

2021/2022 ANNUAL REPORT



BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS
GUIDE DOGS • AUTISM SERVICE DOGS • OSI-PTSD SERVICE DOGS

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR & CEO

As we put our final stamp on the 2021/22 fiscal year, one important theme stands out. Through the kindness and generosity of our supporters and volunteers, we continue to grow and reconnect with our communities in British Columbia and Alberta. We are forever grateful for the support that has helped us navigate the past two years.

We are excited to be able to engage, in person, with our volunteers. Whether it's through in-person puppy training classes or hosting events with our partners, the ability to strengthen the bond between our organization and our supporters will only make us stronger.

As we move forward, we are seeing the tangible effects of your support. Our Advanced Training Department has grown, taking on new apprentice instructors. This investment will mean BC & Alberta Guide Dogs will continue to change the lives of our clients for the better.

Throughout our journey, a key contributor to our success is a strong and healthy community

of dogs. Their well-being is paramount to our breeding and raising programs. From the tireless work of the team at our various veterinary clinics to the volunteers who keep a close eye on our dogs while out in the community, we continue to be a leader in the guide and service dog sectors. Despite the challenges faced in 2021/22, we continue to graduate new working teams across both provinces. To our puppy raisers, adult dog boarders, and our dedicated and growing staff, none of this is possible without your efforts. Our appreciation is immense.

The enclosed financial highlights show that revenue for the year ended June 30, 2022 amounted to \$2,663,942. This was up approximately \$66,940 from 2021. Expenses amounted to \$1,979,530 resulting in a surplus of \$684,412.

We look forward to reconnecting again in the coming year. Our blue and white dog vests are a symbol of great pride as the dogs who wear them continue with their training. None of this would be possible without your support.



Fergie's Doggie Delight Bakery in Chilliwack is donating proceeds from sales to support BC & Alberta Guide Dogs




Linda Reid, Chair




William S. Thornton, CEO



A GUIDING HAND

THANK YOU FROM BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS PATRON, LEAH MEEKER

It is no secret my beloved Howie cherished the opportunity to showcase the excellent work of BC & Alberta Guide Dogs. The joy it brought to Howie was always evident in his smile whenever he had a chance to meet clients and their Guide and Service dogs.

While I couldn't meet you this year at the 25th Annual London Drugs Golf for Guide Dogs tournament, I want everyone to know that both Howie and I were there in spirit. Your continued generosity means the world to me and is a fitting tribute to Howie's memory.

It is an honour to continue as a Patron of this organization and to support the incredible work of BC & Alberta Guide Dogs. Through the outstanding work of dedicated staff and tireless volunteers, I have no doubt they will continue to meet their client's needs.

Thank you to those who make donations to this wonderful organization. Through your support, I am excited at the possibilities that lie ahead. You are forever in our hearts.

Leah Meeker

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BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS

The mission of BC & Alberta Guide Dogs is to meet the demand for professionally trained Guide Dogs, Autism Service Dogs, and OSI-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.



A STRONGER FOUNDATION

INVESTING TO HELP ENSURE THE NEXT GENERATION OF GUIDE AND SERVICE DOGS

For 25 years, BC and Alberta Guide dogs has been a leader in Western Canada. As we begin the journey to the next quarter century, the emphasis is on building a stronger and more robust Advanced Training staff.

New staff members were added to the BC & Alberta Guide Dog team in the Lower Mainland in early 2022 to work on the Guide Dog and Autism programs. As well, a new Instructor was hired to work on the OSI-PTSD program in Edmonton.

CEO Willaim Thornton says being able to strengthen our core training staff will go a long way to placing more dogs to those in need. It is an important step as the demand continues to grow in both provinces.

The goal is to continue adding training staff in 2023 to increase the number of dogs placed in communities across BC and Alberta.



Guide Dog Apprentice Rachel Nelson.

