



CNIB

Breakthroughs

Annual Report 2021 • 2022



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Mission

To change what it is to be blind through innovative programs and powerful advocacy that enable Canadians impacted by blindness to live the lives they choose.



Values

- Empowerment
- Inclusiveness
- Innovation
- Passion
- Collaboration
- Integrity

Breakthroughs and Bold Ambitions

Message from the CEO and Board Chair

We've titled this annual report "Breakthroughs" for a few reasons. First, like many Canadians, we at CNIB felt like we finally broke through to the other side of the COVID-19 pandemic in the past year – a long-awaited milestone.

Although we may never see the end of this virus, we have turned a collective corner. We can now live and work in a new normal that feels more familiar than anything we've experienced over the past two years.

As a hands-on organization whose top priority is helping people, it's game-changing to be able to work with our participants in person again. Although we were proud to build a wide range of virtual programs so our participants could continue to receive our support during the pandemic – and those virtual services will continue into the future – we're thrilled to resume our in-person services, delivered in our participants' homes, communities, or wherever they need us.

Another reason why we titled this report "Breakthroughs"? Because we felt like it was a year of breakthroughs for our work – and the way we support our participants. They say necessity is the mother of invention, and the pandemic pushed us to be more innovative than ever before –

to reach farther and do more for the people we serve.

We had to mobilize quickly to tackle issues we could never have foreseen, like the accessibility of vaccine passports and physical distancing guidelines. The employment landscape in Canada pushed us to expand our Come to Work program faster than we thought possible. And the inability to serve our participants in person catalyzed a new way of thinking about our programs and reach – and inspired us to create innovative program delivery models like the CNIB Mobile Hub.

Now we're working on another breakthrough: our next strategic plan. With direction and feedback from people with sight loss across Canada, we're thrilled to be working on a bold new plan that we believe will revolutionize the way we serve and support our community from coast to coast to coast. You can read more about it on pages 16 and 17 of this report.

None of these breakthroughs and successes would've been possible if it weren't for the many people who helped keep CNIB going strong over the past year – from the participants who helped us make the transition from physical to virtual programs and back again... to the volunteers who selflessly dedicated their time and talents to our cause... to our

extraordinary employee team who went above and beyond every day... to the many generous donors who funded our work and enabled our programs to thrive.

To everyone who contributed to our mission, thank you for an incredible year. Thank you for caring. And thank you for helping us break through and succeed in our bold ambitions.



John M. Rafferty
President
and CEO



Robert Penner
Chair, Board
of Directors



**Go online
for more**

Visit cnib.ca/2021 to hear more from our president and CEO, John M. Rafferty.



By the numbers

The CNIB Guide Dogs graduating class of 2021 included:

20
guide dog
partnerships

7
buddy dog
partnerships

Our puppy raisers volunteered more than **195,000** hours this year

We began raising our **100th puppy!**



CNIB Guide Dogs

Freedom, independence, safety

Over the past year, CNIB Guide Dogs has expanded in so many ways – from the number of dogs we’re training and graduating to the capacity of our training facility. Every day brings us one step closer to being able to meet the growing demand for guide dogs in Canada.

CNIB Canine Campus continues to grow

While the number of applications for guide dogs grows, CNIB’s Canine Campus – where our puppies go to learn all the skills they need to become successful guide dogs – is growing, too.

Our Canine Campus is now home to 24 dogs in formal training with the capacity to accommodate up to 40 dogs per year. Expansion is well underway to accommodate even more dogs in the coming year, moving us closer to our ultimate goal of housing and training 150 dogs per year.

A guide dog breeding program on home soil

In 2021, travel restrictions made it even more difficult for people with sight loss to obtain a guide dog from outside of Canada. In response, we went to work to establish a best-in-class Canadian guide dog breeding program – the first of its kind at home.

Over the past year, the CNIB Guide Dogs team has engaged with several other guide dog breeding programs around the world to find the suitable dogs and matches we need to start our program. And thanks to an unprecedented gift by philanthropist Delores Beck, we have the funds to build one of the two breeding facilities we need to establish to get the program off the ground. (Learn more about Delores’ contribution on page 19.)

The Life-Changing Impact of Buddy Dogs

When we created CNIB Guide Dogs in 2017, we never could've foreseen how life-changing one aspect of that program would be: buddy dogs.

Unique to CNIB, buddy dogs are partnered with children and youth who are blind or Deafblind. Their exceptional training and breeding make them perfect companions for children who are living with sight loss.

Whether it's feeding, grooming, or walking this well-trained family pet, buddy dogs give children an opportunity to care for a dog, build their sense of responsibility and independence, and, in some cases, help make it easier to transition into a guide dog partnership in the future.

The impact of these dogs has been greater than we ever dreamed possible. Our buddy dogs have been absolute life-changers for

not only the children who receive them, but their families too. Many parents of buddy dog recipients have told us their child is not only happier because of their buddy dog, but he or she has become more independent, confident, and connected with others.

