

Assistance Dog Schools in Canada

Canada is home to several organizations that provide guide and service dogs, including:

- Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides (LFCDG)
- CNIB Guide Dogs
- National Service Dogs (NSD)

All three play important roles—but they differ significantly in scope, impact, and how donations are used.

Category	Dog Guides	CNIB Guide Dogs	National Service Dogs
Who they serve	Canadians with a wide range of disabilities	Primarily vision loss	Primarily autism & PTSD
Programs offered	Vision, Hearing, Autism, Diabetes, Seizure, Service, Facility Support	Primarily guide dogs for vision loss	Autism & service dogs
National Reach	National	National	National
Dogs trained per year	~140–160 teams annually	Smaller and growing program	Smaller programs
Cost per dog	~\$35,000	~\$50,000	Varies
Government funding	None (100% donor-funded)	Yes – receives lots of government funding	Donation-based

What Makes Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides Different

1. The Only Organization with 7 Specialized Programs = Broader impact per donation

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides is the only school of its kind in Canada offering seven distinct Dog Guide programs.

This means your donation doesn't just support one group—it helps:

- Children with autism
- Individuals with diabetes, epilepsy, mobility disabilities, vision loss, or that are deaf or hard of hearing
- Children and adults going through traumatic situations

2. Largest Provider in Canada = More people helped, more lives changed

- Trains 140–160 Dog Guide teams annually
- Supports 1,000+ active teams across Canada

3. Fully Funded for Clients = No Barriers

- Every Dog Guide is provided at no cost to qualified Canadians.
- Your donation directly removes financial barriers for people who need support most.

4. Lower Cost Per Dog = Greater Efficiency. Donations go further, helping more Canadians.

- Dog Guides: ~\$35,000 per dog
- CNIB: ~\$50,000 per dog

5. 100% Donor-Funded

Unlike larger organizations, Dog Guides:

- Receives no government funding for operations
 - Relies entirely on community support
 - Donations have a direct and meaningful impact
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About the Other Organizations

CNIB Guide Dogs - Important work, but more specialized in scope.

- Strong national brand focused on vision loss
- Growing guide dog program
- Larger organizational structure
- Higher fundraising and operational costs reported

National Service Dogs - Valuable niche support, but narrower in scale.

- Focus on autism service dogs and some service roles
- Smaller organization with meaningful impact
- More limited number of programs and reach

When you support Dog Guides, you are:

- Supporting the widest range of disabilities in Canada
- Helping more people per dollar donated
- Funding a fully donor-driven organization
- Contributing to life-changing independence and confidence

**Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides delivers the broadest impact,
at scale, with efficient use of donor dollars.**