Wills & Legacy Gifts

WE ARE HONOURED TO RECOGNIZE THE FOLLOWING ESTATE GIFTS:

Barbro Baker
Bernice Gibbeson
Bette Adlington
Betty Welch
Constance Whittle
Devine Elden
Dianne Philipps
Dixie Kenny
Donald Flood
Dora Darling
Doreen Jones
Doris Redel
Dorothy Mitzel
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Elsie Pomfret
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Janice Canning
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Joan Brundage
Joan Freeman
Joan Overend
Joan Price
John Creswick
John Woods
Judith Martin
Kathleen Clarke
Kathleen Davidson
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Louise Smith
Lynn Hawkins
Margaret Donigold
Marie Hassan
Marjorie Fackerell
Mary Althorp

Mary Kingston
Meredith Helgeson
Muriel Holmes
Muriel Jones
Muriel McKeown
Nicolette Vautier
Olive Round
Rhonda Peterson
Richard Ireland
Roberta Greig
Robyn Willis
Rosalie Demetrick
Susan Dodd
Thelma Blackburn
Tom Merrill
Ursula Singer
Victoria Adams
Walter Sukaroff
William Jacobs
William McCondach
Winifred Wen-Min Yu

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS ADDS UP

Despite the challenges of Covid, BC and Alberta Guide Dogs continues to build stronger communities through its Guide Dog, Autism, and OSI-PTSD Service Dog programs across both provinces.



"Jace makes going for a walk, visiting the grocery store, or any outing a little bit easier and more fun."

MASON & AUTISM SERVICE DOG JACE



An OSID is trained to work with a handler of an organization to support the wellness of its service members.

PETER HANSEN, BC BURN FUND CENTRE & INTERVENTION SERVICE DOG BENJI

162
ACTIVE
TEAMS

98
PUPPY
RAISERS



SERVING

57
COMMUNITIES
SERVED

67%
BREEDING & PUPPY RAISING
GRADUATION SUCCESS RATE



"Harley is a bundle of love and energy and is so happy to work. It's nice to have the freedom to go out for walks on my own again."

MONICA & GUIDE DOG HARLEY



"Since Teagan was paired with me, she has brought a sense of joy and purpose to my life. She has given me back a sense of independence."

DAN & OSI-PTSD SERVICE DOG TEAGAN

THE RETIREMENT BRUCE DESERVES

Team Sponsor: Bruce and Susan McGorman

Like people, Guide Dogs eventually retire from work to enjoy well-deserved rest and relaxation. As a Guide Dog user, two of the most common questions I'm asked are: "how do you know when your dog is ready to retire?" and "what happens when they retire?"

Since I just retired my third dog, Bruce, in July of this year, the best way to answer these questions is to tell his story.

Bruce arrived in the late summer of 2013 as an eager and enthusiastic 18-month-old dog who loved to wear his harness and was ready to guide his heart out. In harness, he was all business, walking with his head up, chest out, and tail wagging. He guided with purpose and confidence. My husband once described him as a "dog on a mission."



His favourite workplace was our local mall because he had been socialized as a puppy there. He LOVED the mall despite the fact it was not my favourite place. He often "talked" in the car in the parking lot and couldn't wait to get inside.

In March of this year, Bruce turned 10 years old and was still guiding in his usual peppy, confident manner. Then in early May, I noticed changes in his behaviour.

One day, I brought his harness out for a walk, and he didn't move from his spot in the living room. Before that, anytime he heard his harness, he would immediately get to his feet in anticipation.

On another occasion, when we got to our destination by car, he was panting quite hard. I put his harness on, and he guided me to the door of the business, though without his usual enthusiasm.

Inside the business, I asked him to "find a bench" and he took me towards a chair and laid down. As this was the dog equivalent of "the bench is over there," I took him back to the door to have him find the bench properly, and he promptly laid down. On this trip, I knew his guiding days were coming to a close. This was confirmed when, in mid-June, we took a trip to the mall.

He did not "talk" in the car, and when we got inside the mall, he immediately laid down on the mat by the door. These were all Bruce's way of telling me, "I don't want to do this anymore." My responsibility was to respect his wishes, even if that meant my independence would change.

In 2013, while I was still training with Bruce, the trainer arranged for me to meet his puppy raiser, and I asked her if she and her husband would like to have

Bruce back once he retired. She had agreed, and we have kept in touch over the years

My husband and I took Bruce to her home in mid-July following one last after-care visit with a BC & Alberta Guide Dog Services trainer. For me, and every guide dog user, deciding whether to keep the dogs ourselves or retire them elsewhere is very personal.

For me, I knew Bruce would have a much better retirement with his puppy raiser than he would with me. I wanted him to kick back, relax, play, have fun, and be a dog with no responsibilities whatsoever. Giving him up was heartbreaking, but it was what was best for him.

