANNUAL REPORT

2019/2020

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR & CEO

LINDA REID & WILLIAM THORNTON

This fiscal year has two parts: pre- and post-pandemic. We entered 2020 with exceptional momentum; the goal was set in 1996 to graduate 220 Guide and Service Dog teams by 2020, and we exceeded that number with 241 teams. Our amalgamation with VICD Service Dogs welcomed PTSD Service Dogs into the fold and, in addition to Veterans and retired RCMP, First Responders were accepted into the program. We also began placing PTSD Service Dogs with clients in Alberta; thus fully operating with three career streams in both provinces with a record number of graduations.

In early 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic required a complete and immediate shift in our operations to protect the health and safety of our staff, clients, and volunteers. However, despite the challenges facing us, we were successful in graduating a total of 26 new teams by fiscal year-end.

A big part of this achievement is due to our loyal volunteers who have risen to the occasion and continue to provide exceptional care for all our puppies and adult dogs in the program. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their dedication and "Puppy Pawsitivity"- we could not have managed without them. Some of my professional team have expressed their own personal thanks on page 5.

The enclosed financial highlights show that revenue for the year ended June 30, 2020 amounted to \$2,222,971. This was up approximately \$383,000 from 2019. Expenses amounted to \$2,118,394; resulting in a surplus of \$104,577.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to convey our gratitude to all of our donors, volunteers, and staff. With your unflinching support, we are confident that we can achieve great things in the year ahead. Thank you for your support.


Linda Reid, Chair


William S. Thornton, CEO



BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS

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Our Mission

The mission of BC & Alberta Guide Dogs is to meet the demand for professionally trained Guide Dogs, Autism Service Dogs and PTSD Service Dogs for citizens of British Columbia and Alberta. At all times we meet or exceed international standards as established by the International Guide Dog Federation and Assistance Dogs International.



On the Cover

Puppies-in-training Verne and Blyth, named to celebrate Verne Blyth raising 20 puppies.



REMEMBERING TWO LEGENDS

IN MEMORY OF TWO POWERHOUSES: HOWIE MEEKER, CM AND VERNE BLYTH

We are saddened to share that Howie Meeker, CM has passed away. Howie and his wife Leah, Patrons of BC & Alberta Guide Dogs, have played an enormous role in the development of our organization.

Howie likened the placing of a Guide Dog to winning the Stanley Cup in that it requires strong teamwork from many people, most of whom do their work quietly behind the scenes. One of the main reasons he enjoyed being out on the course every year at Golf for Guide Dogs was that it gave him and Leah a chance to meet some of the amazing volunteers, supporters and staff that all worked so hard to produce these life-changing Guide and Service Dogs.

He admired the dogs immensely, often referring to them as **"absolute magic"** and was always in awe at the communication between a Guide Dog and its handler when he used to take recipients out canvassing with him around Vancouver Island.

As Howie was a Veteran of the Second World War, he strongly supported our amalgamation with VICD Service Dogs, and both he and Leah were happy to participate in fundraising events, such as the Evening of Compassion for Veterans in Qualicum Beach, BC.

He will be greatly missed by everyone that knew him. Thank you, Howie for your wonderful support, friendship and dedication to our cause. Our thoughts and condolences are with Leah and the family at this time. *Leah Meeker will continue in her role as Patron.*



Verne Blyth was a treasured part of our BC & Alberta Guide Dogs family who first got involved in 1998 when he took on puppy 'Misty'. This would begin a Puppy-Raising journey that spanned 20 dogs. Fellow Puppy Raisers remember him as a kind, gentle, and caring person who was fully committed to his passion of raising future Guide and Service Dogs for people in need.

Verne was Bill's "right-hand man" at each and every event, helping wherever he was needed. He participated in Dog Days of Summer, Rock and Roll for Little Souls, judged at Trivia Nights, walked in parades, and co-chaired the Golf for Guide Dogs committee for many years.

Verne was also on the Board, and served as Chair from 2006 - 2015. As part of his tenure, he helped oversee the formation of Autism Support Dogs in 2008, an expansion of our mandate to include providing Service Dogs for children with autism and their families.

Thank you Verne for all of your love and care. **You leave behind a beautiful legacy of many lives transformed by your outstanding contributions.**

STAYING #PUPPYPAWSITIVE

PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL CARE DESPITE THE COVID-19 CHALLENGES

The pandemic caused an immediate halt to all in-person training, but it didn't stop us from connecting online. Zoom obedience classes were quickly established for our puppies and dogs in advanced training, and continued as we awaited further guidance from the health authorities. In June, we returned to outdoor, physically-distanced, in-person training with smaller class sizes, where the summer weather was very timely.

Our Instructors were able to have virtual aftercare visits with all of our clients, and the Veterans and First Responders continued their Healthy Community Living Program sessions.