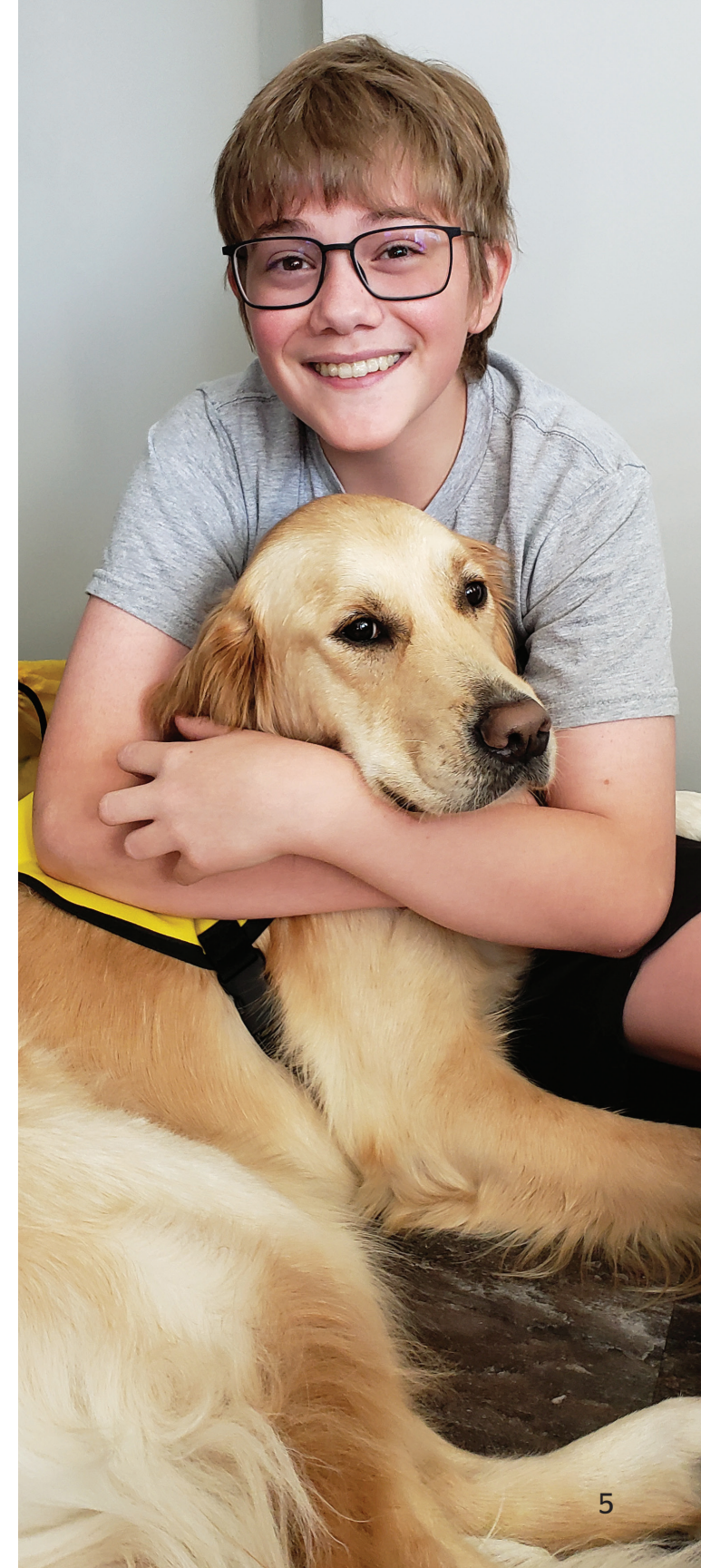
Gabriel and Maggie

At 14 years old, Gabriel Pigeon is like other boys his age. He loves playing video games and skateboarding, and during the pandemic, he struggled with school closures. Thankfully, he had his buddy dog, Maggie, by his side to help him through it all.

Before Maggie, Gabriel – who's lived with sight loss his entire life – didn't feel confident navigating the world with his white cane. "Now, I can walk basically anywhere," he says.

She's preparing him for the future, too. "A buddy dog is preparation for a guide dog," Gabriel explains. "It teaches you how to properly train a dog, how to trust a dog, and how to take care of it."

For Gabriel's mother, Rhonda, Maggie also gives her peace of mind. "I've never seen anything like the relationship between Maggie and Gabriel," she says. "When he's out, if he falls, Maggie will bark for help on command. I don't worry – it gives me comfort."





Programming Highlights

Art by Leyland Adams | Photo by Rico King

Braille transcription made easy

CNIB Beyond Print has created a game-changing resource called the Braille Portal to help individuals and organizations transcribe documents into braille more easily than ever. If an individual or business needs something in braille, all they have to do is visit cnib-beyondprint.ca and make a request – it's that simple. For people who are blind, partially sighted, or Deafblind, these braille transcriptions will be created without charge. This exciting service is funded with the generous support of the Estate of W.B.G. Humphries through the establishment of the Michelle McQuigge Fund.

Bringing accessible art to our communities

In February, CNIB was thrilled to team up with celebrated graffiti artist Leyland Adams to create an innovative accessible street mural. Located in downtown Toronto, the mural features the city skyline from the waterfront. It was created in spray paint and features tactile elements throughout so anyone can experience it, regardless of their level of sight. Passersby can also listen to the story behind the mural using QR code technology.

