

# What You Need to Know....



## ACCESSIBILITY



Mobility



Hearing



Vision



Well Being

**WE SERVE**  
Through Diversity

**Mobility Issues**

**Hearing**

**Vision**

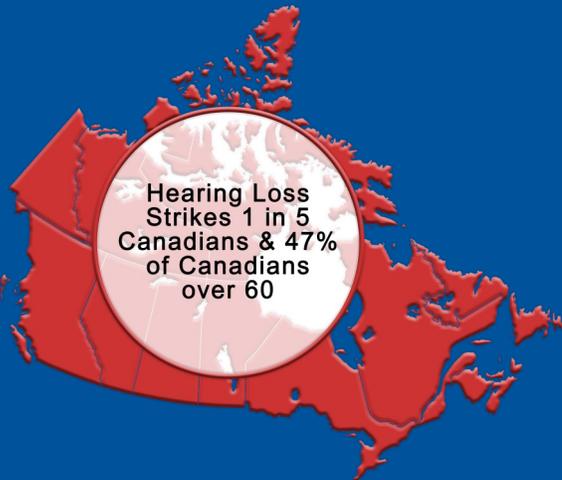
**Well-Being**

**Service Dogs**

**Dietary Considerations**

## District A-16 Accessibility Awareness Committee

*“Our Mission is to promote Lionism by ensuring that it is accessible to everyone by removing barriers for those who face visible and non-visible challenges and by creating a culture of inclusion and acceptance.”*



### AVAILABLE ADVICE SERVICES

- [Individuals who are blind or visually impaired](#)
- [Effective communication with individuals with hearing impairment](#)
- [Accommodating Members with non-visible disabilities](#)
- [Members and guests with food restrictions and dietary considerations](#)
- [Service Dog etiquette](#)
- [Lions Clubs Self-Evaluation Checklist](#)

## The Accessible Lion

Lions work towards a kinder world and are dedicated to Serve people in need in their own community and worldwide. Many of our Service Activities focus on helping those in need and those who live with a disability.

Many of our Members have dedicated themselves to assisting others because of personal experiences involving family, friends or themselves.

Because of this compassion and through the Service Activities of all Lions Clubs many people around the world are able to lead productive and fulfilling lives despite their disability.

For decades Lions Clubs have been serving those who need some assistance in leading productive and independent lives. Today, governments around the world are beginning to understand that if we remove physical barriers to people with disabilities they too can lead productive fulfilling lives.

As Lions, we are going the extra step and review our practices, meeting processes and facilities. This will show our Members that we are truly inclusive and encourage those with disabilities to enjoy a productive and enjoyable membership experience as a Lion.

And remember that Accessibility creates Diversity.



**NOT ALL  
DISABILITIES  
ARE VISIBLE**



Disability impacts the lives of many Ontarians, and the number of people with disabilities is increasing.

Statistics show that 15.5% of Ontarians have a disability with that number growing as people age.

### Other important numbers:

93% of people with disabilities don't use a wheelchair.

96% of people with chronic medical conditions live with an illness that is invisible.



## Types of Service Dogs

**Canine Vision** - for people who are blind or vision impaired.

**Hearing** - for people who are deaf or hearing impaired.

**Autism Assistance** - for children who have autism spectrum disorder.

**Service** - for people who have a medical or physical disability.

**Seizure Response** - for people with epilepsy.

**Diabetic Alert** - for people who are diabetic with hypoglycemic unawareness.

**Facility Support** - for professional agencies assisting individuals in traumatic situations.

**Remember these dogs are specially bred and trained for an important job. There are several guidelines people should follow when in presence of a Service Dog to allow the safety of the dog and its handler. Disregarding the guidelines can distract the dog, which can create a dangerous situation for the dog and its handler.**



## Service Dog Etiquette

Please do not talk, touch, feed or otherwise distract the dog while they are wearing a harness or vest. Allow the dog to concentrate and perform for the safety of their handler. Do not treat the dog as a pet, give them the respect of a working dog. Speak to the handler and not the dog. Remember that Service Dog teams have the right of way.

Refrain from giving the dog commands instead of the handler. Keep in mind that the Service Dog is as vital to a disabled person as a wheelchair or cane.

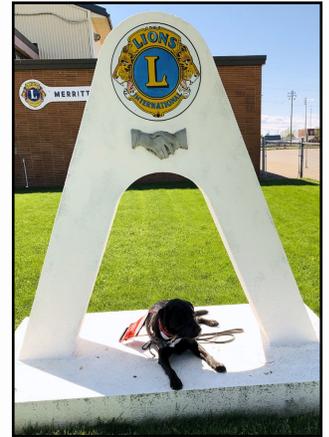
Do not try to control situations unfamiliar to the dog or the handler, instead please ask the handler if they require assistance and offer your arm.

Never attempt to grab or steer the person while the dog is guiding or attempt to hold the harness.

When walking along a Guide or Service Team, you should not walk on the left side as it may confuse the dog. Ask the handler where you should walk. Depending on the situation, they may ask you to walk behind them on their right shoulder.

Never give the dog table scraps or treats. Respect the handler's need to give the dog a balanced diet and maintain good habits.

When out with your dog please make sure your dog does not challenge or distract a Dog Guide. Do not allow anyone to tease or abuse the dog.



## Living with Blindness

Losing your sight can be scary but it does not have to limit your ability to live your life. You probably have met a Lion/Lioness/Leo who is blind or legally blind. Legal blindness is a level of blindness, defined by the law, that limits some activities for safety reasons, such as driving.

Legal blindness is defined as a visual acuity of 20/200 or has a visual field of 20 degrees or narrower. We generally equate blindness with darkness but this is not entirely true. The term blindness covers a broad spectrum of visual disabilities, from sight impairment that impairs activities like cooking, reading or driving, all the way to complete blindness.

An estimated 1.5 million Canadians identify as having vision loss and approximately 6 million more have an eye ailment that could cause vision loss. There are many resources and products for people with vision loss : white canes, talking calculators, spill-proof cups, liquid levelers, adapted mobile phones & tablets, wearables, apps, and innovative digital tools that are game changers in the life of the vision impaired.



### Hearing Loss

Hearing Loss means you have a decreased sensitivity to sounds that one normally hears. If you are having difficulty hearing, you are not alone.

Hearing Loss is often called an invisible condition. People may not see that you have hearing loss, but after spending time in conversation, they will likely realize the impact on your quality of life.

Living with Hearing Loss is a constant and never-ending challenge. It is important to understand that Hearing Aids aren't designed to restore or repair lost hearing. Instead, they use tiny directional microphones and a lot of advanced processing to help minimize distracting background noise.



### Always Ask...

Always ask Guests if they have any dietary restrictions or food allergies when sending invitations for any meeting or event where food is going to be served.

Food Sensitivities - will create great discomfort and unwellness. i.e. Gluten Free, Lactose Free...

Allergies - can put the life of a guest at risk. i.e. Shellfish, peanuts, dairy...

### Vegan & Vegetarians

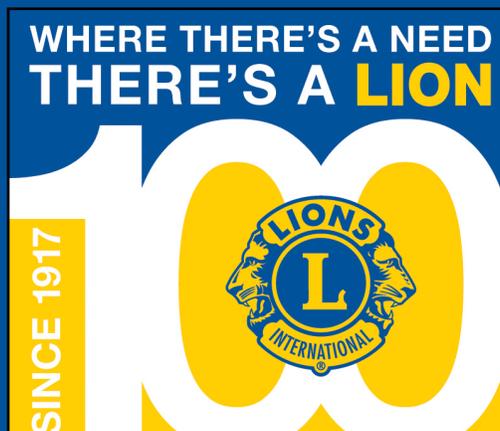
Vegan - a plant based diet with no animal products. No meat, fish, eggs, or dairy products.

Vegetarians - a mostly plant based diet that can include dairy products, and eggs.

Please note that seafood and poultry are meat!  
Please ask and do not make assumptions.

If a Club would like assistance and recommendations to improve the accessibility of your den or events i.e. physical barriers, ramps, lighting, accessible bathrooms, please contact the Accessibility Committee Chairperson and we will be happy to work with you.

Contact information for the current Accessibility Committee Chairperson for District A-16 can be found in the District Website or ask your friendly Region or Zone Chairperson.



With Thanks to the A-16 Accessibility Committee