

# You're Guiding the Way

**2024**

**CNIB Guide Dogs  
Impact Report**



## Dear CNIB Guide Dogs Supporters,

I am honoured to share this year's CNIB Guide Dogs Impact Report with you. As the new President of this program, I want to start by expressing my deepest gratitude for your generosity. Your support has transformed lives and empowered individuals with sight loss to navigate the world with confidence and independence.

Over the past year, CNIB Guide Dogs has continued to grow, meeting an increasing demand for our services while ensuring every dog receives the highest standard of care and training. Thanks to you, we have made remarkable progress in strengthening our program - from advancing breeding initiatives to expanding our Canine Campus to train and match more guide dogs than ever before.

### Some of this year's key milestones include:

1. **22** CNIB guide dogs, **seven** buddy dogs, **four** brood dogs, and **two** ambassador dogs were matched!
2. **56 puppies** were born in the CNIB Guide Dogs Breeding Program.
3. Thanks to Hydro One, our Canine Campus got a **major electrical upgrade**, ensuring we can operate at full capacity for years to come.
4. We **transformed** our indoor city with exciting new storefronts, city streets, obstacles, and multiple training zones - giving our dogs the best space to prepare for the **real world**.

While these milestones highlight our progress, the true impact of your generosity is felt in the daily lives of our clients. From expert training to veterinary care, every step of a guide dog's journey is shaped by your support. More importantly, you are helping ensure that those who want a guide dog can access one - at no cost to them and through a program that prioritizes their needs, preferences, and success. **Your support makes all of this possible!**

I am excited for you to dive into this report and see your full impact. Our work is far from over, but together, we are building a future where people who are blind, Deafblind, or have low vision can live, work, and play in a world that is truly inclusive.

Thank you for being part of this journey.



Robert Gaunt  
President, CNIB Guide Dogs







“

From the first day, I felt a **sense of freedom.**

No cane, no bumping into obstructions, no uncertainty of what lay ahead of me.

”



# Meet the CNIB Guide Dogs: Class of 2025

Our Class of 2025 graduates - both dogs and clients - will proudly receive their diplomas on April 30<sup>th</sup>, in celebration of this year's International Guide Dog Day.

The class of 2025 includes 35 incredible dogs that have been matched with a client in the best suited career path.

**22**

## **Guide Dogs**

A guide dog is partnered with an adult who is blind.

**7**

## **Buddy Dogs**

A buddy dog is partnered with a child or youth who is blind or has low vision.

**2**

## **Ambassador Dogs**

An ambassador dog is partnered with a staff member to promote CNIB Guide Dogs to the public.

**4**

## **Brood Dogs**

A brood dog or stud dog is a part of our puppy development program.



## **As of March 2025, we have:**

**78** Working guide dogs

**36** Working buddy dogs

**8** Working ambassador dogs

## **Currently, there are:**

**29** Dogs in training

**71** Puppies placed in the Puppy Development Program

**7** Dogs in the CNIB Guide Dogs Breeding Program



# 2024 CNIB Buddy Dogs Camp @ CNIB Lake Joe

CNIB Buddy Dogs Camp @ CNIB Lake Joe offers a fun and supportive space for current buddy dog users and families on the waitlist to connect, play, and learn more about the program. The camp is designed for children and families impacted by blindness, providing a safe and engaging environment for all.

In its third year, the camp brought together buddy dog partnerships from across the country - along with waitlisted families - for an unforgettable week at CNIB Lake Joe, held from August 19-24.

Children and their parents were invited to a four-day summer retreat where they had the opportunity to connect with other kids who are blind or have low vision. These incredible connections helped them form meaningful friendships, cultivate independence, and create lasting memories together.

## By the Numbers

CNIB Buddy Dogs Camp @ CNIB Lake Joe 2024 welcomed:

17

**Children or youth  
who are blind or  
have low vision  
from 7 provinces**

(British Columbia, Alberta,  
Saskatchewan, Ontario,  
Quebec, Nova Scotia, and  
Newfoundland)

18

**Parents**

16

**Buddy dogs**



“ I got to be brave and I went tubing! I liked getting to know other kids who are **JUST LIKE ME!** ”

**- Cameron**

# Meet Heidi & Amy

When Heidi first met Amy, she knew instantly – **this was her perfect match.**

Heidi, who has retinitis pigmentosa, has never let her sight loss define her. But navigating the world safely and independently was a challenge, until Amy came into her life.

