



LIONS FOUNDATION OF CANADA DOG GUIDES

February 2022

Administration Update for
MD 19 Council of Governors

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides (LFCDG) continues to navigate the current COVID-19 landscape to best support the foundation's **mission** to:

~ empower Canadians with disabilities to navigate their world with confidence and independence by providing Dog Guides at no cost to them and supporting each pair in their journey together ~

The following **Strategic Priorities** continue to guide the work at LFCDG. Progress and accomplishments are tracked, discussed and celebrated with the staff and Board of Directors.

- Serving more Canadians with disabilities
- Provide a First-rate Client Experience
- Engage More People to Support our Mission
- Build our Organizational Capacity
- Optimize Canine Well Being

It has been a challenging start to 2022, with the impact of the Omicron variant, but with spring around the corner and rapid tests back in good supply, our teams are increasing our capacity to train more dog guides in all programs, and make arrangements for home and class placements to support new working teams as safely as possible.

Along with the focus on graduating new working teams, there are a **number of initiatives** that are critical to further support this work:

- Plans are underway for the annual Walk for Dog Guides, with a hybrid model of both virtual and in person events based on local restrictions. I hope you will join in this year and support a walk in your area or perhaps consider being an organizer.
- LFCDG will have a significant presence at the upcoming Lions International Convention in Montreal, and the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Calgary. Please drop by the booth and say hello to the staff and dogs who will be there.
- Plans for the new building are well underway. While construction won't begin until all the necessary approvals and building permits are received, work is beginning with the Rick Hansen Foundation to ensure the building incorporates the highest accessibility standards to best serve our clients.
- A capital campaign will be launched in the coming months to raise money to fund the new home of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.

- The breeding program has been very busy, and welcomed 59 new puppies in January.
- The LFCDG website is being redeveloped to update the site as well as ensure it is more accessible for people with disabilities. The projected completion date is in the spring of 2022.
- The last two years have seen the LFCDG Board of Directors highly engaged and this year promises to be no different.
 - There will be an initial emphasis on engagement at the committee level to work on initiatives to bring forward to the board for discussion and decisions. The focus will largely be on policy development to support better governance and operations as well as compliance with Imagine Canada standards.
 - In addition, board development sessions will be included at each in person board meeting. The first session, “The 5 questions healthy boards can ask” facilitated by Chris Wignall of the Catalyst Foundation, took place at the board meeting earlier this month, with great response from all attendees.