

## The Critical Need for Access

Approximately 22% of Canadians identify as having a disability, and that number is growing as our population ages. This has created an urgent need to identify and remove barriers in the built environment, ensuring everyone can go everywhere.

This changing demographic, along with the recent passing of the Federal government's Accessible Canada Act, is ensuring organizations keep accessibility at the forefront. Now, more than ever, it is essential to address one of the fundamental barriers people with disabilities face today: access to the places where we live, work, learn and play.

## The Accessibility Professional Network

This critical need has led the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) to develop the Accessibility Professional Network, a professional association that will connect members of the accessibility community with resources, training, networking and job opportunities.

Membership benefits include:

- Access to educational resources including live webinars,
- Professional development and networking opportunities,
- Access to an industry job board, and
- The ability to participate in an online discussion forum.

As businesses work to adapt to changing needs and legislation, the Accessibility Professional Network will provide an important platform to ensure building design meets the needs of all users.



## The Accessibility Professional Network 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference

This October, the Accessibility Professional Network 1st Annual Conference is taking place. Approximately 200 professionals from the built environment and accessibility industry, and the disability community, from across the country are being brought together for the first time. The conference will be hosted at the MaRS building in Toronto, Ontario on October 31– November 1st, 2019.

Delegates, will have the opportunity to participate in keynote lectures and concurrent sessions on a wide range of accessibility topics from industry leaders.

The 2019 Accessibility Professional Network Conference will provide attendees with a platform to:

- Learn about national and international initiatives in accessibility,
- Network with accessibility professionals,
- Engage in in-depth discussions on built environment accessibility topics, and
- Contribute to enhancing the field of accessibility in Canada.



**# A P N 2 0 1 9**

Visit [RickHansen.com/APN2019](http://RickHansen.com/APN2019)

## Sponsorship Ask, Rights, and Benefits

**Sponsorship of the Accessibility Professional Network is valued at \$5,000.**

RHF will seek an unlimited number of sponsors to support the network. The term of the sponsorship will commence upon the signing of a sponsorship agreement and will extend to December 31, 2020. Thereafter, sponsors will be asked to renew annually in January of each subsequent year. Sponsors signing in 2019 will be recognized at the 2019 and 2020 Accessibility Professional Network Conference, prior to partnership renewal in 2021.

### **RHF will provide the following benefits to Accessibility Professional Network sponsors:**

- Logo recognition on all Accessibility Professional Network web pages;
- Logo recognition on the Accessibility Professional Network monthly e-newsletter shared with network members;
- Logo recognition on webinar presentations delivered to network members (approximately ten per year);
- Logo recognition on all printed event collateral at the 2019 Accessibility Professional Network Conference, including, but not limited to, onsite signage, and the printed program;
- Logo recognition in the PowerPoint presentation prepared for the conference;
- An opportunity to contribute a branded premium for Conference welcome package; and
- Acknowledgement in verbal remarks in the conference welcome address.

## About the Rick Hansen Foundation and Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ (RHFAC)

For over three decades, the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) has raised awareness and changed attitudes about the potential of people with disabilities and funded spinal cord injury research and care. Today, the Rick Hansen Foundation is working to break down one of the most fundamental barriers that people with disabilities face: physical barriers in the places where we live, work, learn, and play. RHFAC was

developed to address the critical need

to remove barriers in the built

environment. It is a rating system

that uses trained professionals

to evaluate the level of

meaningful accessibility of

commercial, institutional,

and multi-unit residential  
buildings and sites. Today,

over 1,200 buildings have

been rated across the

country and momentum

continues to grow.



---

Thank you. Together we can make a Canada that is accessible to all.

**For questions, please contact:**

**Mike Reid**

Vice President, Resource Development  
mreid@rickhansen.com

**Sarah McCarthy**

Vice President, Strategic Initiatives  
smccarthy@rickhansen.com