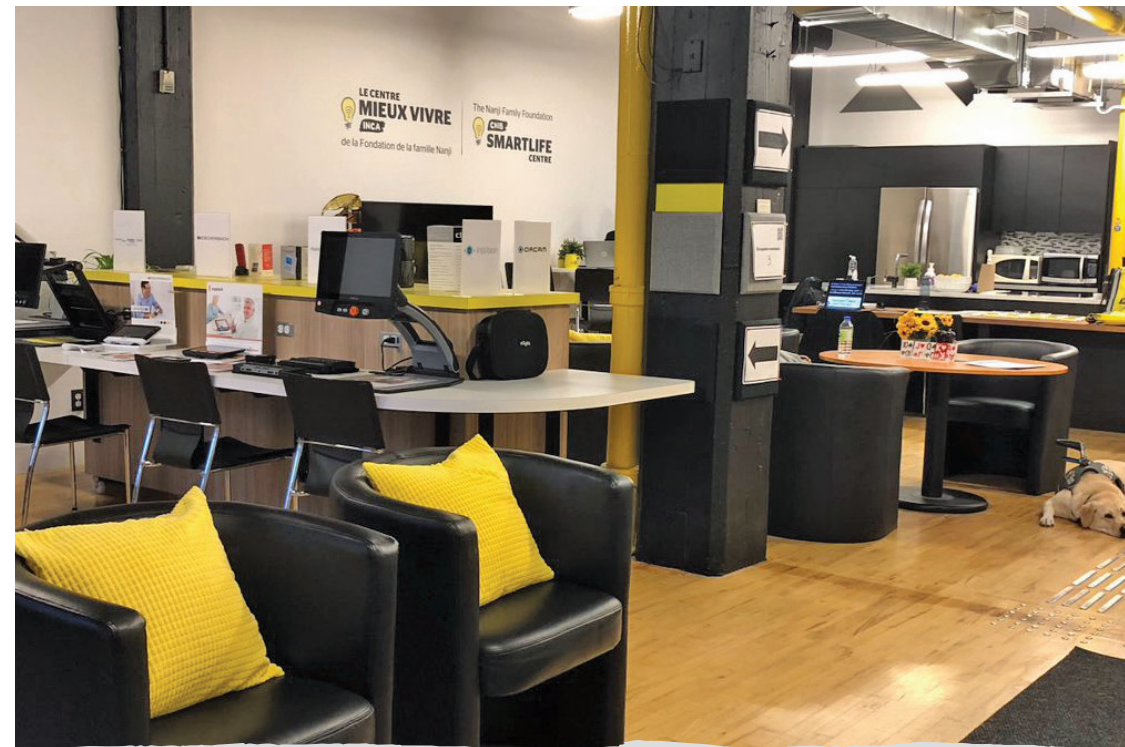


Unlocking the beauty of Alberta's parks

Over the course of the pandemic, access to outdoor parks became more important for Canadians than ever before. We believe everyone should be able to enjoy the magic of Canada's breathtaking provincial parks. That's why **CNIB Frontier Accessibility** joined forces this year with Alberta Parks on their Push to Open Nature project, designed to make their parks more inclusive to people living with disabilities. Through this partnership, Alberta Parks visitors can now use the Blindsquare app to receive detailed terrain information on some trails via GPS.

CNIB SmartLife gains ground

Thanks to incredibly generous support from the Nanji Family Foundation, we were able to open five new CNIB SmartLife Centres across Canada last year! These new Centres are located in Montreal, Quebec; New Westminster, B.C.; and Barrie, Brampton, and Ottawa, Ontario. Each has been proudly named "The Nanji Family Foundation CNIB SmartLife Centre" in honour of our generous patrons. (Pictured here is a photo from the opening of our Montreal SmartLife location in October.)



Go online for more

Explore the new Nanji Family Foundation CNIB SmartLife Centre in Montreal at **cnib.ca/smartmontreal**

Celebrating 60 years of Lake Joe magic

In 2021, our CNIB Lake Joe camp facility marked six decades of bringing accessible camp experiences and recreation programming to people who are blind, partially sighted, and Deafblind of all ages, as well as their families. We celebrated this milestone event with a range of fun activities and programs, including our 60th Anniversary Saturday Series which brought the magic of Lake Joe into the homes of people with sight loss through weekly virtual events and discussions.

Accelerating talent into their dream careers

Our **Come to Work** program has grown considerably and more of our participants are achieving employment because of it. But once someone has a job, what comes next? This year, we launched our first comprehensive program geared at helping working individuals excel in their careers. The **Talent Accelerator** program (TAP) is an eight-month program that helps participants develop their career goals, build their leadership skills, and flourish professionally through practical resources, peer support, and guidance from invited guests.

Summer camps for every stage of youth

In regions across Canada, CNIB is proud to offer summer camps for kids, customized for their interests and goals at each stage of their youth. In Atlantic Canada, our **2021 Life After High School Orientation Week** included topics like preparing for university, living on campus, and experiential learning activities like budgeting, yoga, and mindfulness. In 2021, we also held our annual **Summer Fun Day Camp** in Atlantic Canada, where younger campers enjoyed activities like grooming and riding horses, flying kites, going to the beach, making a meal, and playing theatre games!

Technology comes to those who need it

Being able to access and confidently use technology is important for almost everyone we serve, but it may be most important for people in remote regions where technology can be a crucial gateway to programs, services, and other resources not locally available. This year, our B.C. technology team travelled to Whitehorse, Yukon, to deliver our **Tech Primer** program to residents living with sight loss. This one-on-one, in-person training gives participants a chance to receive step-by-step guidance from our tech experts so they can then access our support virtually whenever they may need it in the future.



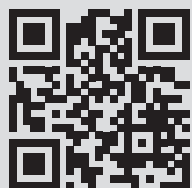
“ It is a true privilege to work alongside such talented and passionate staff and volunteers. Together with the sight loss community, we’ve pushed the needle towards changing what it means to be blind last year. And I’m thrilled to continue working with everyone to create a more accessible and inclusive British Columbia and Yukon! ”

– Shoko Kitano, Provincial Director, B.C./Yukon



“ We never want geography to be a barrier for people to access our programs. The CNIB Mobile Hub is a really exciting new program delivery model that allows us to reach participants right where they are, in their own communities. ”

- Bernard Akuoko, CNIB, Program Lead, Advocacy and Accessible Community Engagement



Go online for more

Check out a video of the CNIB Mobile Hub in action at cnib.ca/hubonwheels

Travelling Impact

Introducing the CNIB Mobile Hub

No matter where people with sight loss live, we want to reach and support them - whether they're in a bustling Canadian city, a quiet suburb, or a remote community. This year, CNIB was proud to introduce a whole new way of reaching all those who need us, right in their own backyards. We call it the **CNIB Mobile Hub**.

The program works like this: Our Mobile Hub team travels to communities large and small, offering a range of programs over the course of the one- to three-day visit - from technology training to employment skills workshops to recreational programs like adaptive yoga. They can also try out an array of CNIB SmartLife assistive products, from the latest breakthroughs in accessible technologies to tried-and-true favourites. At the end of the visit, our Mobile Hub team packs up and moves on to the next community - ready to serve a new group of participants!

The CNIB Mobile Hub launched in the spring of 2022 with a pilot tour in Ontario thanks to generous support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. We can't wait to expand this program across the country so all Canadians with sight loss can take part.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging

Celebrating the communities within our community

Every Canadian who's affected by sight loss has a home at CNIB, no matter their age, race, gender identity, or where they come from.

We want everyone we serve to feel that sense of “home” when they come to us for support – and to know their identity is reflected and valued within our programming.

Although most of our programs are open to anyone affected by sight loss who wants to join, we're also proud to offer programs targeted to people who have intersecting social identities. Here are just a few:

- **Black Voices United**

Led by two CNIB program leads who are also members of the Black community and the sight loss community, this group gives participants a space to share experiences, give each other support, and hear from guest speakers.

