

Your Legacy



Building a **Brighter Future** for
People with Sight Loss in Canada



Serving a Growing Community from Coast to Coast to Coast

Canada faces a growing sight loss crisis.

An estimated 1.5 million Canadians identify as having sight loss, and roughly 5.5 million are living with one of the four major eye diseases - cataracts, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, or age-related macular degeneration - and are at risk of losing their sight if they haven't already. These numbers are only expected to grow as Canada's population ages.



Together, we can make sure no one with sight loss is left behind.

You can help us change lives, like Cindy's:

"When I received my CNIB guide dog, Barney, my life completely changed. The first time I took the harness and started walking with him, it was unbelievable. I couldn't believe how safe I felt. It gives me so much confidence, knowing he's looking out for me.

Thanks to Barney, I have my freedom back. My life doesn't feel limited anymore. It feels like it's mine to live again."

- Cindy Shone,
guide dog handler

By the Numbers: Sight Loss in Canada

1 person in 20

identifies as experiencing some level of sight loss

1 person in 5

is diagnosed with an eye condition of some kind

By 2050

an estimated **13.9 million people** in Canada will be diagnosed with an eye condition that could lead to sight loss

73 per cent

of Canadians over 65 who are **blind or partially sighted** say they need support with routine daily activities, including reading medication and cooking

Empowering Canadians Impacted by Blindness

Thanks to your support, CNIB delivers innovative programs, critical services, and powerful advocacy that make it possible for people with sight loss to live their dreams.

Blindness should never be a reason to settle for less. Everyone should have an equal chance to realize their dreams, whatever they may be. Through public meetings and telephone and online surveys, we spoke to more than 4,000 CNIB participants and others who are blind or partially sighted. They told us about their experiences, needs, ambitions, and what they want from CNIB.

Here's what they said:

We want to work

91

PER CENT OF RESPONDENTS

agree employment levels are a serious problem facing people with sight loss in Canada

We need technology

97

PER CENT OF RESPONDENTS

said accessible technology is important in leading an independent life

We demand equality & respect

69

PER CENT OF RESPONDENTS

reported experiencing social stigma related to blindness

CNIB has created several new and enhanced programs and services to directly address these expressed needs - from our **braille and literacy** programs that create a pathway to intellectual freedom, independence, and equal opportunities for people who are blind or partially sighted, to our **CNIB Guide Dogs** program that offers the gifts of safety, freedom, and mobility to people with sight loss.



Meet Shep Shell

Why I'm Leaving a Legacy

Deciding to leave a legacy gift was an easy decision for Shep Shell, a long-time CNIB supporter and volunteer.

“At some point, I began to wonder how could I, a person with limited financial resources, make a more tangible contribution?”

I chose to purchase a life insurance policy where the premiums are tax deductible and I am provided with a tax receipt each year,” he explains. “This allows me to leave a substantial amount to CNIB without burdening me financially in life.”

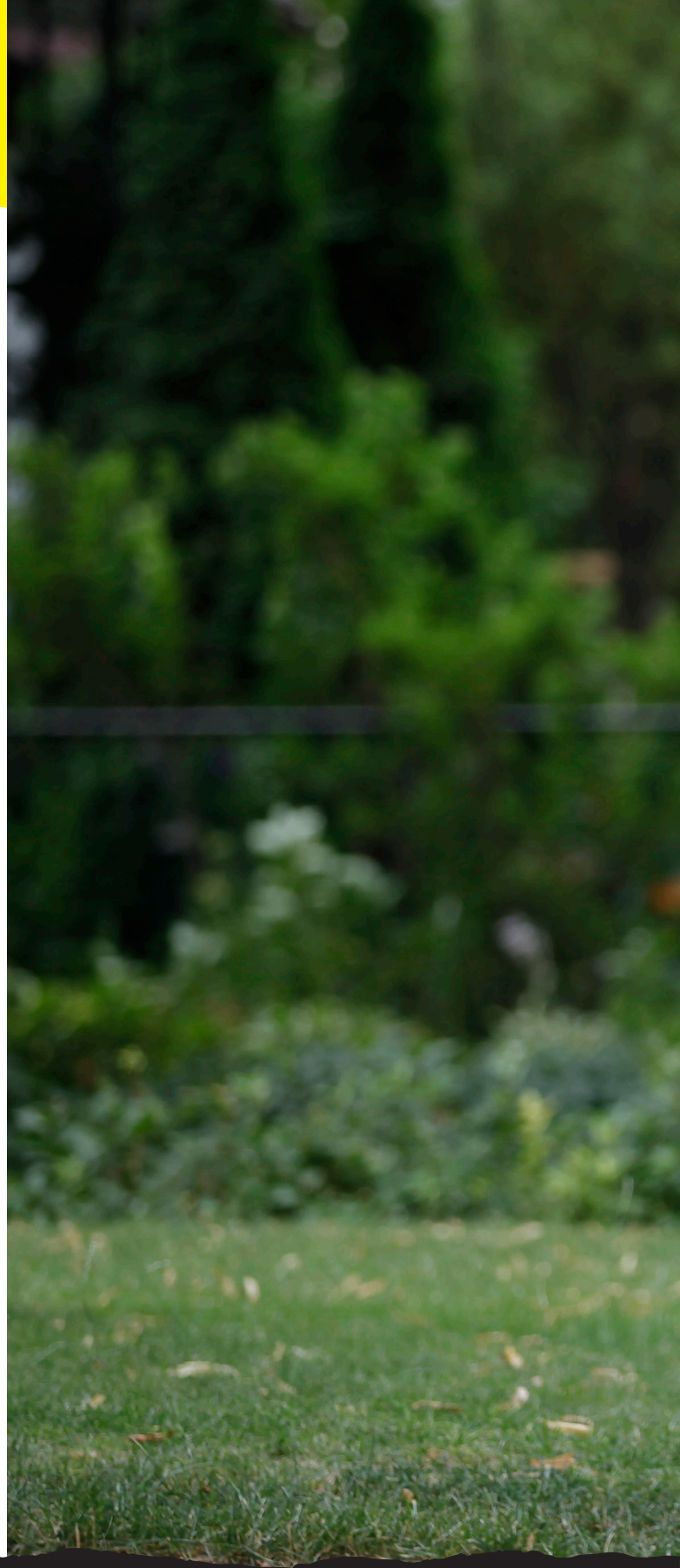
The process of leaving a legacy gift was seamless and straightforward for Shep – and a meaningful way to give back to the organization that has been an integral part of his life for more than 50 years.

