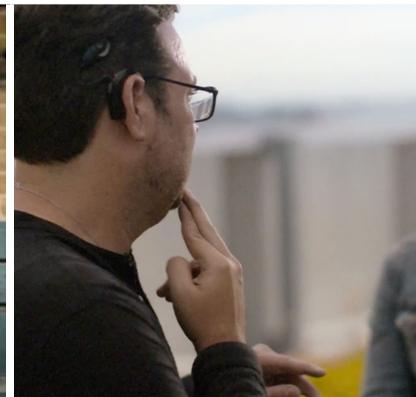


Annual Report April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

Building a world for Everyone, Everywhere



Our Vision

An inclusive world where people with disabilities are living to their full potential.

Our Mission

To create and deliver innovative solutions that lead to a global movement to remove barriers and liberate the potential of people with disabilities.

Creating Transformational Change

Inspired by the belief that anything is possible, Rick Hansen began the Man In Motion World Tour in 1985, wheeling 40,000 km over two years. The Rick Hansen Foundation, established in 1988, has achieved transformational change in raising awareness and removing barriers for people with disabilities and funding research for the cure and care of people with spinal cord injuries. Today, the Foundation focuses on improving physical accessibility to create an inclusive world for all.



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COMMUNITY BRANCH

RHF-271-01076

NOVEMBER 15, 2018 - NOVEMBER 15, 2023

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A Message from our CEO

It continues to be a tremendous privilege to serve as the Rick Hansen Foundation's Chief Executive Officer. With your support, we've continued to impact the lives of people with disabilities over the past year in a number of significant ways:

- **We've Raised Awareness**—We launched a national awareness campaign, #EveryoneEverywhere, to educate and inspire Canadians about the critical need for accessibility. The campaign has been seen by millions of Canadians thanks to the generous support of our national media partners and pro-bono creative agency.
- **We've Inspired Youth**—Over 11,000 educators to deliver our resources to the next generation of accessibility champions. As we all learn new ways of engaging with one another as a result of COVID-19, we have quickly pivoted to make our resources more widely accessible to both parents and teachers.
- **We've Removed Barriers**— We assisted hundreds of sites to better understand their level of meaningful accessibility for people with physical disabilities. Over 790 sites across the country have achieved RHF Accessibility Certification, and over 50 have achieved RHFAC Gold.
- **We've Funded Critical SCI Research**—RHF continued to fund research innovations in the cure for spinal cord injury (SCI) by supporting partners such as the Praxis Institute and the International Collaboration for Repair Discoveries (ICORD).

I want to express my gratitude to our supporters, donors, board members, stakeholders, volunteers and staff. Thank you for your passionate support.

As we pivot to adapt to a changing world, I want to ensure you that the Rick Hansen Foundation will continue to be a clear and persistent voice in advocating for people with disabilities, while ensuring that RHF programs remain flexible and continue to grow to meet the needs of our community. Thank you again for your continued partnership and support.



Doramy Ehling
Chief Executive Officer,
Rick Hansen Foundation



A Message from our Founder

As I reflect on this past year I am filled with gratitude. Thank you for sharing my dream of finding a cure for paralysis and vision of a world without barriers for people with disabilities. We could not have made such incredible strides toward these goals without your support.

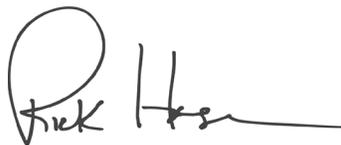
This past year saw the passing of the federal government’s Accessible Canada Act, a major achievement, and testament to the collective power of the disability community. I am hopeful that this Act is just the beginning of many transformational changes we will see in Canada for people with disabilities.

As we closed this fiscal year, we kicked off the 35th anniversary of the start of my Man In Motion World Tour. Recognizing everything that has been achieved since that day, I look forward to continuing to work with governments, stakeholders and communities to reach new and even greater milestones.

This year has not been without challenges, and collectively we are facing unprecedented circumstances that most of us have never seen before. Thank you for your continued support as we navigate this reality.

Thank you for being part of this journey to create a world where people with disabilities can live life to the fullest. We have come a long way, but there is still more work to be done—let’s keep going!

