

THE PARTNERSHIP

In April 2018, The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Provincial Command, partnered with Wounded Warriors Canada (WWC) following the launch of the national WWC PTSD Service Dog Program.

Stability in funding ensures Veterans are paired with Dogs meeting the criteria for WWC service dogs, including: **ethical training standards for dogs, client and service dog teams, client service and aftercare, financial transparency, and insurance coverage.**

As part of the WWC National Service Dog Program, this partnership is working to ensure Ontario's Veterans are receiving the assistance they need to feel safe, supported and understood.

We're grateful for the support across all Ontario Command branches.

Philip C. Ralph, CD Captain (Ret'd)
Director, Health Services.

YOUR IMPACT

FUNDS INVESTED IN
SERVICE DOGS IN ONTARIO

\$1.7 MILLION

PTSD SERVICE DOGS
SUPPORTED

61

SERVICE DOGS CURRENTLY
IN TRAINING

27

SERVICE DOG PROVIDERS
IN ONTARIO

**NSD, FIRE TEAM K-9
& K-9 COUNTRY INN**

PART OF A NATIONAL NETWORK OF
SERVICE DOG PROVIDERS



"WATSON JOINED ME ON A FLIGHT TO BC FOR A WEDDING. HE STAYED BY MY SIDE AND KEPT ME CALM"

OPERATION: SERVICE DOG



Legion 
Ontario Command



OPERATION: SERVICE DOG PROGRESS

2020

In 2020, we added Fire Team K-9 to our Service Dog Provider team due to Ontario Command's partnership. Together, we met the challenges posed by the pandemic and have witnessed a maturing and expanding program benefiting Ontario's Veterans.

2021

A commitment to ongoing semiannual Service Dog conferences resulted in all programs committing to pursue ADI accreditation. Our two senior SD Providers, VICD and NSD, will mentor the other providers. This is a positive development that raises the bar on standardization, provides international mobility to SD pairings, and provides additional program development mentoring along with increased professional accountability.

ONGOING

Three providers in Ontario are progressing towards program maturity and the following shared values:

1. Client-Centred, Continuity of Care:

Our program is committed to ongoing collaboration with clients and mental health professionals and includes a detailed set of WWC prescriber guidelines, regular team followups and re-certifications, and a successor dog process.

2. Ethical Canine Care:

Our dogs are the heart of OP Service Dog. We prioritize all facets of animal welfare and well-being including ethical training, screening, and deployment processes.

3. Ongoing Collaboration and Education:

Collaboration and cooperation between member programs ensures the best possible outcomes for clients and service dog teams, strengthens client advocacy, community education, and cultural competency, and supports positive outcomes.

