

SHARING THE PLATE NOMINATIONS FOR 2026-2027

Submitted by Glenn Wootton & Teresa Morton, Sharing the Plate Committee

Pacific Assistance Dogs Society (PADS)

Website: pads.ca

PADS partners people living with disabilities and community care professionals with certified assistance dogs. Our Mobility Service and Hearing Dogs help individuals live more independently and improve their quality of life. Through our Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Program, we support Veterans and First Responders.

In community settings, we place Accredited Facility Dogs (AFDs) with professionals in victim services, health care, counselling, and education sectors to support vulnerable children and adults. Our Very Important Pet (VIP) program provides comfort and companionship to children and adults with disabilities who do not require full public access.

We are proud to share that we are making significant progress on our 5-year Strategic Plan, which focuses on enhancing all aspects of our programs—from expanding our puppy program and advanced training to streamlining processes, upgrading technology, and creating new fundraising opportunities. Our ultimate goal is to serve even more British Columbians.

At our most recent graduation ceremony in April 2025, we celebrated our 2024 graduating teams and breeding dog additions. Specifically, we:

- Matched 7 Mobility Service Dogs and 6 Hearing Dogs with clients
- Placed 5 dogs with First Responders and Veterans living with PTSD
- Matched 14 AFDs with professionals in community placements
- Placed 3 dogs as VIPs supporting children and adults with disabilities

We continue to provide follow-up and aftercare to over 170 certified teams in the community. Overall, our training program has about 157 dogs in various stages of breeding, basic obedience, and advanced training.

The need for certified assistance dogs in BC is greater than ever. With your support, PADS can continue to create life-changing partnerships for people who need them the most.

SPIRIT of the CHILDREN SOCIETY- YOUTH HUB

Website: <https://sotcs.ca/>

Youth Enhancement Program:

“Our Youth Enhancement Program is an ongoing, 1:1 outreach support for children and youth and are in care, and are at risk of coming into care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development. The enhancement program will assist the child/youth from the ages 7-12 (tweens) and 13-19 (youth) with culturally appropriate Rites of Passage for when they transition out of care. To engage and empower our future leaders”.

Napew Boys Group: ages 10-13/14-17

Iskwew Girls Group: ages 10-13/14-17

Tweenies: ages 7-12

Teens Group: ages 13-19

Elders Dinner: Open to all ages

SOGI Group: ages 7-18

Spring and Summer Break Camps: No Cost to participants (ages 7-12) and (13-17)

Cultural Teachings: ages 7-18

The Sharing the Plate contribution will go towards cultural teachings from knowledge keepers, cultural outings and activities for the youth, both indigenous and non-indigenous.