

**Subject:** Update on the Dog Guides Training School Campaign

Dear Lions,

You may have seen the recent announcement from Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides regarding the pause in construction of the new training school. I want to share some additional information with you directly, so that you and your club have the facts.

Attached is a one-page update that outlines:

- Why has construction been paused?
- How far the project has already come, and
- What's needed in the weeks ahead.

This is the most urgent campaign in the Foundation's history. Every club's participation is important, and together we can ensure the new school is completed and the future of Dog Guides is secure.

Thank you for your continued support — the commitment of Lions like you is what has always carried this program forward.

Yours in service,

*Richard Banyard*

**Richard Banyard**  
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Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides' mission is 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.



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## The Difference Campaign Lions Update: New Training School

### What Happened

- Construction on the new national Dog Guide training school is paused due to a **\$20 million shortfall**.
- Without urgent action, construction could be halted permanently, putting the LFCDG training program at risk.

### Why This Happened

- A committed piece of financing did not come through in the time we expected
- The project scope expanded to ensure a fully accessible, purpose-built facility.
- COVID-19 and economic uncertainty drove up construction and material costs.

### Where Things Stand

- The building is **50% complete** (as of June 2025).
- Construction has been paused for **90 days (until the end of October 2025)**.
- There is **\$60 million committed** toward the project, The total costs is \$80 million
- There is a need for an additional **\$20 million by the end of October** to resume construction.

### What's at Stake

- Without this funding, the new school cannot be completed.
- If halted permanently, the capacity to deliver Dog Guides — and even their training program itself — is at risk.

### Lions' Collective Impact

- To date, **595 Lions Clubs across Canada have already donated**, at all levels.
- Every contribution — whether large or small — adds up to make a difference.

### How Lions Can Help

- **Donate:** [www.dogguides.com/donate/online-donations](http://www.dogguides.com/donate/online-donations)
- **Fundraise:** Host an event or start a peer-to-peer fundraiser: [events.dogguides.com](http://events.dogguides.com)
- **Share:** Spread the campaign with your members, community, and on social media.
- **Encourage Participation:** Highlight that Lions across Canada are already stepping up.

### Together

This is the most urgent fundraising campaign in LFCDG history. Every contribution brings them closer to finishing the world-class facility and securing the future of Dog Guides for Canadians with disabilities.



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