



Our History

- 1975** 19 year-old Rick Little begins to organize the Quest National Centre, later to become Quest International (QI) in Findlay, OH. The story “Rick Little’s Quest” can be found in the first edition of Chicken Soup for the Soul. Skills for Living is the initial school-based program for secondary students.
- 1983** Lions Clubs International (LCI) brings together experts in the field of drug abuse for an international symposium. Prevention and education are identified as the focus for the Lions Drug Awareness Program.
- 1984** Lions Clubs International and Quest International partner to introduce a major program initiative – Lions Quest Skills for Adolescence. The new program was a comprehensive, educational approach to drug prevention for Grades 6-8.
- 1987** Recognizing the drug prevention efforts must begin early, Lions Clubs International and Quest International partner again to introduce Lions Quest Skills for Growing for Grades K-5.
- Two part-time offices are opened under the leadership of PID Jack DoBush in Alberta and PDG Bill Moody in Ontario.
- Past International President Sten Akestam hosted the International Seminar on Drugs in Scandinavia for young people around the world. Canada was represented by two young people – Michelle Smith from Edmonton, AB and Joanne Taylor from St. George, ON.
- 1988** Quest Life Skills (operating at Lions Quest Canada) is incorporated as charitable organization and the first full-time office is opened in Mount Forest, ON under the leadership of Executive Director Bill Moody. The initial Board of Directors consisted of Rick Little (CEO of Quest International), Dr Ben Sprunger (Vice President, International Division, Quest International), James T Skells (Solicitor), Linda Millar (Lions Quest Trainer) and Bill Moody.
- 1990** The Lions Quest Canada office moves to Waterloo, ON.
- 1994** In response to requests, Lions Quest develops a unit that specifically address violence prevention and anger management. Lions Quest Working Toward Peace for Grades 6-8 is released in Canada.
- 1995** Lions Clubs International and Quest International partner to introduce Lions Quest Skills for Action for teens and young adults. The concepts of service-learning and conflict management are extended. Working it Out is also introduced to meet the needs for a conflict management program for Grades K-6.
- Bill Moody retired and Joanne (Taylor) McQuiggan assumed the position of Executive Director.
- 1998** Lions Quest Canada introduces our first program component written completely in Canada. Healthy Bodies for Grades 1-5 complemented the Skills for Growing program and met provincial curriculum requirements for health-related topics.

- 1999** Quest International is merged with the International Youth Foundation and Lions Quest Canada becomes a Canadian partner.
- 2000** The first Canadian edition of Skills for Action is released for teens and young adults.
- 2002** Lions Clubs International Foundation purchases the Skills for Growing, Skills for Adolescence, and Skills for Action programs from the International Youth Foundation.
- Lions Quest Canada also begins working directly with Search Institute to promote and support the use of the Developmental Asset Framework across Canada.
- 2003** Lions Quest Canada changes its name to Thrive! The Canadian Centre for Positive Youth Development. The new name was to reflect the diversity of activities the organization was involved with and provided some distinction from Lions Clubs International Foundation.
- The Lions Quest Fellowship is introduced as way to support the operational expenses while honouring individuals who are champions for children & youth.
- 2005** The first National Conference on Positive Youth Development was held in Mississauga, ON. Subsequent annual conferences were held in Calgary, Miramichi, Kamloops, Waterloo, St. Albert, Regina, Halifax, Oakville, and Red Deer.
- 2007** The first gathering specifically focussed on police services was held in conjunction with the national conference in Miramichi, NB.
- 2009** The two-day Positive Youth Development Building Community Capacity Training of Trainers was launched in St. Albert & Red Deer, AB.
- 2010** Lions Quest Canada – The Centre for Positive Youth Development is adopted as the operating name and honoured the important partnership with Lions Clubs of Canada.
- The Lions Quest Canada office moves to Cambridge, ON.
- 2011** In response to demand, Do Your Part Community Workshops are launched to provide a means of promoting the school-based programs while also equipping anyone who works with young people with the tools to support them.
- 2014** The promotional contest is launched as a significant fundraiser to support the operations of Lions Quest Canada.
- 2016** A significant revision to Skills for Growing, Skills for Adolescence and Skills for Action is completed to incorporate the latest research in Social and Emotional Learning. Lions Quest Canada produces their own Canadian adaptation of the programs for the first time.
- 2018** The Q-Bear Fan Club is launched in response to a young adult who shared how Q-Bear (from Skills for Growing) kept him safe at school in his younger years. This Fan Club program allows individuals to support the work of Lions Quest Canada.
- 2019** Lions Quest Canada releases a new logo featuring Q-Bear.
- 2020** Lions Quest Canada moves to a virtual office environment.