His puppy raiser has sent me updates and photos, and I am confident I made the right decision for Bruce. He has an amazing retirement!

WOUNDED WARRIORS DELIVERS

HELPING VETERANS & FIRST RESPONDERS FEEL SAFE, SUPPORTED, AND UNDERSTOOD

Wounded Warriors Canada, a non-profit organization helping Veterans and First Responders injured in the line of duty, continues to deliver, thanks to its partnership with BC & Alberta Guide Dogs.

Wounded Warriors' goal is to ensure veterans and first responders and their families feel, safe, supported, and understood. One of its core programs helps fund Service Dogs provided by BC & Alberta Guide Dogs.



The Service Dogs are trained to provide a living, breathing lifeline to the outside world. The objective is to empower Veterans and First Responders with the tools to reclaim their place in the community and rebuild their lives by helping them feel more secure in situations that may trigger their OSI-PTSD symptoms.



As a mental health service provider, Wounded Warriors Canada offers a range of clinically facilitated programs specifically developed to support the unique needs of Veterans, First Responders and their families.

Wounded Warriors Canada chose to support

BC & Alberta Guide Dogs because they believe in the power of Service Dogs to improve the lives of individuals with an OSI-PTSD. They have seen firsthand the positive impact of Service Dogs.

After Veteran Dave was paired with Service Dog Storm, his life dramatically improved.

"He has changed my life in so many ways, that I find it hard to explain how wonderful it has been for me. I now get up every morning to feed and walk him; I play with him and train him. It's truly incredible how one dog can change the life of a Veteran in such a positive way."

Thank You!

TO THE FANTASTIC VETERINARIANS AND CLINICAL STAFF WHO CURRENTLY SUPPORT OUR PUPPIES AND DOGS ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA AND ALBERTA

Boundary Bay Veterinary Specialty Hospital
 C.A.R.E Centre Animal Hospital
 Canada West Veterinary Specialists
 Central Victoria Veterinary Hospital Ltd.
 Chase River Veterinary Hospital
 Crestwood Veterinary Centre
 Charlotte Keller med. vet., DACVO, DECVO

Fish Creek Veterinary Hospital
 Little Creek Veterinary Clinic
 Mckenzie Veterinary Services
 Qualicum Beach Animal Hospital
 Scottsdale Veterinary Hospital
 Vetcor Canine Reproduction Services
 Woodlands Veterinary Hospital



A VOLUNTEER JOB LIKE NO OTHER

Despite an unusually harsh and wet spring, the sun is beating down as Ken and Roberta Whiley prepare to say goodbye to their house guests.

Like anyone who welcomes someone into their home, the time to say goodbye is always bitter-sweet. You are more than happy to welcome them in, but in the end you know it's time for them to go.



Roberta and Ken Whiley have whelped more than 75 puppies for BC & Alberta Guide Dogs over the past 25 years.

There house guests were a beautiful, albeit sometimes demanding, litter of puppies. Bertie and Finn were the proud parents of six adorable pups, and the next seven weeks would be all hands on deck for Ken and Roberta. A smile washes over them as they reflect on their time whelping their latest litter. Their days of volunteers with BC & Alberta Guide Dogs dates back more than 25 years. Over that time they have whelped 75 dogs for the organization. It's not always an easy task, but it's reward is evident when they help put on the blue and white guide-dog-in-training jacket for the pup's first official photo for BC & Alberta Guide Dogs.

"It's certainly not for everybody," laughs Ken. "You have to be ready to give up your normal routines. Sleep is not something you can depend on."

Roberta explains that you have to keep a close eye on making sure the pups are properly feeding, that they are gaining weight, and that mom is healthy and happy. As they age week-by-week, you also have to prepare for the unexpected.

"It can be hectic, but it's a good kind of hectic," explains Roberta. "Knowing what lies ahead of them, it's worth it."

It's the exact same sentiment that drew Puppy Raiser Susie Ward to BC & Alberta Guide Dogs. A volunteer since 2013 and now working on raising dog number seven, she says being prepared to work and play helps both the dogs and the Puppy Raisers learn and grow together. As Susie makes her way to weekly classes with Dixie, she says it's what she gives — not what she gets in return — that makes it such a rewarding experience.

"It's important to give back to the community. My mother was blind and never had the opportunity to have a Guide Dog," explains Ward. If you ever considered volunteering for an organization, and have a love of dogs like I do, it's a wonderful thing."



