

imagine.

a world without barriers.

FALL NEWSLETTER 2017

Rick Hansen
Foundation 

Guest Message

Hello! My name is Brad McCannell.

Some of you may remember my first update in March 2016 about the need for accessibility in Canada. Today, I'm excited to provide you with another update.

But first, let me describe the challenge.

For the first time in Canada, there are now more people aged 65 and over than there are aged 15 and younger.

An aging population means more Canadians will have disabilities affecting their mobility, vision, and hearing. Making Canada accessible for people with disabilities matters.

A building or public space that has a high level of meaningful access considers the needs of people of every age, stage, and ability. Everyone is included - children, parents, older adults, and seniors.

Your Fall Newsletter will show you how we can make accessibility happen.

When the built environment takes into account the full lifespan of people, and all our individual needs along the way, we make our communities truly sustainable. With your support and partnership, an accessible Canada can be a reality for all Canadians. Thank you!



Brad McCannell,
Vice President,
Access and Inclusion

In This Issue

[Rick has a new book!](#)

[Accessibility in BC](#)

[How ratings work](#)

[Life-changing training](#)

[Your survey results](#)

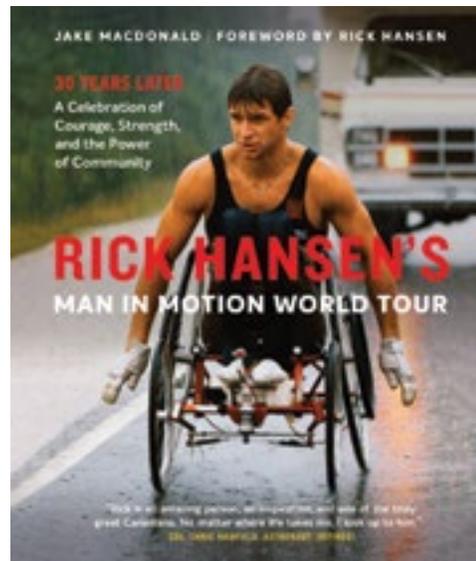
[Accessible neighbourhoods](#)



Rick has a new book!

Thirty years after making history with his Man In Motion World Tour, Rick has released *30 years later: A Celebration of Courage, Strength and the Power of Community* by Jake MacDonald. This special coffee table book includes never-before-seen photos and stories from Rick and his team.

A look back on a seemingly impossible dream, this book will inspire you to believe that anything is possible. Get your copy online today at Indigo or Amazon!



Accessibility in BC

The Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) is committed to removing barriers to accessibility in the built environment.

The long-term goal is to make the places where we live, work, learn, and play fully accessible for people with disabilities by 2050.

Thanks to the vision and generous support of the BC Government, we're moving one step closer to realizing this goal.

Starting this October, the RHF Accessibility Certification™ (RHFAC) team is conducting 1,100 free ratings for non-profit and commercial, institutional, or multi-family residential buildings within BC until March 2019.

Additionally, the RHF BC Accessibility Grants Program will provide \$4 million for approved accessibility upgrades by March 2020. That means that approximately 200 rated buildings and public spaces, can apply for up to \$20,000 to make accessibility improvements.

As a partner in the vision for a fully accessible Canada, your support is vital to this initiative.

If you know of a business, non-profit, municipality or public space in BC that you would like rated, visit rickhansen.com/rhfac to learn more about RHF Accessibility Certification™ and how to book a free rating. The RHF team has an ambitious goal and a strong plan. With your support, we can improve accessibility and inclusion in BC – and eventually Canada – starting with accessibility ratings!

How ratings work

How is accessibility rated?

- The Rick Hansen Foundation team trains people, including those with disabilities, through our new professional course offered for the first time this fall at Vancouver Community College. Trained assessors then take an exam administered by the CSA Group to become accredited RHFAC Professionals.
- Then, using an accessibility rating scorecard, the overall user experience of a building or public space – like pathways, entrances, hallways, and washrooms – are evaluated. Points are allocated for each feature using a comprehensive rating scale.
- Points on the scorecard determine the rating score of the location and its corresponding certification level:

Rating Score	Certification Level
80%+	RHF Accessibility Certified Gold
60%-79%	RHF Accessibility Certified
Below 60%	Does not meet RHFAC requirements for certification

*Photo top right: RHFAC training course at Vancouver Community College.
Photo bottom right: A trainee practices evaluating the accessibility of signage.*



- The scorecard also notes key areas of success and what each building or public space can do to improve its accessibility.
- The owners or managers of the buildings or public spaces can then choose to publicly showcase their certification level on the online RHFAC Registry, hosted by the CSA Group. They can even purchase a site label or plaque to showcase that their location is fully accessible!

Your donations help fund these innovative solutions in making Canada accessible! Please spread the word with those in your life who care about this cause to build our passionate community of donors. Thank you!





Life-changing training

We're thrilled to announce an exciting partnership between RHF and Vancouver Community College.

We developed a new, two week training program that prepares trainees, including people with disabilities, to become RHFAC Professionals and conduct ratings using the RHFAC criteria. With a written exam administered by the CSA Group, this course provides formal accreditation for all students who complete the program.

The momentum is building, and your ongoing partnership is vital to this training program expanding across the country. Thank you!

Photo top right: Josh Yates and Brad McCannell.

Photo bottom: Accessibility Assessor training team, 2017.

“One could say that this experience was life changing, but it’s more than that. It’s going to change the lives of so many more people, allowing them a greater freedom within the built environment, and more inclusion into the social activities of regular life. The impact of this inclusion results in more than just simple access, but in solid numbers, actual dollar amounts. Not only do I now have the knowledge to change the world, but the drive and passion to follow through with it.” – **Josh, Trainee**



Your survey results

Wow! 159 supporters completed and returned the spring survey on giving with inspiring results. You are all “super donors” – dedicated to making a positive impact through the charities and non-profits that you support.