- **Pride Connections**

Led by two facilitators who are blind and also members of the LGBTQ2S+ community, this virtual support group brings together adults who identify as LGBTQ2S+ to share experiences, hear from guest speakers, and discuss topics chosen by the group.

- **Indigenous Peer Support Group**

Run by an Indigenous facilitator who is also a member of the sight loss community, this group offers a safe space for participants to discuss topics related to their shared experience as Indigenous Canadians living with sight loss.



“Black Voices United isn’t just a group – we’re family. It’s been amazing to watch the bond that has developed amongst us over the last two years. Black Voices has really helped me come out of my shell and discover confidence in myself I didn’t know I had.”

– Neisha Mitchell, CNIB Program Lead, Advocacy & Accessible Community Engagement

You Did It!

In the past year, our supporters made the following possible...



10,000+

participants nationwide received support from CNIB.

4,000+

volunteers contributed **305,000+** hours of their time to us in the last year.



1,000+

people received a new or gently used smartphone through our **Phone It Forward** program so they can experience the independence accessible technology can bring.

We delivered **11,800+** technology programs to people with sight loss nationwide.



We grew our **Come to Work** Talent Pool to

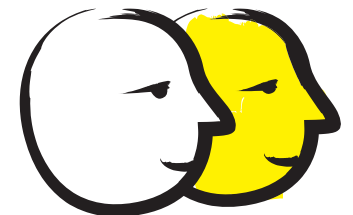
1,000+

job seekers and grew our Venture Pool to **90+** budding entrepreneurs.

Our frontline team delivered

1,500

programs to people with sight loss across Canada - ranging from **sports and recreation** programs to **employment support** and many others.



Thank you to the thousands of supporters across Canada who made all this happen, and more.



Albertan families affected by sight loss and CNIB staff come together in the halls of the Alberta Legislative Building for the Day of Action.

Advocacy Highlights

Taking action for students in Alberta

In March, we raised our voices in Alberta with five families who joined us for a **Day of Action** at the Alberta Legislative Building. There, we talked to ministers and members of the legislative assembly about the need for better outcomes for students with sight loss. Initiating dialogues like this with decision-makers is key to getting issues facing our community on provincial and national agendas.

The push for accessible insulin pumps

In November – **National Diabetes Awareness Month** – we launched an awareness campaign advocating for accessible insulin pumps. The campaign put pressure on Health Canada to commit to making accessibility one of the criteria it uses when approving insulin pumps for the Canadian market, and to provide a projected timeline for implementation. We continue the dialogue with the federal government and will be pursuing further avenues being developed through the National Framework for Diabetes Act. We also held two roundtables with insulin pump manufacturers to raise awareness of this issue and collaborate on developing solutions. We're now pursuing further initiatives with each manufacturer.

Empowering advocates in B.C.

The province of B.C. is home to thousands of people affected by sight loss or Deafblindness who are passionate about issues that impact their community. This year, we launched a new advocacy and leadership program in B.C. to help these participants turn their passion into action. As part of this program, we ran a series of self-advocacy workshops in both English and Cantonese. We also established an **Advocacy Leadership Committee** to tackle advocacy issues in their communities. The committee now has members from across the province – from Prince George to Kelowna to Vancouver to Nanaimo!



Health card renewal without discrimination

After two years of advocacy from CNIB and people who are blind or Deafblind, the Government of Ontario now finally allows residents to renew their health cards online using an Ontario photo ID card. Previously, Ontario residents could only renew their health cards online using a driver's license, which wasn't an option for people we serve as well as many others in the disability community and the general population.

Helping participants know their rights

This year has seen a major national expansion of our **Know Your Rights** initiative across Canada, building on the success of the Ontario Know Your Rights project. The past year saw the completion of "Droits Devant!" in Quebec and the launch of other Know Your Rights projects in Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland. We're also building on the Ontario project by developing a youth component to Know Your Rights through the Y.E.L.L program (**Youth Equality through Legal Learning**). The impact of educating our community members on their legal rights will be far reaching, building knowledge and capacity in our communities across Canada.

Enabling independent shopping

Being able to buy things on your own is a key part of being an independent adult. Last year, in partnership with Moneris Solutions, we successfully launched the most accessible payment terminal in Canada. More than 22,000 Canadian payment terminals now have software to enable accessibility features for consumers living with sight loss.

“ Making forever change only happens when we keep pushing and demanding it. At CNIB, we are proud to advocate for the changes that our community wants and needs, especially in the last year. We are determined to keep pushing for change to make a fully inclusive and accessible society. ”

– Thomas Simpson, Executive Director, Public Affairs



Moving the Needle

A decade of change, a permanent impact

Explore the lasting societal changes that CNIB and Canada's sight loss and Deafblind community have created together over the past 10 years...



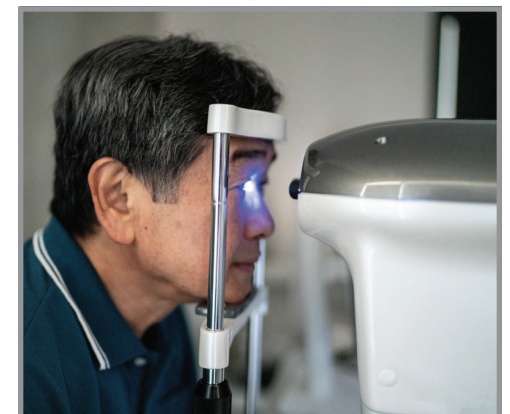
2013

We conducted the largest community consultation in our history, reaching out to thousands of Canadians who are blind or Deafblind of all ages to help us create our **Path to Change** strategic plan.



2014

After our highly successful Right to Read campaign, we led the creation of the **Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA)**, a new government-funded organization offering thousands of accessible materials to Canadians with print disabilities through public libraries.



2015

We came together with Canada's leading eye health associations to create a landmark document, the **Canadian Patient Charter for Vision Care**, making a shared commitment to providing optimum patient-centred care throughout the vision loss journey.