Puppies remain with their Whelpers for seven weeks before they go to their Puppy Raisers.

OUR LEGION OF SUPPORT GROWS

The support for VICD Service Dogs, a division of BC & Alberta Guide Dogs, from the Royal Canadian Legion BC/Yukon Command, Foundation and the individual branches has played a pivotal role in the launch and development of the VICD Service Dog Program for our injured Veterans in need.

All financial support has gone directly to assisting Veterans who suffer from Operational Stress Injuries (OSI) such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Your exceptional support and compassion have enabled our professional team at VICD to use an innovative approach to help alleviate PTSD symptoms and improve Veterans' mental health.

Through the provision of a fully certified Operational Stress Injury Service Dog, Assistance Dogs International accredited 52-week Healthy Community Living Program and our ongoing support to our graduates – and their dogs – are the cornerstone of our success.

VICD is proud to announce that with the support of the Royal Canadian Legion BC/Yukon, we successfully placed and graduated 24 teams from our 52-week Healthy Community Living Program in 2021/22. The positive outcomes of training with an OSI-PTSD Service Dog are without question.



Overwhelmingly, our graduates express that with the assistance of their certified Service Dogs, they have been able to mitigate their PTSD symptoms.

Our comprehensive program and hands-on training with our clients give them the confidence to re-integrate into society and, most importantly, interact in healthy ways with their family, friends, and community.

With your direct support, we are pleased to inform you that we are on track to graduate 24 new teams in 2022. Thank you so much for your support in empowering VICD to change so many lives of those that served.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

BRITISH COLUMBIA GUIDE DOG SERVICES FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS AS OF JUNE 30, 2022

AND TO THE MANY ANONYMOUS DONORS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Results for the year:					
Revenues	2,663,942	2,597,002	2,222,971	1,840,028	1,639,902
Fundraising activities expenses	321,020	243,838	387,899	386,195	276,538
Training/client services expenses	1,385,250	1,151,911	1,505,603	1,376,237	1,218,433
Administrative expenses	273,260	176,633	224,892	286,246	234,334
Total expenses	1,979,530	1,572,382	2,118,394	2,048,678	1,729,305
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	684,412	1,024,620	104,577	(208,650)	(89,403)
Transfer to capital fund	13,838	59,963	61,680	25,413	152
Transfer to (from) endowment funds	-	7,526	-	-	2,500
Year end:					
Operating/gaming fund cash/investments net of bank indebtedness	1,768,135	1,130,469	179,007	337,768	116,262
Endowment fund and internally restricted fund investments	99,297	99,297	91,771	91,771	88,771
V. Adams fund cash/investments	381,204	806,350	1,064,721	1,273,774	1,228,386
Fisher fund investments	88,228	88,228	88,228	98,228	98,228
Capital assets at cost	2,057,987	2,063,579	1,470,789	1,470,789	1,470,789
Total assets	4,394,851	4,187,923	3,568,750	2,807,460	2,783,582
Accounts payable and payroll liabilities	81,610	60,452	63,411	115,165	70,581
Deferred contributions	1,521,969	2,020,611	2,292,164	1,520,164	1,474,346
Net assets	2,791,272	2,106,860	1,074,714	970,137	1,175,787

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

\$100,000+

An Anonymous Foundation
Wounded Warriors Canada

\$50,000 - 99,999

An Anonymous Foundation
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Foundation
Hope Heels Service Dogs
The Royal Canadian Legion
Foundation, BC/Yukon
Command

\$10,000 - 49,999

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BC & ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS

GUIDE DOGS • AUTISM SERVICE DOGS • OSI-PTSD SERVICE DOGS



A Division of BC Guide Dogs

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Leah Meeker

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BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON
COMMAND



BC HEAD OFFICE
7061 Ladner Trunk Road
Delta, BC V4K 3N3
Tel: 604.940.4504
Toll-free: 1.877.940.4504

ALBERTA GUIDE DOGS
#11 - 6115 4th Street SE
Calgary, AB T2H 2H9
Tel: 403.258.0819
Toll-free: 1.877.258.0819

VICD SERVICE DOGS
Office: Rms 9-10
744 Primrose Street
Qualicum Beach, BC
Tel: 250.909.0090

bcandalbertaguidedogs.com

Legal Title: British Columbia Guide Dog Services

Registered Charity Number: 89131 1763 RR001