In April 2024, Heidi and Amy were matched and graduated from CNIB Guide Dogs, a milestone that marked the beginning of a new chapter. Their journey together has been built on trust, patience, and hard work, with the unwavering support of dedicated trainers, volunteers, and supporters. Now, Heidi and Amy move through life with confidence, **side-by-side.**



“ We really worked great as a team, and I fell in love with her the first time I saw her. She has given me so much **independence** and the **ability to go out and navigate anywhere.** ”



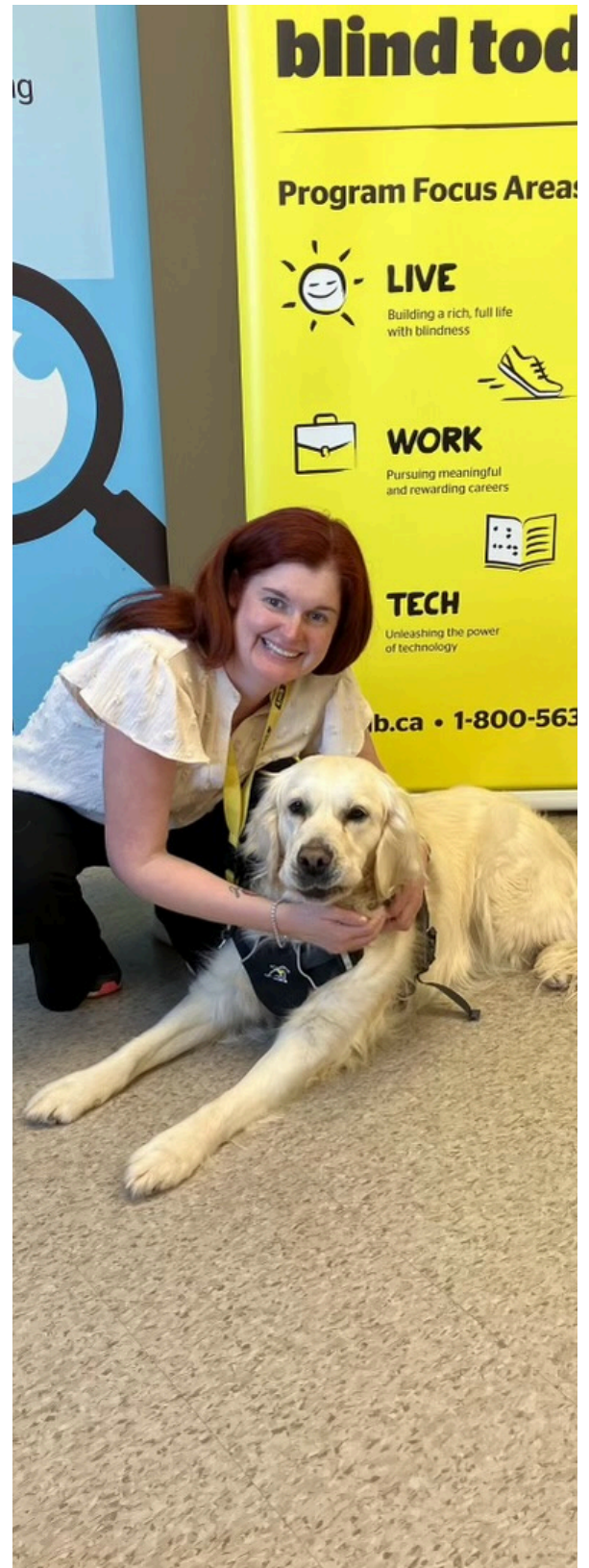
# Meet Heidi & Amy

Amy isn't just a guide dog for Heidi; she's a devoted companion. When she's not expertly stopping at curbs, locating steps, or guiding Heidi to an empty seat, Amy loves to play and show her affectionate side. She has a gentle personality and thrives on encouragement. When it is time to get in her harness, she remains a steady and reliable guide dog, ensuring Heidi's safety and independence every single day.

Together, they navigate busy commutes, explore their community, and embrace an active lifestyle. With Amy by her side, Heidi moves through the world with a newfound sense of freedom and assurance, something she once only dreamed of doing.

“Every little thing Amy does makes a world of difference to my life,” Heidi shares. “She has given me independence, confidence, and the peace of mind that I am safe. I’m so grateful to CNIB Guide Dogs - and to people like you - for making our partnership possible.”

**Thanks to your generosity, Heidi and Amy have found each other. And together, they are unstoppable.**



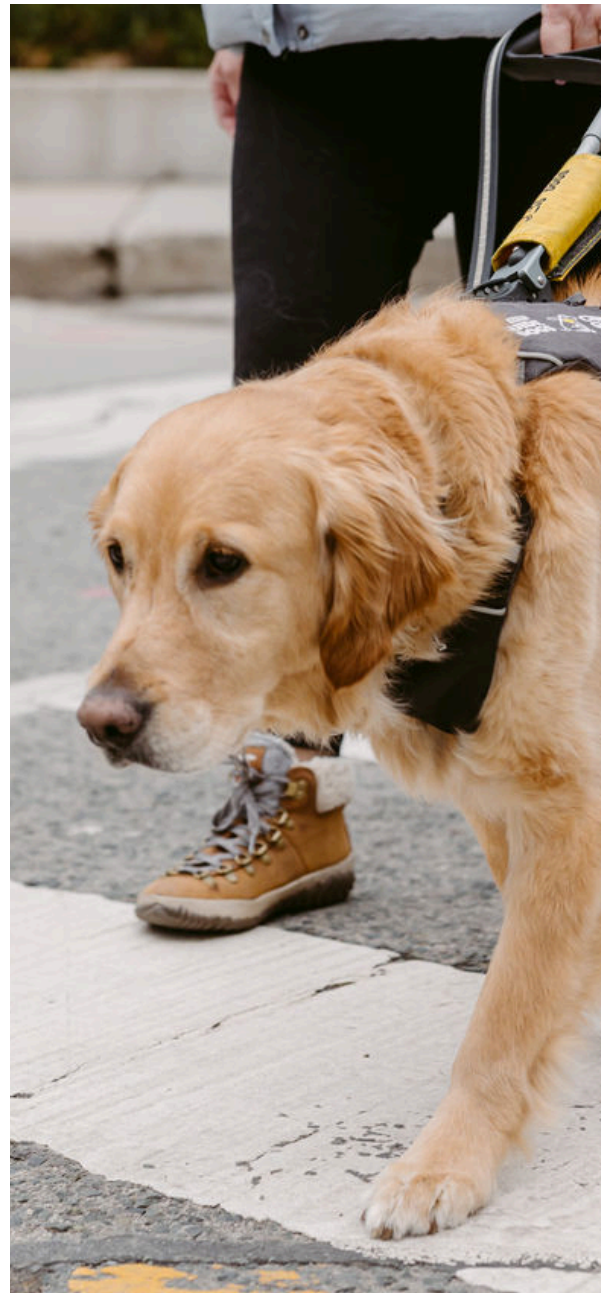
## Looking Ahead

# The Future of CNIB Guide Dogs

As we look to the future of CNIB Guide Dogs, we are committed to strengthening our program and ensuring we can meet the increasing demand for guide dogs across Canada. Our focus is on two critical areas: the Howard & Delores Beck Puppy Development Centre and the final capital needs of the CNIB Canine Campus.

The Howard & Delores Beck Puppy Development Centre is a game-changer in our ability to provide more guide dogs to the people who need them. This state-of-the-art facility will allow us to breed, whelp, and raise puppies with the highest genetic and health standards, ensuring a sustainable and ethical guide dog breeding program.

By eliminating reliance on external breeders, we are securing the **long-term success** of CNIB Guide Dogs and expanding the number of Canadians we can serve. The site of the puppy development center is currently in the midst of assessments and permit approvals. At the end of October, we submitted the site plan application, and in early January, we received the first round of comments. Our team of consultants and engineers are closely reviewing and addressing the comments and making the necessary adjustments to keep the project moving forward.





## Looking Ahead

# The Future of CNIB Guide Dogs

At our CNIB Canine Campus, we are in the final stages of completing essential upgrades, including our Indoor City, which simulates real-world environments such as streets, public transit, and everyday obstacles that guide dogs and handlers encounter. With the capacity to train **150 dogs per year**, the Canine Campus is a **cornerstone** of our program.

To fully realize these ambitions, we require additional funding to complete construction, outfit training spaces, and provide ongoing care and training for the next generation of CNIB Guide Dogs. With your support, we will ensure every Canadian who needs a guide dog can have one – **at no cost to them.**



CNIB Canine Campus is building a plane fuselage to help guide dogs and handlers safely practice air travel. It lets teams get comfortable with aisles, seating, and in-flight routines—preparing them for smoother trips.