2016

We successfully advocated for Canada to sign and ratify the **Marrakesh Treaty**, reducing barriers to creating and sharing accessible materials internationally.

2017



We successfully integrated CNIB's rehabilitation services into the continuum of health care and established **Vision Loss Rehabilitation Canada** soon after. We also launched **CNIB Guide Dogs** to meet the growing need for guide dogs in Canada.



2018

We created our **Come to Work** career programs as well as our **Phone It Forward** program, which has since given out more than 2,300 smartphones to people with sight loss who need them nationwide.

2020

We developed hundreds of **new virtual programs** so every Canadian with sight loss could continue to have a community of support, and we launched **CNIB SmartLife**, a social enterprise that brings cutting-edge technologies and products to people with sight loss nationwide.



We championed changes to **Bill C-81, the Accessible Canada Act**, to make Canada's new accessibility legislation stronger and more accountable.

2019



2021

We received \$500,000 in government funding to join forces with Moneris Solutions and create an **accessible in-store payment terminal** for use nationwide.



2022

With the help of thousands of people with sight loss across Canada, we're now creating our **new strategic plan!** Learn more about it on the next two pages.



Go online for more

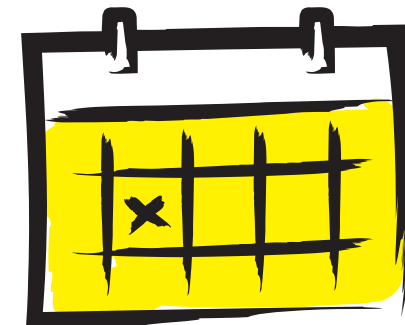
This is just a snapshot of the accomplishments we've had over the past 10 years. Read our full "moving the needle" timeline at **cnib.ca/movingtheneedle**

**“Alone
we can do
so little.
Together
we can do
so much.”**

– Helen Keller



Planning for Transformation



Looking ahead to CNIB's next strategic plan

**CNIB is on the cusp of
something big – and we want
every person with sight loss in
Canada to be a part of it.**

Four years ago, we were proud to launch our Bold Dreams, Bright Futures strategic plan. Now, as that plan draws to a close, we're thrilled to be starting work on our next plan, scheduled for launch in 2023.

Like Bold Dreams, Bright Futures, our new plan will be written on the feedback of the people we serve.

**“Everything we do has to
come from our community,”
says John M. Rafferty, CNIB
President and CEO. “CNIB is an
extension of our participants,
and our strategies are a direct
result of what our participants
tell us they want and need.”**

That's why we've engaged in the largest consultation process in our history. Over the past year, we've reached out to thousands of people with sight loss and their families across Canada – of all ages and from all walks of life.

We've travelled across the country and held 35 meetings with our community members, we've delivered digital surveys to thousands of people, and we've made thousands of phone calls.

It's been a long, intensive process, but one that's absolutely necessary to ensure our plan reflects the needs and goals of the people we serve.

A manifesto for the future

Although we're still gathering and analyzing feedback from our community, we know this plan will be more ambitious than any other in our history.

"This will be more than a strategic plan; it will really be a manifesto for the future," says Angela Bonfanti, CNIB's Chief Operating Officer. "Our participants are telling us what they want CNIB to be and do, and we're listening. We're putting it into action."

From the feedback we've received so far, a few key themes have emerged already – themes we've heard again and again from our participants. One of those themes is around pushing our advocacy work to the next level.



Working with our community members, we've been proud to move the needle on many issues in the past – from accessible library services to workplace inclusion to accessible voting – but there is so much more to be done.

"Our community is telling us that what we've accomplished so far is great, but our mission will be limited if we don't break through some key barriers that continue to exist in our society," says John. "We have to draw a line in the sand that says 'We've had enough and we're not asking for change anymore. We're demanding it.'"

For that reason, our new strategic plan will focus on advocacy and public affairs like never before. It will also contain not only new programs, but measurable goals, actions, and milestones so we can track our impact without question.

"This is the time for serious action," says Angela. "As the world recovers from the pandemic, everything is changing. This is the time to find our loudest voices and be relentless in smashing through the barriers our community faces. Our participants deserve to have limitless opportunities in life, and we will accept nothing less."

CNIB's next strategic plan will launch in 2023. Stay tuned for more updates as it comes to life.



“ From a research perspective, this consultation process was enormous. We surveyed thousands of people with sight loss, as well as their friends and family members, to gather as much information as possible on their needs, goals, and the barriers they face in daily life and participating in society. ”

- Dr. Mahadeo Sukhai, CNIB, Vice President of Research and Public Affairs and Chief Accessibility Officer

Donors Make It Happen

Thank you to our incredible supporters

Our successes in the last year wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of our donors and supporters.

Whether you joined our exclusive club of monthly donors, left a legacy gift in your will, or participated in a virtual fundraising event, you're creating a brighter future for Canadians with sight loss from coast to coast to coast. Thank you!



