

CONSTITUTION

VIK9 Assisted Human Services Society (VIK9 AHSS)

Article 1 - Name

The name of the Society is VIK9 Assisted Human Services Society (VIK9 AHSS).

Article 2 – The Purposes of the Society

1. Promote health of persons with mental, physical, and other disabilities or disabling effects by undertaking the following activities:
 - a) Training and certifying highly skilled and obedient canines within Canada for their specific roles within CAHS;
 - b) Training and certifying the CAHS teams within their specific roles to a high standard of individual and team performance. Well trained teams can overcome individual barriers to living a full successful life within Canada;
 - c) Promote and seek funding for Mental Health Training, Canine Assisted Human Services (CAHS) Handler Training, and the establishment of Indigenous Mental Health Response Teams. These teams will include the training and use of task-trained Canine Assisted Intervention (CAI) and Critical Incident & Trauma (CIT) Support Dogs within Indigenous communities.

The purpose of these initiatives is to provide frontline mental health support and to ensure that individuals experiencing mental health crises are directed to appropriate professional care.

- d) Promote recovery from poverty by seeking funding and sponsorships to support educational training in the areas of mental health and Canine Assisted Human Services (CAHS).

This includes providing training to meet the required competencies as a CAHS Handler and/or to become a Certified Service Dog Trainer. Such training will enable individuals to be effectively employed as members of Mental Health Response Teams utilizing Canine Assisted Intervention (CAI) and Critical Incident & Trauma (CIT) Support Dogs, or as part of training and support teams within Service Dog organizations.

This purpose is directed primarily toward Indigenous communities, though it is not limited to them. By equipping individuals with skills, training, and opportunities, each Handler or Trainer can elevate themselves out of poverty while also strengthening their communities through knowledge, experience, and the promotion of positive change, particularly in the field of mental health.

- e) Establishing, maintaining, and operating an appropriately accredited facility dedicated to Canine Assisted Human Services; and
 - f) Acquiring or breeding of suitable canines that will be raised and trained to meet individual medical, physical, or psychological needs.
2. Advancing education of the general public, to develop a mutual respect of Human Rights, common courtesies between all parties, and support Service Dog Handlers (persons with disabilities), by undertaking the following activities:
- a) Supporting and being actively involved with the development of national standards for the Animal Assisted Human Services Industry.
 - b) Supporting (and where possible, be a part of) the studies on various disabilities and the benefits of utilizing CAHS dogs in their various roles.
 - c) Educating the general public through active public engagement through a variety of medias and CAHS education campaigns, emphasis is to be put on:
 - i) the different roles of CAHS in society;
 - ii) the benefits and use of service dogs that assist handlers with singular or complex disabilities;
 - iii) the different service dog team configurations;
 - iv) the specific conduct expected of Service Dog Teams; and
 - v) the interactions towards said team.
 - d) Establish, maintain, and operate an accredited CAHS Trainer School.