# In Memory

## **Honouring Delores Beck**

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Delores Beck, a cherished member of the CNIB community and a steadfast supporter of our Guide Dogs program. Her unwavering commitment and generosity have left an undeniable mark on our mission.

Delores Beck was a steadfast supporter of CNIB Guide Dogs, dedicating her time and resources to ensuring that people who are blind could experience the freedom and independence that guide dogs provide. Her legacy lives on through the Howard & Delores Beck Puppy Development Centre, which will empower generations of clients to live fuller, more independent lives. Her commitment to accessibility and inclusion will forever be embedded in the future of CNIB Guide Dogs.



## **Honouring Bryan Rowntree**

Bryan Rowntree believed in the power of philanthropy to change lives, and his incredible \$1.5-million gift to CNIB Guide Dogs will do just that. His generosity directly supports the Howard & Delores Beck Puppy Development Centre, in memory of his wife Bette, ensuring that more guide dogs can be bred, trained, and matched with individuals in need. His legacy will live on in the countless lives transformed by CNIB Guide Dogs.







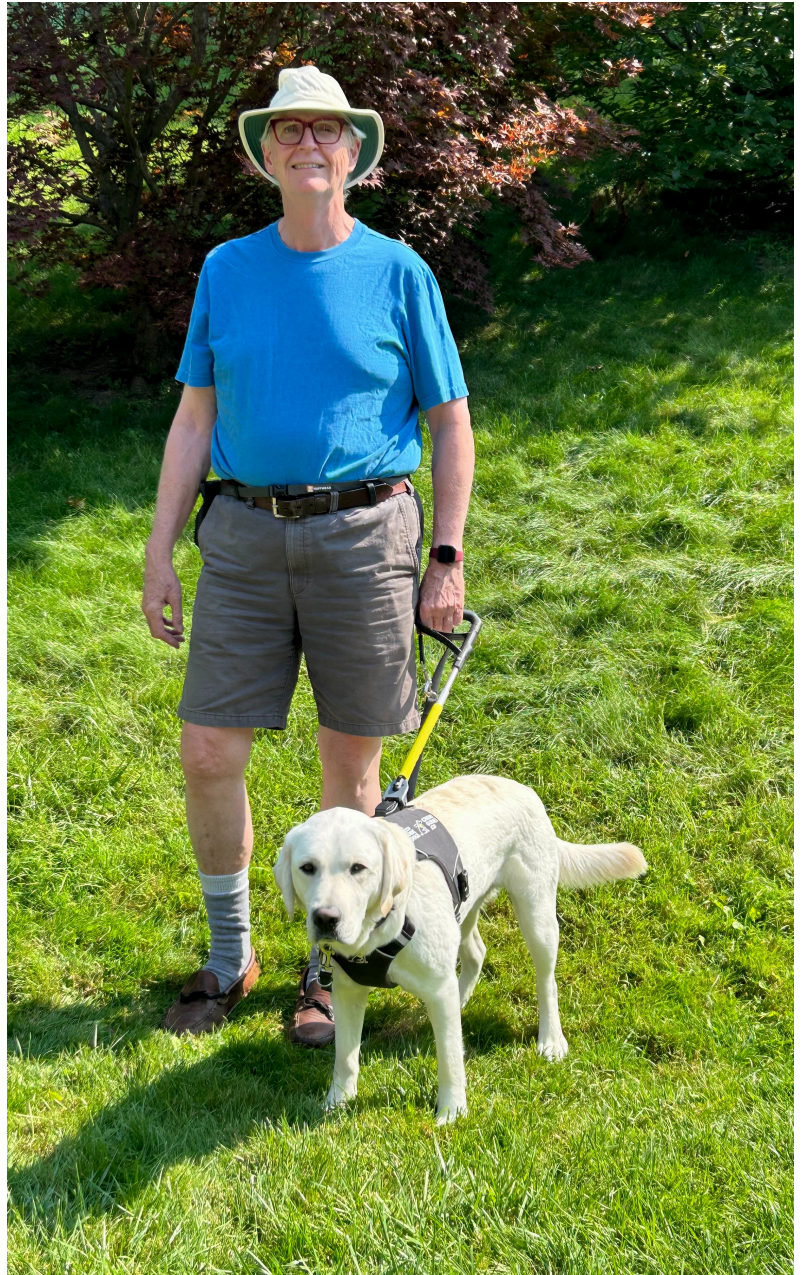
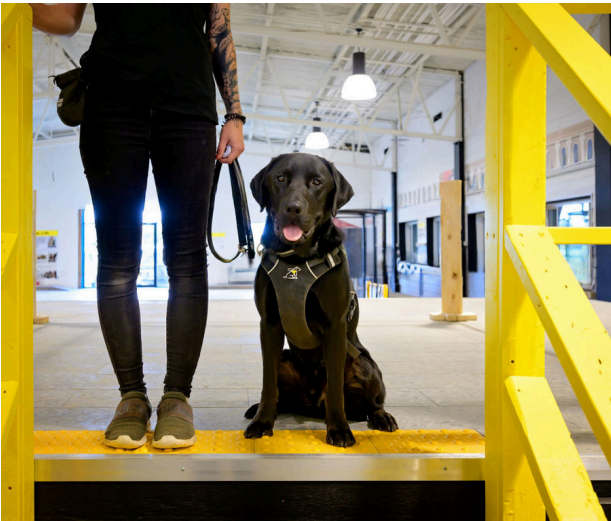
# Special Donor Thank You