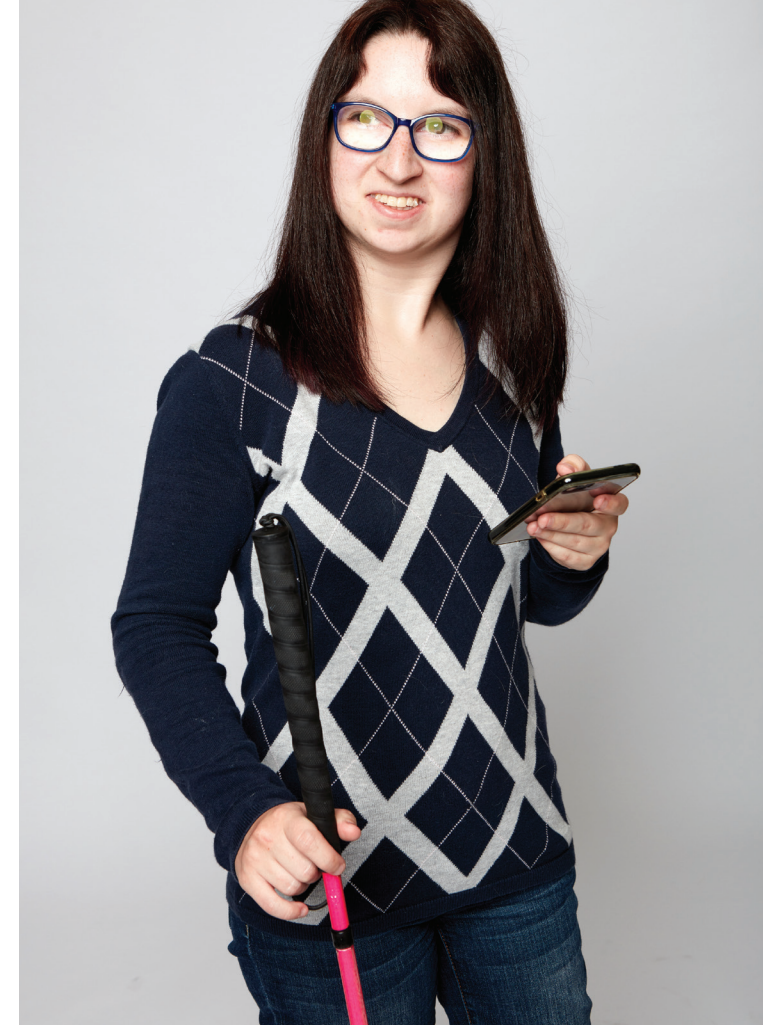
Canadian Tire gives back



Thanks to the generosity of Canadian Tire, people with sight loss of all ages have greater access to the tools, services, and programs they need to live more fulfilling, independent lives.

Canadian Tire's extraordinary commitment to breaking down barriers for people with sight loss includes supporting CNIB Lake Joe's virtual and in-person programming, and CNIB Guide Dogs' urgent expansion campaign. If that weren't enough, Canadian Tire has also donated smartphones to CNIB Phone It Forward.

"Canadian Tire is proud to be a supporter of CNIB and we are honoured to work with them to strengthen our communities together. Our shared passion and commitment to helping people and communities is a reflection of our brand purpose of being here to make life in Canada better for all," says Kim Saunders, Vice President, ESG Strategy and Community Impact, Canadian Tire Corporation.



Unprecedented Generosity

Delores Beck makes record-breaking gift to CNIB Guide Dogs

In CNIB's more than 100-year history, no one person has ever been as generous to us as Delores Beck.

After having given several other significant donations in the past, Delores made an incredible impact on our organization this year by donating a staggering \$2 million to support CNIB Guide Dogs.

It amounts to the largest gift we've ever received from a living individual.

"I don't think I can put into words how grateful we are for Delores' generosity through this gift," says CNIB's Shane Burt. "She hasn't just made a gift to CNIB; she's made a forever impact on our guide dog program, and countless people with sight loss who will benefit from it in the future."

A lifelong animal lover and dog owner, Delores felt a natural affinity towards our guide dog program when she first heard about it. In fact, she was eager to sponsor two guide dogs, who she named Amy and Chester after the most beautiful and cleverest dogs she ever owned.

"Animals are the best companions you can have, and they are so loyal to their owners," says Delores. "The fact that these guide dogs are lifelines to their handlers and that we can open up a world of possibilities through this incredible companionship is inspirational."

Now, her \$2-million gift will make it possible for us to build a state-of-the-art guide dog breeding facility in the Greater Toronto Area. This will help us meet the demand for outstanding guide dogs in Canada by breeding them right here at home, without relying on imported puppies from other countries.

"This is a fixable problem that we can solve now, and I wanted to make sure this happened," says Delores. "Especially right now when there are so many crazy things going on in the world, it's nice to be able to help solve some problems by giving back to the causes I care about."

Although her husband, a highly esteemed attorney named Howard Beck, is no longer with us, Delores made her \$2-million gift in his honour. We send our sincerest thanks not only to Delores, but to her beloved Howard, who was also a great philanthropist and animal lover.

From all of us at CNIB, thank you, Delores and Howard, for your exceptional generosity.



Delores and her late husband, Howard Beck.



Delores and Howard's beloved dogs, Amy and Chester.

Dedicated Volunteers

Thank you to our outstanding volunteer team

Active at every level of the organization, our volunteers are key to moving CNIB's mission forward. Whether it's delivering employment workshops or supporting advocacy campaigns, our volunteers make an impact every single day.

Louis Levesque

Creating safe spaces to talk



After losing his sight suddenly in 2011, Quebec City's Louis Levesque began to volunteer as a peer support group facilitator within a year. Facilitating phone conversations with a group of 10 people every week, he's committed to creating safe spaces that welcome the most difficult conversations relating to sight loss.

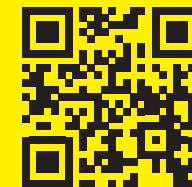
"We form a big family that help each other from a distance. By exchanging tips and experiences, we provide recipes for a more satisfying life," he says.

Betty Nobel

Passing on technology know-how

As a CNIB Tech Mate, Vancouver's Betty Nobel volunteers to help put the latest tech knowledge at people's fingertips. Knowing that technology can level the playing field for people living with sight loss, Betty loves helping people build the skills to capitalize on its potential.

"As a retired teacher, I love it when people start to understand and use their technology. It is great to be able to do one-on-one instruction and see a person progress," she says.



Go online for more

Visit cnib.ca/ben2021 to read a Q&A with our Brand Ambassador, Ben Mulroney.

Joan Kelley Walker

Champion fundraising, heartfelt caring

When people ask us how Joan Kelley Walker is involved with CNIB, the answer is simple: any way she can be.

Having a mother with sight loss herself, Joan knows how important our programming is in the lives of the people we serve. The media personality and journalist is a champion CNIB volunteer, ready to move mountains to meet the goals of our mission.

“She’s absolutely selfless,” says Angela Bonfanti, CNIB’s Chief Operating Officer. “Joan works as hard for CNIB as anyone, and she’s as passionate as any member of our team. In fact, at the end of the day, she is a member of our team. She’s so important to our work.”

Over the course of the pandemic, raising funds to support our mission was an ongoing challenge, especially with the loss of in-person fundraising events.