Shep – who was born blind – fervently believes in the importance of dreaming and working to achieve those dreams, no matter what challenges in life you face. With CNIB’s support over the decades, he has realized many of his own dreams, including marathon running and becoming a motivational speaker.

“I’m very comfortable with my decision and grateful that this way of supporting an organization that’s important to me is available,” Shep says.

“ Knowing I’m able to make a difference and leave a legacy fills me with a wonderful sense of satisfaction. ”

– Shep Shell





Our Empowering Programs

Whether it's career support, tech training, youth groups, cooking classes, or book clubs, CNIB programs are free and available to Canadians who are blind or partially sighted, as well as their families, friends, and caregivers.

Each program provides an opportunity for limitless possibilities, providing individuals with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to smash barriers in pursuit of the life they choose. Here are just a few of our empowering programs - **all made possible because of supporters like you:**



CNIB Guide Dogs

CNIB is the only organization in Canada that raises, trains, and matches dogs exclusively for people with sight loss. Being part of a guide dog team provides mobility, safety, and confidence to people who are blind or partially sighted, leading to increased independence and a sense of connection with the world.



Children & Youth

Growing up with sight loss can bring practical, emotional, and social challenges. Our children and youth programs help with navigating these developmental stages through pre-employment skills training, peer support groups, music therapy sessions, and more.



Braille & Literacy

For 100 years, CNIB has been providing braille services and courses to people impacted by blindness. Being able to read and write braille is the key to literacy, successful employment, and independence for people with sight loss of all ages. The independence of reading a braille agenda in a meeting, floors on elevator buttons, signs, menus, and even a letter in privacy, shows how crucial braille literacy is.

“ Braille has enabled me to write, read, and identify my stuff, among other things. Even if I had both eyes, reading black letters would not interest me...braille is my way of communicating! ”

- Mélodie de Ravel, fifth grader and second prize winner in CNIB's Braille Creative Writing Contest

Our Empowering Programs



CNIB Lake Joe

For more than 60 years, CNIB Lake Joe has been providing enriching camp experiences for Canadians with sight loss - where children are encouraged to shine, youth are empowered to thrive, and 'kids of all ages' enjoy recreational pursuits. Located in the heart of Muskoka, Ontario, CNIB Lake Joe is the only fully accessible camp for people with sight loss in Canada.

“ Being at CNIB Lake Joe is a feeling like no other. It has allowed me to learn so much about myself and others. I’m excited to say I’m never going to let my visual impairment hold me back in any way. Often, my life has been full of fear, but I finally, fully, and truly feel confident, excited, and hopeful of what my future has in store for me. ”

- Camryn, CNIB Lake Joe camper





Come to Work

Come to Work connects job seekers who are blind or partially sighted with employers who want to discover the full potential of Canada's talent. To boost participation in the world of work for people with sight loss, Come to Work offers job-readiness workshops and technology training, professional development through innovative mentorships, and so much more.

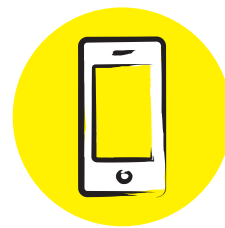


Our Empowering Programs



“ Having a smartphone is such an important part of my life, especially because of my sight loss. My phone has become a vital tool for navigating, reading, emailing, and so many other things I do on a day-to-day basis. Today’s technology has made my life so much easier. ”

- Victoria Nolan on the importance of CNIB’s Tech programs



Tech

Unleashing the power of technology enables people with sight loss to lead independent lives. Our Tech programs provide devices, skills, and training that focus on accessible, available, and affordable technology. These programs include introductions to new, accessible technology options like smartphone apps and the latest devices for people with varying degrees of sight loss.



