

For Immediate Release

Rick Hansen Foundation Introduces Enhanced RHFAC Registry Platform and v4.0 Rating Survey

Innovative Changes Aimed to Support Accessibility Improvements

April 11, 2024, Traditional territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) First Nation / Richmond, B.C.— The Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) is proud to announce exciting updates to its Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ (RHFAC) program, with the recent release of version 4.0 of the RHFAC Rating Survey, and the unveiling of a new RHFAC Registry digital platform. Funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Sectoral Workforce Solutions Program, these updates mark a critical step toward improving meaningful accessibility for people of all ages and abilities.

“Version 4.0 of the RHFAC Rating Survey and the new RHFAC Registry are designed to empower RHFAC Professionals and organizations to measure and improve the meaningful accessibility of their sites, leading to better accessibility within the places we live, work, learn and play,” said Brad McCannell, RHF Vice President Access & Inclusion. “With over 1.3 billion people worldwide and growing as our population ages, these updates reflect our ongoing commitment to staying on the forefront of innovation and best practices.”

“Every Canadian deserves equitable access to public spaces, free of barriers. By investing in the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ (RHFAC) program, our Government is reducing inequalities and building more disability-inclusive spaces – which is the best way to grow our workforce.” - Randy Boissonnault, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Official Languages

The RHFAC Rating Survey undergoes updates every three to five years to incorporate innovations in accessible design, data from the field, and changes to best-in-class standards and research. This process is made possible through collaboration with a broad scope of shareholders, including major disability organizations, a technical committee of built environment professionals, an advisory committee of building owners and operators, municipal planners, large space leaseholders, and designated RHFAC Professionals who have collectively rated over 2,000 buildings to-date. As a result, the Rating Survey links decision makers, experts and people with varying lived experience.

Major updates to v4.0 of the Rating Survey include:

- new criteria to evaluate how readily sites accommodate people with various neurological experiences, introduced through a new **“Mind-Friendly Environments”** category;
- new criteria to evaluate the use and impact of technology and innovation on meaningful access at a site, introduced through a new **“Technology & Innovation”** category;
- **enhanced criteria for evaluating mobility barriers** for users who are ambulatory but experience limited mobility or flexibility;

- the **addition of new elements and features** in common building typologies, such as family/nursing rooms, specialized learning spaces, libraries, and respite and sensory rooms; and
- **updated technical specifications** arising from updates to building codes, accessibility design standards, such as CSA/ASC B651:23 Accessible design for the built environment and CSA/ASC B652:23 Accessible dwellings, and other emerging research and best practices.

“RHF is continually looking for ways to improve the user experience for RHFAC Professionals conducting ratings, as well as organizations looking to enhance their accessibility journey.” said McCannell. “We’re committed to ongoing improvements that make it easier to rate spaces, adjudicate ratings, and most importantly interpret results in order to make informed data-based decisions moving forward.”

New Enhanced and User-Friendly RHFAC Registry:

RHF has relaunched the RHFAC Registry digital platform to further support building owners and managers on their journey towards meaningful accessibility. The redesigned Registry has improved usability and introduces new features such as:

- **An interactive rating survey** with an engaging interface that allows users to navigate with ease;
- **Real-time scoring**, category summaries, and collaboration between organizations and RHFAC Professionals before adjudication;
- **Data exporting capabilities** for in-depth analysis across multiple sites; and
- **A promotional package** to celebrate achievements and demonstrate a commitment to accessibility.

RHF invites organizations to register their site to better understand their level of meaningful accessibility at <https://registry.rickhansen.com/>.

To learn more about the RHFAC Program visit www.RickHansen.com/RHFAC or email access@rickhansen.com

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About the Rick Hansen Foundation

The Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) was established in 1988, following the completion of Rick Hansen’s Man In Motion World Tour. For over 35 years, RHF has worked to raise awareness, change attitudes, and remove barriers for people with disabilities. Visit www.RickHansen.com to learn more.

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