- 100% of respondents give to other charities, with over 60% giving to 11 or more charities!
- The causes the majority of you support are health, child welfare and the environment.
- 96% of respondents love our newsletter!

Your generosity and commitment to improving our world is truly inspirational. Thank you!

We also want to share three anonymous answers on what inspired a donor’s first gift to the Rick Hansen Foundation:

“One of the reasons [I give] is because I feel that in some way I’ve known Rick for a long time, ever since he started racing around the country. I felt then and now, like he’s part of my family and I’m 83.”

“This foundation demonstrates that every life matters. Each one of us has the skills to contribute to the wellbeing of others. Our lives will just keep getting better when we support each other.”

“Because of the problems I read about re: accessibility to many public spaces. Also have friends who have the same barriers.”

Thank you for taking the time to complete this short confidential survey. Your answers help us understand you better.

1 What inspired you to make your first gift to the Rick Hansen Foundation?

2 Do you make gifts to other charities?
 Yes No

If you answered yes to the question above, please select the types of charities you support:

<input type="radio"/> Animal	<input type="radio"/> Health	<input type="radio"/> Child Welfare
<input type="radio"/> International Development	<input type="radio"/> Religious	<input type="radio"/> Environmental
<input type="radio"/> Human Rights	<input type="radio"/> Arts & Culture	<input type="radio"/> Education
<input type="radio"/> Other _____		

How many non-profits or registered charities do you support?
 1-3 7-10 15 or more
 4-6 11-15 None

3 Are you satisfied with the quality of the communications that the Rick Hansen Foundation provides you?
 Yes No

If you answered yes, please tell us what you are happy with:

If you answered no, please tell us what we could do better:

Thank you for completing this short confidential survey. We appreciate you and your feedback!

Accessible neighbourhoods

RHF, in support of the Canadian Institute for the Blind (CNIB), provided an Access4All Barrier Buster grant to make the new CNIB Community Hub more inclusive.

Located at Yonge and St. Clair St. in Toronto, the Hub is installing BlindSquare navigation beacons in the surrounding retail area, in cooperation with local businesses.

This is how the technology works: beacons are set-up in the neighbourhood that link to the BlindSquare app on users' phones. When someone arrives at their destination, the beacon relays detailed information about the surrounding environment. For example, a restaurant beacon may describe the location of tables, washrooms, or staircases. This gives people who are Blind or have low vision the knowledge they need to travel safely.

The app also impacts people with mobility or cognitive disabilities who need help with way-finding. People with autism who aren't comfortable interacting with others can use the app to find places on their own.

“We're so grateful for this funding from the Rick Hansen Foundation. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Businesses love that it's helping people who are Blind or partially sighted, it's free, and it's something that hasn't been done before,” says Kat Clarke, Advocacy Lead (GTA) and Specialist, Government Relations (ON) for the CNIB.

Currently, 20 beacons are in place, with the goal to grow to 200 beacons to make “the Yonge and St. Clair neighbourhood the most accessible neighborhood in Canada.”



“It’s heartwarming to hear from people who’ve lived here all these years who were not always aware of what places were around them until the beacons were put in,” says Kat. “They’re getting an experience of the neighbourhood they’ve never had before.”

To learn more about this CNIB project, go to their web site at www.cnib.ca/en/ontario/shoptalk.

You can read updates about the 55 inspirational Access4All Barrier Buster projects by visiting our website at www.rickhansen.com/access4all/Projects-Showcase.

The Rick Hansen Foundation team is deeply grateful to the Government of Canada for their funding and support of this unique Access4All Barrier Buster grant program celebrating Canada’s 150th. Thank you!



Photo on left: A Blindsquare beacon and app on a user’s phone.

Photo top: Shane from CNIB installing a beacon in a local business.

Photo bottom: Canvass Day, CNIB, 2017.



Sign-up for E-News!

Sign up for our e-news online at www.rickhansen.com or enter your e-mail below.

Yes! Here is my e-mail address so that I can receive Rick Hansen Foundation updates, surveys and learn more about Rick's work. I know that I can unsubscribe at any time and that RHF won't share my email address.



YES RICK! I'll help build an accessible future with my **monthly gift** of:

\$5/month \$10/month \$20/month Other \$ _____/month

On the 1st or 15th of each month, please debit my bank account OR charge my credit card (complete details and sign below)

   Cheque (Please provide a void cheque)

Authorizing Signature _____ This monthly gift is made by an individual or an organization .

Name listed on credit card: _____

Card# _____ Expiry Date ___ / ___ Telephone # (____) _____
area code

A consolidated tax receipt for the total amount of your monthly gifts will be issued each February. Donations will continue until you notify the Rick Hansen Foundation of any changes to, or cancellation of, your monthly giving. You can change or cancel your monthly gift to Rick Hansen Foundation at any time by calling 1-800-213-2131, emailing donations@rickhansen.com or sending your request through traditional mail. For further information about your right to cancel a Pre-Authorized Debit Agreement, as well as recourse rights, visit your financial institution or the website www.cdnpay.ca.



YES RICK! I'll make Canada more accessible with my **special gift** of:

\$40 \$75 \$100 Other \$ _____

   Cheque (Please make cheque payable to Rick Hansen Foundation)

You can visit www.rickhansen.com to make an online gift

Name listed on credit card: _____

Card# _____ Expiry Date ___ / ___ Telephone # (____) _____
area code

Signature _____ My gift is in honour in memory of: _____

Charitable Registration Number 10765 9427 RR 0001

We do not rent, trade or exchange our donors' names and addresses with other charities, non-profits, or for-profit organizations.

Together, anything is possible. Thank you!