Your legacy gift will help us create a brighter future for people with sight loss

Legacy gifts are vital to the work we do to support Canadians who are blind or partially sighted. With your support, people living with sight loss can access our full range of life-changing programs that will help them achieve their personal goals and smash through the barriers that stand in their way.

Together, we can create positive change for all Canadians with sight loss. We can ensure people receive the critical support they need throughout all stages of their lives in a seamless, timely manner – so they can fully participate in life, their communities, and the economy.

Did you know?

You have the power to make a difference in the lives of people with sight loss for years to come. By leaving even a small portion of your estate to CNIB, you can have a lasting impact on the people we serve – without affecting your finances during your lifetime.

“ [CNIB’s children and youth programming] has shown me that whether you are blind or not, there is nothing you can’t do. It has helped me look on the brighter side of things. ”

– **Jacqueline, 15, participant of the Summer Academy, a four-week virtual program for youth**

Dorothy's Legacy

A Gift of Safety and Independence

When Donna MacKenzie held future guide dog Dorrie in her arms for the first time, she felt so grateful that her mother's wishes were finally being realized.

Inspired by her love of dogs, and a personal connection to family members with sight loss, Donna's late mother, Dorothy, decided to leave a gift in her will to sponsor this little puppy with purpose.

Dorrie, named after both the fishing boats in the East Coast and Donna's mother, will spend the next two years training to become a future CNIB Guide Dog. Once her training is complete, she'll provide the ultimate gift for a Canadian with sight loss - one of safety and independence.





In the fall, Donna and siblings, Ian and Heather, had the chance to meet Dorrie in person. “Dorrie was just so sweet,” Donna says as she reflects on the memory. “I could tell that both my brother and my sister truly enjoyed it. We’ve all gone through some difficult times recently - and this was such a wonderful experience to share together.”

When Donna reflects on the experience of working with CNIB, she expresses her gratitude for the support, kindness, and thanks she received from the planned giving team along the way. “I’m so thankful,” she says. [The team] is so committed to the families of donors and benefactors - and in letting them know exactly how their gift is making an impact.

“For me, this whole experience has made a meaningful difference all around,” she explains. “My mother’s gift to CNIB Guide Dogs has taught me and my siblings the grace in giving, CNIB has shown appreciation for my mother’s [charitable] gift, and a puppy is about to have a life of service and purpose.”

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“It’s allowed me to feel a true sense of contentment, and it’s helped bring closure to the loss of my mother,” Donna says. “And I know that she would be very, very happy.”

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Dorrie, future CNIB Guide Dog

How to Become a Legacy Donor

Our Legal Name

It's very important to use our full and proper legal name in your bequest language. CNIB's correct legal name is "The Canadian National Institute for the Blind."

Our National Office Address is:

1929 Bayview Ave
Toronto ON M4G 3E8
Canada

Our Charitable Number is:

119219459 RR0003

Sample Bequest Clauses

You may wish to leave all or part of the remainder (residue) of your estate (a specified percentage): "I deliver, pay, or transfer ____% of the residue of my Estate to The Canadian National Institute for the Blind."

.....

You may wish to leave a specific bequest (a specific dollar amount):
"I deliver, pay, or transfer the sum of ____ dollars [\$] to The Canadian National Institute for the Blind."

.....

Should you wish to designate your gift to a specific location or for a specific use, you should add: "It is my preference that this gift be used for _____."

We rely entirely on donations from generous people - like you - to provide life-changing support to people impacted by blindness. By remembering CNIB in your will, you're building a legacy and providing future support to our critical programs, services, and advocacy. Thank you!





Other Ways to Leave a Legacy Gift

Gifts of life insurance, endowments, charitable remainder trusts, charitable gift annuities, RRSPs, and RRIFs are all meaningful ways to support our work. We would be happy to discuss these options with you - and if you've already made a legacy commitment, we'd love to hear from you so we can thank you personally!

We encourage donors who are planning a charitable gift in their will to seek independent legal and/or financial planning advice.

For more information, please contact us toll-free at **1-800-563-2642** or email **legacyservices@cnib.ca**.

Disclaimer: The information provided on these pages is general in nature and not intended to be a substitute for professional legal or financial planning advice. CNIB encourages all donors who are planning a significant gift to seek independent legal and/or financial planning advice.

Your Support Matters

With your support, CNIB is giving people impacted by blindness the confidence, skills, and tools they need to go after the lives they want. Funded by charitable donations and enabled by the selfless contributions of volunteers, our innovative programs and powerful advocacy are creating communities where everyone can live, work, and play without barriers.



About CNIB

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.

Leave a legacy today!

Phone: 1-800-563-2642

Email: legacyservices@cnib.ca

Web: cnib.ca

Charitable registration #: 119219459 RR0003

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