Joan was a key part of the success of our socially distanced Dock-to-Dock event at CNIB Lake Joe, which has been critical in raising the funds and awareness our programs need to thrive.

At times, because of the impacts of the pandemic, these Dock-to-Dock events felt like they were in jeopardy. Joan was determined to ensure they were as successful as possible. Time and again, she rallied her personal networks to give, to volunteer, to retweet, to make a call – to do anything they could to support the event fundraising committee.

But Joan does so much more than talk. She puts in the hard work behind the scenes – the work no one sees, but makes a profound difference in the lives of those we serve.

“I think one of the amazing things about Joan is her humility and her work ethic,” says Angela. “She’s never afraid to get in there, to get her hands dirty, to put in the real work to make things happen.”

Over the course of the pandemic alone, Joan has been directly responsible for raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for CNIB that we greatly needed in order to be there for people with sight loss of all ages, right across Canada.

Thank you, Joan, for all that you do.



Leadership Volunteers

Offering guidance, inspiration, and accountability

Our work wouldn't be possible without the dedicated service of our leadership volunteer team, made up of passionate board, committee, and National Youth Council members. These individuals generously give their time, talents, and expertise to our organization for one reason: because they care about creating a more inclusive world for people with sight loss.

Board of Directors

Our board of directors members provide critical guidance and oversight on our strategies and play a key role in ensuring every aspect of our work has a positive impact in the lives of those we serve.

Bob Penner, Chair
Bob Fenton, Chair Elect
Ron Kruzeniski,
Immediate Past Chair
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Kevin Burns
Laura Dunne
Lawrence Euteneier
Neil Graham

Penny Hartin
Daniel Huang
Maggie Lee Grant
Susan Lindley
Brad McPherson
Kelsie Montgomery
Jane Muir-Savidant
Tara Niekamp
James Rumble
Jonathan Spencer
Gary Steeves

Standing Committees

Our standing committee members, several of whom also serve on our board of directors, provide oversight and additional accountability on key areas of our work, from people & culture to governance to risk management.

Audit Committee

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Gabe Hayos
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Kelsie Montgomery
Kyle Niekamp
Charlie Thompson
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Kelsie Montgomery
James Rumble
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Daniel Huang
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Ron Kruzeniski
Paula Pepin
Dayna Schnell

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Robert Paolino
Jane Muir-Savidant

Strategy Committee

Jane Muir-Savidant, Chair
Kevin Burns
Lawrence Euteneier
Bob Fenton
Stephanie Fry
Maggie Lee Grant
Susan Lindley
Tara Niekamp

National Youth Council

Made up of young adults with sight loss, the NYC gives youth leaders the opportunity to influence change and increase awareness of issues facing their generation. They also provide guidance on areas of our work affecting youth with sight loss.

Will Honcharuk, Chair*

Emilee Schevers, Vice-Chair

Alicia Chenier, Executive Member*

Eitel Houedakor, Executive Member*

Océanne Comtois

Rilind Dragoshi

Danica Frappier

Taylor Gaudon

Caelin Lloyd

Caleb Piche-Larocque*

Aadim Rajan

Curtis Ruttle

Abby Sienko

Stela Trudeau

*Also serves on a CNIB standing committee

Members of the National Youth Council meet at CNIB Lake Joe.



Thank You

Thank you to our incredible board of directors, committee, and National Youth Council members!

By generously donating your time, passion, and expertise to us, you're helping CNIB make the greatest impact possible in the lives of people with sight loss from coast to coast to coast.

“ The last two years posed all kinds of new challenges to CNIB, but our staff didn’t let that stop them from delivering on our mission. We are so proud of our incredible team members and how they’ve risen to the occasion for the people we serve. ”

**- Maria Ash, CNIB,
Chief People Officer**

Our Team

Passion, commitment, dedication

The word “proud” doesn’t do justice to how we feel about our employee team. Over the past two years, our staff have stepped up to the plate in so many ways - large and small - to ensure that our participants continued to receive the support they needed from us. Despite the challenges we’ve all faced over the course of the pandemic, the CNIB team never lost their passion, commitment, and dedication to creating an inclusive, barrier-free world for people who are blind, partially sighted, or Deafblind.



Kudos all around!

In 2021, we introduced a new staff recognition platform called Awardco. This platform allows our team members to give each other kudos for their hard work and passion, which equate to points that they can spend on thousands of different products online.

Here's a glimpse of how our team members are acknowledging each other's hard work and dedication through Awardco...

"Kirt [Milligin] is so passionate about his job and is always willing to spread awareness and teach others about braille (and he's such an excellent teacher!). Thanks, Kirt, for taking the time to bring a 'mission moment' to all of us during our meeting last week!"

"[Kathleen Delay], your dedication and passion to everything you do is inspiring and contagious. Your focus and willingness to make sure we get it right and serve our community to the best of our ability is second to none."

"[Tanis Boardman], you are an absolute ray of sunshine. I admire your passion, your dedication to your participants, and your constant commitment to diversity and inclusion. Thanks for being such a pleasure to work with."

Senior leadership team

We're proud to be led by a dedicated team of senior executives, each of whom is passionate about changing what it means to be blind today.

John M. Rafferty
President and CEO

Angela Bonfanti
Chief Operating Officer

Maria Ash
Chief People Officer

Diane Bergeron
President, CNIB Guide Dogs

Garry Nenson
Chief Development Officer

Kathy Rabideau
Chief Financial Officer

Dr. Mahadeo A. Sukhai
Vice President, Research and International Affairs and Chief Accessibility Officer



In 2021, we were thrilled to welcome Angela Bonfanti into the role of CNIB's first Chief Operating Officer. Learn more about Angela at [cnib.ca/coo.**](https://cnib.ca/coo)**

Stepping Out

We're proud to be one of the first charities in Canada to have held a post-pandemic fundraising gala!

Throughout the pandemic, we've had to get creative when it comes to raising funds. Losing the ability to host in-person fundraising events pushed us to work harder than ever to meet our philanthropy goals for the people we serve.