## Hydro One

We extend our deepest gratitude to the extraordinary donors making a profound impact on CNIB Guide Dogs.

Hydro One's donation has supported **essential upgrades** to our Canine Campus, funded the training and care of a CNIB Guide Dog, and contributed to critical programming.

Their support ongoing strengthens our ability to provide world-class training and services to our clients.



**Hydro One funded CNIB Guide Dog, Lux, and his handler, Ross**



# Special Donor Thank You

## Canadian Tire Corporation



We extend our deepest gratitude to the extraordinary donors making a profound impact on CNIB Guide Dogs.

With an incredible gift of **\$750,000**, Canadian Tire Corporation (CTC) is helping to expand our programming, as well as generously funded the naming of two guide dogs. Their commitment ensures more individuals with sight loss can experience the **life-changing partnership** of a guide dog.



**These remarkable contributions are paving the way for a future where every Canadian who needs a guide dog can have one, free of financial barriers. We are profoundly grateful for the unwavering generosity of our donors, who are truly transforming lives through CNIB Guide Dogs.**

# Volunteer & Community Support



In 2024, more than **1,700 volunteers** contributed an incredible **613,230 hours** of their time to support CNIB's mission. Every hour reflects an inspiring commitment to breaking barriers, empowering those impacted by blindness, and creating more inclusive communities across Canada.

This remarkable accomplishment demonstrates the profound impact of your collective efforts and highlights the power of community-driven action. Together, we have created a ripple effect of positive change that will be felt for **years to come**.



“ A special thank you to all the puppy raisers, past and present – you’re where it all begins. Your hard work, dedication, and love set these dogs up for success. **I can’t thank you enough for everything you do to make partnerships possible.** ”  
- **Ryan Hooey**



# Our Empowering Programs

Canadians who are blind deserve to live their lives to the fullest. When you give to CNIB, you help advance our mission to change what it means to be blind. Whether it's career support, tech training, youth groups, cooking classes, or book clubs, CNIB programs are free and available to Canadians living with blindness, 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 CNIB programs – all made possible because of your generosity:**



## **Children & Youth**

Our children and youth programs open up access to pre-employment skills training, peer support groups, music therapy sessions, and more, during the most formative years of a young person's life.



## **Braille & Literacy**

Being able to read and write braille is the key to literacy, successful employment, and independence for people with sight loss of all ages. Braille brings independence.



## **CNIB Lake Joe**

Located in the heart of Muskoka, Ontario, CNIB Lake Joe is the only fully accessible camp for people who are blind in Canada – where children are encouraged to shine, youth are empowered to thrive, and 'kids of all ages' enjoy recreational pursuits.



## **CNIB Come to Work**

Come to Work connects job seekers who are blind or have low vision with employers who want to discover the full potential of Canada's talent. The program offers job-readiness workshops and technology training, professional development through innovative mentorships, and so much more.



## **Tech**

Unleashing the power of technology enables people who are blind to lead independent lives. Our Tech programs provide skills and training that focus on accessible, available, and affordable technology.

# About CNIB Guide Dogs

At CNIB Guide Dogs, we raise, train, and match dogs with Canadians who are blind. We also raise our voices to ensure people with sight loss have opportunities to live, work, and play without barriers. We're committed to ensuring social attitudes shift to universal acceptance and appreciation for guide dogs.

**Support  
CNIB Guide  
Dogs today!**

1-800-563-2642  
[cnibguidedogs.ca](http://cnibguidedogs.ca)

