



The British Columbia Lions Society
For Children with Disabilities



LIONS DEN

Spring 2025

Share this newsletter to your Club members to keep them updated with Easter Seals BC/Yukon!

An Update from BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities

As we move into March, I'm thrilled to be providing you with updates during a busy spring at BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities. Our team is gearing up for a packed few months preparing for a summer full of life-changing programs for children with disabilities and fundraising initiatives to support our mission.

This year we will be providing camp experiences for close to 1,000 people from all backgrounds and of all abilities. We are proud to be making a difference in not just their lives, but in their communities as well.

Our Easter Seals House continues to provide accommodation for individuals and families who must travel to Vancouver for medical needs. People travel from all corners of our province for specialized procedures and treatment only found in hospitals in Vancouver. Just in the last year, we provided over 23,000 stays for people travelling from over 200 communities in BC.

I encourage you to explore becoming an [annual member](#), where you will receive updates about our community and exclusive invites to events. To learn more about what we do, please visit eastersealsbcy.ca.

Please reach out to me with any questions about our mission!



Sincerely,

Michele Materi

Manager of Community Partnerships and Philanthropy - Okanagan

Camp Update

Our summer camp registration opened in February with resounding success. In the first week of registration, over 60% of our spots were filled. Currently, many of our camp weeks are already full, with families expressing their anticipation for another exciting summer!

This year, a number of families also opted to contribute an additional donation towards camps, specifically to help with funding our camp subsidy program to ensure that financial barriers do not prevent kids from attending our camps. This unprecedented generosity shows that our families are really stepping up to support their communities.

In addition, hiring of camp staff has been progressing well. Many of the camp counsellor spots have already been filled. We are still experiencing a shortage of nurses at camps and are still actively hiring for those positions.

We're so excited for this upcoming summer!



Sincerely,

Dale Kilgour

Director, Camp and Recreation Programs



Meet Jonathan

Jonathan first attended an Easter Seals camp at the age of nine. Rambunctious and full of energy, he was eager to dive into the camp, especially swimming, his favorite activity. With the support of his personal support worker, he quickly found his place in the vibrant camp community, making friends and learning new skills. That summer ignited a love for camp that would shape the rest of his life.

As an adult, Jonathan discovered that Easter Seals had expanded its programs to include a wider range of ages, and at 38, he decided to return to camp.

[Read Jonathan's Story](#)



Send Kids to Camp

Did you know that BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities receives no government funding for the operation of camps? The average cost to provide a memorable camp experience for one child is \$3,600. We ask families to cover approximately a third of the cost, and the remainder we rely on our generous donors.

Are you looking for a meaningful target for your club's fundraising efforts this year? Raise \$3,600 to support the costs of sending one child to a week of overnight camp! These experiences stick with them for a lifetime, and provides their caregivers with valuable respite time to relax and recharge.

[Learn More](#)

Thank you for your support!

We are extremely grateful for all of the generous donations from Lions Clubs throughout BC! Your remarkable contributions will help support our Camp programs for deserving individuals as well as improvements at Camp Winfield, Camp Shawnigan and Camp Squamish. We appreciate your continuing, valued and kind support.

Just from October to the end of January, we had many clubs step up, including:

- Chase Lions Club
- Cranbrook Lions Club
- Duncan Lions Club
- Enderby Lions Club
- Esquimalt Lions Club
- Gabriola Lions Club
- Kamloops Paddlewheelers Lions Club
- Kootenay Lake Lions Club
- Kelowna-Okanagan Mission Lions Club
- Langley Lions Club
- Malahat Lions Club
- Penticton Lions Club
- Saanich Lions Club
- Sand Creek Lions Club
- Vernon Lions Club
- Victoria Chinatown Lions Club
- Westbank Lions Club

Easter Seals in the Community



Around the World Dinner

An indulgent dinner experience with renowned Chef David Hawksworth brings your taste buds on a global culinary journey! Last year our supporters came together to raise over \$140,000. Learn how you can take part and help us raise even more.

[Learn More](#)



Drop Zone

Dates for Drop Zone have been released! This year we celebrate 20 years of Drop Zone in Vancouver. Sign up to take part in this thrilling fundraiser today.

[Learn More](#)



Vernon Lions Golf Tournament

The Vernon Lions Club will be hosting their 7th annual Golf Tournament for Camp Winfield for children and adults with varied abilities on May 31, 2025 at Vernon Golf and Country Club. The club is seeking golfers, sponsors and donors.

[Learn More](#)

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