We expected this year would be more of the same, but our incredible volunteers and supporters were determined to help us return to live fundraising events.

The **CNIB Guide Dogs with Purpose Gala**, held in Saskatchewan in March, never would've happened if it weren't for the staunch determination of the volunteer committee members who helped bring this event to life.

Because of their support and dedication, CNIB was among the first Canadian charities to hold a gala event since March 2020 - and it was a huge success. The gala, which was generously presented by Scotiabank, brought in \$93,000 to support our guide dog program in Saskatchewan.



“ The CNIB Guide Dogs with Purpose Gala presented by Scotiabank was a fantastic fundraising event, and we're so grateful to everyone who supported it and worked tirelessly to make it happen. ”

**- Christall Beaudry,
Vice President,
CNIB Western Canada**



Your Dollars at Work

As a charter member of the Imagine Canada Ethical Fundraising and Financial Accountability Code, CNIB takes pride in upholding the highest standard of ethics in the distribution of donations. Our financial statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022 were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and were audited by Ernst & Young LLP.



CNIB is accredited by the Imagine Canada Standards Program and has met 73 standards in board governance, financial accountability and transparency, fundraising, staff management, and volunteer involvement. This accreditation is in effect from 2020 to 2025.

Last year, we invested \$34 million directly into programs for Canadians with sight loss. The financial support for these programs comes from public support (54%), government funding (8%), investments (2%), retail lottery and gaming (12%), fees for service (8%), consumer products and assistive technology sales (8%), and other revenue generation initiatives (8%). For CNIB's complete audited financial statements, please visit cnib.ca/financials.

Participation in our innovative programs



Career and Employment
18.2%



Children and Youth
5.4%



Peer Support
(including Vision Mates)
18.9%



Sports and Rec
25.3%



Technology
32.2%

Donor Honour Roll

Major gifts

CNIB thanks the following individuals, corporations, foundations, and service clubs who made exceptional gifts of **\$5,000 or more** in the last year.

A & A Hersey Fund
A.W.B. Charitable Foundation
Accessible Media Inc.
Audrey Adams-White
Adler & Lipkus Family Foundation
Alberta New Horizons for Seniors Program
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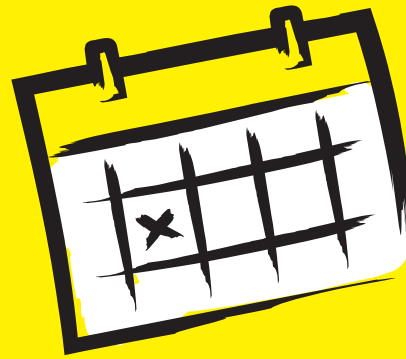
Major gifts

Moneris Solutions Corporation
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Mavis Munro
Nancy's Very Own Foundation
Nanji Family Foundation
Nellie K. Hicks Fund for the Blind (FOI)
Nellis Roy Moyer & Mary Elizabeth
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Making a planned gift

Many of our supporters have discovered that you can make a profound difference in CNIB's work with a little planning. We're here to help you explore the donation methods that will ensure your gift is tax effective while taking your family's needs into consideration. There are many different options besides a gift in your will, including a gift of life insurance, RRSP/RIFF, TFSA, guaranteed investment funds, a gift of securities, and charitable gift annuities.

For more information, please contact:

Cindi Meyer
 Director, Planned Giving
cindi.meyer@cnib.ca
 1-800-563-2642 (ext. 7470)

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Estate gifts

We wish to honour the caring individuals who have left gifts in their wills to CNIB in the last year, and we send our sincerest condolences to their families and friends.

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Estate of Agnes T Baryski

Estate of Aksel Iversen

Estate of Alceo Peter Voulaz

Estate of Alice Ethel MacInnes

Estate of Alice Ruth Stark

Estate of Allen Schairer

Estate of Anastasia (Ann) Olchowecki

Estate of Ande Marie Johnston

Estate of Angela Simkus

Estate of Anita Murray

Estate of Anne Eirwen Croombs

Estate of Anne Isabel Brewster

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Estate of Eileen Mary Mason

Estate of Elizabeth Joan Williams

Estate of Elizabeth Martha Innes

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Estate of Ella Isobel Dawson

Estate of Ellen (Helen) Joan Kates

Estate of Ellen Mary Gertrude Barrett

Estate of Eric MacNeil

Estate of Eva Maria Hennemann

Estate of Evelyn Dorothy Toy

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Estate of Velma McInnes
Estate of Vera Louisa (Louise)
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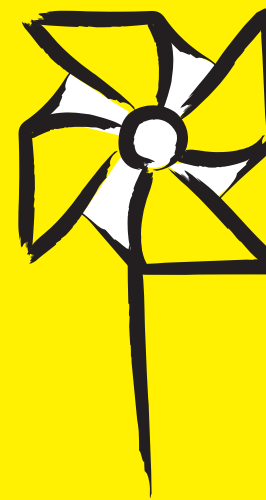
CNIB thanks the following individuals for creating legacy gifts in support of our work in the last year. We greatly appreciate our **Friend for Life** donors whose gifts will touch countless lives for years to come.

Mr. Kirk Anzai
Mrs. Erika Arth
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Endowments: A living legacy

The CNIB endowment fund was established in 1950 to provide sustainable programming for individuals impacted by blindness. You can continue that legacy of caring. By creating an endowment, donors enjoy knowing how their capital investment is making an impact today, while using it to encourage friends, families, and associates to make gifts in their honour. They consider this a double win, creating a living legacy.

**For more information,
please contact:**

Eyre Purkin Bien

Director, Philanthropy

eyre.bien@cnib.ca

1-800-563-2642 (ext. 5091)

Founded in 1918, CNIB is a non-profit organization driven to change what it is to be blind today. We deliver innovative programs and powerful advocacy that empower people impacted by blindness to live their dreams and tear down barriers to inclusion. Our work as a blind foundation is powered by a network of volunteers, donors, and partners from coast to coast to coast.



cnib.ca
1-800-563-2642
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Stronger Together



Together, we support and stand by Canadians who are blind, partially sighted, or Deafblind.