



The British Columbia Lions Society
For Children with Disabilities



LIONS DEN

Spring 2026

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

CAMP SHAWNIGAN GROUNDBREAKING!



March 6, 2026 marked a historic milestone for Easter Seals and the BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities as Lions, supporters, community leaders, and partners gathered at Camp Shawnigan to celebrate the groundbreaking of Phase 1 in the camp's \$25 million redevelopment. The project will transform the beloved Vancouver Island camp into North America's first year-round, purpose-built inclusive camp for children, youth, and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities.

"For 79 years, Easter Seals BC/Yukon and the BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities has been dedicated to enhancing the quality of life, self-esteem, and independence of individuals with disabilities," said Tristan Klassen, Acting CEO of Easter Seals BC/Yukon. "Today's groundbreaking ensures that Camp Shawnigan's legacy will continue for generations. This is more than a rebuild, it is an investment in dignity, belonging, and community."

EASTER SEALS HOUSE RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY

Renovations to guest rooms at Easter Seals House in Vancouver continue thanks to the generosity and leadership of Lions clubs. Updates to our rooms are so important to providing a welcoming and comfortable space for families who must travel from all around BC to Vancouver for medical care.

A renovation funded jointly by the North Surrey, Logan Lake, Enderby, and Maple Ridge Lions Clubs is now underway. The room is expected to be completed by summer 2026, providing an updated and comfortable space for families staying at Easter Seals House while accessing medical care in Vancouver.



In addition, Lion Rick Siebel and Lion Steve Brooks, along with several other Lions leaders, played an instrumental role in securing a matching grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) to support another Easter Seals House room renovation. Once this project is completed, only four rooms will remain to be renovated.

The renovation initiative continues to gain momentum. Lion David Knight and the Whitehorse Lions Club have pledged \$12,500 toward another room renovation and are currently seeking additional Lions clubs to partner in raising the \$25,000 required to complete the project.

We would appreciate it if any clubs wishing to participate in a room renovation, would reach out to Michele Materi at mmateri@eastersealsbcy.ca. Please note that all cheques must have a program designation in the memo line e.g. Camperships, Easter Seals House room renovation, Camp_____ Improvements, BCLS etc. Thank you!

MAKE YOUR GIVING GO FURTHER WITH A DONATION OF SECURITIES

Did you know you can support Easter Seals BC/Yukon by donating publicly traded securities like stocks or mutual funds? It's one of the most tax-efficient ways to give.

Long-time supporter Lion Lori Kirkham understands this well. Based in Grand Forks and a member of the Penticton Lions Club, Lori began exploring securities donations after speaking with her financial advisor about tax-saving opportunities. Since 1998, she has been a dedicated supporter of Easter Seals, and in just the past two years, she has contributed nearly \$20,000 through securities. Her generosity is helping ensure more children and adults can access life-changing programs and camps.

If you're looking for a smart way to give, consider donating securities. It's a powerful way to support our programs while maximizing your tax benefits. We encourage you to speak with your financial advisor to learn how this option could work for you.



[Learn More](#)

LIONS DISTRICT O CONFERENCE



A wonderful and informative time was had by all at the Lions District O Conference in Chilliwack on March 20 & 21. The fellowship at these events is so special. Thank you to all the Lions and Leos for their hard work to put on this event.

TABS FOR CAMP WINFIELD

Lions Lorne and Trudy Grigg from the Sorrento Lions Club have been collecting can tabs from their club and neighbouring clubs.

The tabs are transported by Lion Mike Smith and Lion Kevin Lyon from the Vernon Lions Club to a refinery in Kamloops every few months. Funds raised through this initiative help purchase medical equipment for Camp Winfield, ensuring campers have the tools and supports they need to fully participate in camp activities.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Around the World



[Purchase Tickets](#)

Around the World presented by the mister Blake foundation is an exclusive dinner experience featuring renowned Chef James Walt of Toptable Group in support of Easter Seals BC/Yukon. Featuring four exquisite courses, this unique dinner will delight your taste buds. And the best part, funds raised from the event go towards delivering programs and services for people with disabilities!

Around the World promises to be an unforgettable evening with a champagne reception, fabulous oyster bar, amazing cuisine with international flavours, an exhilarating live auction, an extensive wall of wine, and an enticing grand-prize raffle.

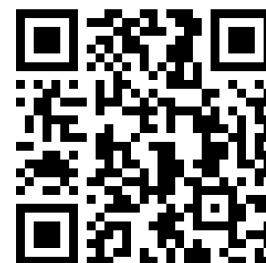
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2026

Venue: Terminal City Club, 837 W Hastings St, Vancouver, BC V6C 1B6

Featured Wines: A curated selection of renowned vineyards

Menu: Exquisite four-course dinner crafted by Chef James Walt

Drop Zone



[Register](#)

This September, take the Easter Seals Drop Zone Challenge, a once in a lifetime thrill to change lives by rappelling from incredible heights. **Encourage your club to form a team** and sign up to take part in this thrilling fundraiser together!

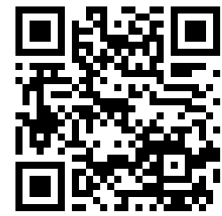
Victoria - September 9 **Burnaby** - September 14
Vancouver - September 17 **Kelowna** - September 22

Peachland Lions Golf Tournament May 3



[Register](#)

Vernon Lions Golf Tournament May 30



[Register](#)

Thank you to the 28 Lions clubs that have already donated in Fiscal 2026, contributing approximately \$82,000 toward our programs and services. Our goal for the year is more than \$220,000, and we are incredibly grateful for the continued support from Lions across the province.

Clubs that have donated since the Winter Lions Den include:

Alberni Valley, Burnaby Host, Fairmont, Gabriola, Kamloops Paddlewheelers, Kelowna Okanagan Mission, Kootenay Lake, Langley, Logan Lake, Malahat, Port Coquitlam, Salmo, and Sunshine Coast.

Your commitment continues to shape and strengthen programs for families across BC and the Yukon. We are deeply grateful for all you do.

Please reach out to me if you would like a club visit or a Zoom presentation.

We would love it if your clubs would send any stories and pictures of your BCLS and ESBCY fundraising events to me so we can see all of your great work!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming Lions conferences.

Sincerely,

Michele Materi
Manager, Major Gifts - Okanagan

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Easter Seals BC/Yukon in service of the BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities