

Lions Quest Canada is ...

We recently asked a wide variety of Lions from across the country what Lions Club Members needed to know about Lions Quest Canada and here is what they wanted us to share.

Lions Quest Canada – The Centre for Positive Youth Development is a national social enterprise. A social enterprise is a business that creates community impacts and promotes social values using their proceeds to fund their mission. Lions Quest Canada is funded by the donations of Lions Clubs and by providing fee-for-service training and consulting services.

The mission of Lions Quest Canada is – To provide leadership, knowledge and resources to develop capable young Canadians of positive character.

The staff of Lions Quest Canada have all been with the organization for over twenty-three years and are personally committed to our mission.

- Joanne McQuiggan, our Executive Director, started her journey with Lions Quest as a youth participant in an international youth camp hosted by Past International President Sten Akestam (1987). She has since committed her career to the positive development of Canadian children and youth.
- Pat Howell-Blackmore, our Director of Communications and Programs is passionate about building local capacity to make Canadian communities the best possible place for children and youth to live.
- Kay Nelles, our Events Coordinator is committed to providing a positive experience and support for our national network of community champions.

The Board of Directors for Lions Quest Canada is made up of Lions from across Canada who are committed to the work of Lions Quest Canada in addition to leaders in child and youth development. The board members include PID Bruce Murray, PID Marvin Chambers, PID Jack Isaman, DG Len Mooney, DG Susan Sangster, PCC Surinder Gahir, PDG Cheryl McKitrick, PDG Alex Watson, Joe Dwyer and Linda Millar.

Lions Quest Canada promotes Positive Youth Development in Canada which is an approach that focuses on the strengths of the child supported by caring adults, neighbourhoods and schools. This approach promotes healthy development, leadership skills, personal and social responsibility. This approach also helps prevent negative risk taking behaviours like drug use and violent behaviour including bullying.

Lions Quest Canada shares the best practices, current research and resources connected to Positive Youth Development and connects caring people in Canadian communities where children live, learn, play and grow.

Lions Quest Canada accomplishes our mission by facilitating training for communities including schools, municipalities, police services, public health, children's aid and youth-serving agencies. We also distribute resources like printed material, books, videos and other tools to support the work of local groups. The provision of consulting services on a fee-for-service basis to organizations like the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies and Tim Horton Children's Foundation has allowed us to make a positive impact on the programs and practices of these influential agencies.

What difference does Lions Quest Canada make? We are encouraged by the trends we see across the country and our ability to contribute as a thought-leader in child and youth development. For example –

- The techniques like experiential (hands on) and social-emotional learning that have been central to our Lions Quest School-Based Programs since the 1980's have become part of how our student teachers are instructed in teacher certification programs.
- Lions Quest Canada was part of the team of educational leaders who recommended the forty hours of volunteer service requirement for high school graduation in Ontario.
- We have helped support the shift from 'fixing problems' to building on the strengths of children in foster care in Ontario.
- Lions Quest Canada has provided consulting services resulting in a complete review and revision of the camp programs delivered by the Tim Horton Children's Foundation reaching over 17,000 children annually across North America.
- Lions Quest Canada has also been recognized by the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police - "The Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police is proud to support Lions Quest Canada as it works to develop understanding among all policing communities regarding the value added which results from developing assets in youth and forging intentional positive relations."

Lions should also be proud to know that Lions Quest Canada is a nationally and internationally recognized organization leading the efforts related to Positive Youth Development.

Lions Clubs can help us make a difference by –

- financially supporting Lions Quest Canada on a regular basis through budgeting for a donation an annual basis,
- sponsoring Lions Quest Canada Fellowships for deserving Lions and community members, and
- supporting events (training workshops and gatherings) in your community.

The most important difference that Lions Quest Canada can make is as a champion for encouraging individuals to take action and do their part, whatever that part may be as a friend, mentor, coach, teacher, neighbour, care giver, community member to influence the positive development of our children and youth.

Remember you can make a difference for kids and it's just as simple as smiling and saying 'hi' when you see a young person in your community.

For more information about Lions Quest Canada please contact Joanne McQuiggan at 1-800-265-2680 ext. 107 or by email at [joanne@lionsquest.ca](mailto:joanne@lionsquest.ca).