We are grateful to all of our staff and volunteers who rallied behind the cry to stay "Puppy Pawsitive" and who shared uplifting stories and photos online, much like Rubix's public service announcement to show the correct mask-wearing method (pictured). We appreciate the desire that everyone has to brighten a discouraging situation, and it echoes their passion to also brighten the lives of our clients with the tireless work that they do to train future Guide and Service Dogs.

We were also encouraged by the goodwill and support from our donors, and absolutely blown away by the response to our virtual events and the special fundraisers that helped us face the sudden loss of revenue from cancelled in-person events.

To honour BC's Provincial Health Officer, for her presence of calm and guidance through the pandemic, we named two puppies "Bonnie" and "Henry". We felt that it was a fitting tribute, as these puppies will one day grow up to provide those same qualities of guidance and support to someone in need.



It is an honour to have such adorable namesakes. I would like to extend my warmest wishes for the continued success of your organization during what has been a difficult time for all of us.

Taking a moment to appreciate the joy of two little puppies is so welcome.

- Dr. Bonnie Henry



A COMMUNITY OF CARE

SPECIAL THANKS FROM BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS STAFF TO OVER 200 VOLUNTEERS



Without our coin collection volunteers, we wouldn't be able to transform the lives of so many in need. Little by little, coins add up to make a big impact!

Kim, Office Administrator



Puppy Raisers share a 'day-in-the-life' of their puppies on sponsorship, and their details and photos inspire 'pup' dates from the hearts of our pups.

Louise, Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Our volunteers' commitment to our program is undeniable. I thank them for their love, care, and compassion towards our dogs and clients.

Cristina, OSI-PTSD Service Dog Instructor

“



Our amazing volunteers give so much of themselves to help people they have never met. They do the hard work everyday to make a difference.

Sandra, Puppy Training Supervisor



I applaud our volunteers who invest their time and energy to deliver school programs and help organize fundraising events. Thank you!

Joni, Director of Development & Communications



All of our volunteers have stepped up to the plate and taken on our new circumstances with enthusiasm! I cannot thank them enough.

Linda, Director of Breeding & Puppy Raising

Our VICD fosters are a special group of people. They are all very dedicated to doing their very best for our dogs and making them into amazing Service Dogs.

Kim, OSI-PTSD Service Dog Instructor



Our Puppy Raisers are very giving people that are proud to be part of our dogs' journeys and it's amazing how much time and effort they devote to our cause.

Matthias, Puppy Training Manager



Our volunteers go above and beyond to help others. And this is true not only during the Covid-19 pandemic, but year-round as well.

Michelle & Danielle, Autism Service Dog Instructors



Our volunteers create a wonderful and supportive community that celebrates the highs, and offers encouragement through the lows.

Samantha, Puppy Training Supervisor



TRANSFORMING LIVES

LIFE-CHANGING GUIDE DOGS, AUTISM SERVICE DOGS AND PTSD SERVICE DOGS

Winston has given me back my ability to get to wherever I need to go with confidence and ease. He is so well trained and is a joy to work with. I can't help but smile every morning when I wake up and he is raring to go!

He has brought so much life into my world that I can't thank everyone at BC & Alberta Guide Dogs enough.

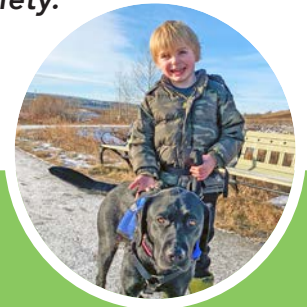
- Mark with Guide Dog Winston



It feels like Terra has always been a member of the family. When Brock and Terra travel throughout the city as a duo, I have ZERO fear for his safety. The tethering of the two together has also helped with transitioning from different activities and creates a sense of calm expectations.

Thank you to the team at BC & Alberta Guide Dogs for giving us the tremendous gift of safety.

- Brock with Autism Service Dog Terra



We both joined the military because we wanted to serve our country. We don't regret our decisions, but there have been lasting effects on us due to our service. Neither one of us could have possibly known how much a Service Dog would benefit us or how attuned to each of us our dogs would become.

To know that BC & Alberta Guide Dogs is sustained due to the benevolence of donors and the dedication of volunteers and staff, is utterly amazing. It is impossible to put into words how much of an effect your contributions have had on our lives. If it was not for you, we would not be who we are again today.

- Wesley with PTSD Service Dog Jimmy & Kerrie with PTSD Service Dog Brisbane



John's Photography, Sooke BC



will take me destination I all for donating training. I know have a meaningful relationship fo

- Betty



Alfie seems to know almost before I do that something is amiss. If I am in my chair and start to zone out, Alfie will shove his nose under my arm or leg and fling it up with all his might.

He brought new energy into the house, and keeps us laughing every day.

- Don with PTSD Service Dog Alfie



Shortly into their relationship, Kyle said that Rufus was his best friend. For the first time ever, Kyle felt feelings that he didn't have to mimic or learn. He was truly feeling friendship and acceptance because Rufus loves him regardless of how he behaves.

We are beyond thankful for this life-changing gift. The stress in our family has lessened and we are laughing again and loving again in our home.

- Kyle with Autism Service Dog Rufus

I used to use a cane and was hesitant at first to depend on a Guide Dog, but now I can say I don't know what I would do without Kinta - she is the best! I have enjoyed much more freedom and confidence in my mobility all around my neighbourhood and beyond. I love the social aspect I get with others who are fascinated with the fact she is a well-trained Guide Dog.

- Steve with Guide Dog Kinta



Having Mac by my side enhances my independence.

Undoubtedly, he safely to whatever choose. Thank you ng to Mac's care and w that Mac and I will ngingful and positive r many years to come.

y with Guide Dog Mac

While a very gentle, curious and smiley girl, Eva still experiences many challenges. With Lizzy in our lives, everything is so much better in many ways. From Eva and Lizzy's first walk together, it was obvious that there were no thoughts of bolting; it was all about holding Lizzy's handle and staying together. Eva seems calmer and more relaxed with Lizzy. We've observed more laughs and smiles and lots of singing. It's incredible! And it's priceless.

- Eva with Autism Service Dog Lizzy



COMMUNITY SUPPORT 2019/2020

We are grateful to the individuals and businesses that choose to support us throughout the year! Your generosity helps provide Guide Dogs to individuals who are blind/visually-impaired, Autism Service Dogs for children ages 3-10 with autism and their families, and PTSD Service Dogs for Veterans and First Responders living with Operational Stress Injuries.



**ORDER OF ODDFELLOWS
COLUMBIA LODGE #2
\$2,000 DONATION**



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\$24,338 DONATION**



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\$15,224.81 DONATION**



**RAYMOND JAMES FOUNDATION
\$5,000 DONATION**

ALL ABOARD! TRANSIT TRAINING

We are excited to seek out unique partnerships and opportunities to help with training wherever we can, and we thank TransLink (Vancouver), BC Transit (Victoria) and Calgary Transit for allowing us to socialize our dogs in the program to their buses.

The pandemic made it very difficult for our Puppy Raisers to use public transit, so the transit companies in each location let us into their bus depots and provided dedicated buses and drivers for our physically-distanced training exercises.

The puppies were able to practice getting on and off the bus, managing the ramp, and getting used to the doors and the many distracting smells and noises that the buses make.



Wills & Legacy Gifts

WE ARE HONoured TO RECOGNIZE THE FOLLOWING ESTATE GIFTS:

Bernice Gibbeson
 Bette Adlington
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 Doreen Powles
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 Elsie May Kenst
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 Winifred Wen-Min Yu

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

INCLUDES RESULTS FROM 2016/2017 FISCAL YEAR ONWARDS

British Columbia Guide Dog Services

Financial Highlights

As at June 30, 2020

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Results for the year:					
Revenues	2,222,971	1,840,028	1,639,902	1,645,888	1,457,554
Fundraising activities expenses	387,899	386,195	276,538	267,190	315,538
Training/client services expenses	1,505,603	1,376,237	1,218,433	1,171,519	1,016,794
Administrative expenses	224,892	286,246	234,334	190,421	238,610
Total expenses	2,118,394	2,048,678	1,729,305	1,629,130	1,570,942
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	104,577 -	208,650 -	89,403	16,758 -	113,388
Transfer to capital fund	61,680	25,413	152	2,357	-
Transfer to (from) endowment funds	-	-	2,500 -	7,974	7,500
Year end:					
Operating/gaming fund cash/investments net of bank indebtedness	179,007	337,768	116,262 -	68,763	36,855
Endowment fund and internally restricted fund investments	91,771	91,771	88,771	69,271	74,745
V. Adams fund cash/investments	1,064,721	1,273,774	1,228,386	1,282,790	1,302,197
Fisher fund investments	88,228	98,228	98,228	98,228	98,228
Capital assets at cost	1,470,789	1,470,789	1,470,789	1,458,385	1,441,282
Bequests receivable	-	-	-	247,000	60,031
Total assets	3,568,750	2,807,460	2,783,582	3,041,962	2,920,855
Accounts payable and payroll liabilities	63,411	115,165	70,581	102,244	75,963
Mortgage/loan payable	-	-	-	-	-
Deferred contributions	2,292,164	1,520,164	1,474,346	1,482,435	1,530,704
Net assets	1,074,714	970,137	1,175,787	1,248,190	1,228,932

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

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

AND THANK YOU TO THE MANY ANONYMOUS DONORS!

\$50,000 - 149,999

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BC / Yukon Command of the Royal
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Eldon & Anne Foote Fund
- Edmonton Community
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Wounded Warriors Canada

\$10,000 - 49,999

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BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS

GUIDE DOGS • AUTISM SERVICE DOGS • PTSD SERVICE DOGS



A Division of BC Guide Dogs

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Leah Meeker

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