

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **BARRIER-FREE PUBLIC ACCESS FOR GUIDE AND SERVICE DOG TEAMS**

### **UNLEASHING POTENTIAL**

Service dogs have benefited the lives of Canadians of all ages with visible and invisible disabilities as well as other daily living challenges for close to a century. In spite of the many benefits fostered by these devoted working dogs there are a number of systemic issues and industry gaps reinforcing, rather than removing, accessibility and accommodation barriers.

### **NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION**

The Canadian Foundation for Animal-Assisted Support Services (CFAS) is pleased to provide an interim update concerning the **“Unleashing Potential Initiative-Phase 1.”** The industry study announced on November 8, 2019 is well under way. The purpose of the environmental scan is to help service dog handlers, service dog producers, and relevant stakeholders to consider the future direction of the service dog industry in Canada including, but not limited to, the recognized need for consensus-based Canadian 'Service Dog Industry' Quality Assurance Standards.

### **ABOUT US**

**CFAS** is a national non-profit and registered charity that endeavours to inspire and sustain the innovation, coordination, and integration of exceptional *Animal-Assisted Services (AAS)* within Canada's healthcare, social services, justice, corrections, and voluntary sectors in order to build a healthier, safer, and barrier-free Canada with people, pets, and partners (animals in service).