My best,



Rick Hansen, CC, OBC
Founder,
Rick Hansen Foundation



A Message from our Board Chair

It has been an honour to serve another year as chair of the Board of Directors of the Rick Hansen Foundation. I feel grateful to do so alongside a deeply passionate and invested board. We are proud to support the work of the Foundation in removing barriers for people with disabilities and creating an accessible Canada.

This year, the RHF School Program welcomed thousands of educators to inspire youth about access and inclusion, RHF Accessibility Certification worked with countless organizations to make the built environment more accessible for people of all abilities, and Rick and the Foundation continued to inspire Canadians to build a world for everyone, everywhere.

Building on the Board's previous year of enquiry and discovery, we focused on: board succession planning; ensuring the stability and sustainability of the Foundation; implementing new governance policies to adapt to the Foundation's changing needs; and reviewing strategic imperatives to prepare for our strategic planning process.

This past year also saw the formation of two task forces, one focused on revenue generation, and one dedicated to fundraising efforts. I am excited to see these initiatives in action in the coming months.

While we have achieved much—there is still much more to do. We are inspired by our Founder, Rick Hansen, to continue to drive for the changes needed to ensure people with disabilities have equal access to the spaces and opportunities that make Canada so unique.

While the fiscal year closed with an unexpected global crisis, the Board is more committed than ever to ensure the long-term viability and serving in the best interest of the Foundation, its employees, and stakeholders. I want to thank the entire board and Foundation team, as well as the Founder, and the Foundation's donors and supporters, for their respective efforts toward our path to an inclusive and accessible Canada.



Tamara Vrooman
Chair, Board of Directors
Rick Hansen Foundation



Raising Awareness and Changing Attitudes

A lack of access affects the nearly 50% of Canadians who have or have had a temporary or permanent disability or live with someone who has. The Rick Hansen Foundation is committed to ensuring that everyone can participate to their fullest potential.

Building awareness is a key component to changing attitudes and creating transformational change, whether it's improving policy, or influencing industry to build more accessible environments.

#EveryoneEverywhere: Rallying the Nation

In May 2019, in honour of National AccessAbility Week, we launched a national campaign called #EveryoneEverywhere to build awareness of the importance of improved accessibility. The words “Everyone, Everywhere” represent our vision of a Canada where everyone, regardless of physical ability, can access the places we live, work, learn, and play. The campaign has reached millions of Canadians, generating more than 1.4 billion impressions across the country.

#EveryoneEverywhere
#EveryoneEverywhere

Make Canada accessible for all.

Rick Hansen
Foundation



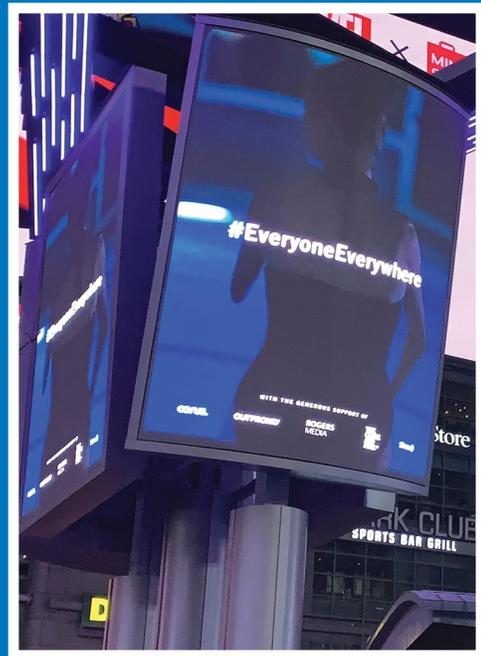
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MEDIA ONE ONE



Everyone Everywhere means maximizing the potential of all through physical freedom. It means we're going to open the world and bring access to more people in more places. It means we're going to rally an entire nation. And we won't stop until everyone can go everywhere.

The campaign was created with input from the disability community. The creative used high contrast colours and a sans serif font, key attributes to accessible design, and videos were open captioned and audio described in both French and English for accessibility.

#EveryoneEverywhere is proudly supported by the following members of the disability community: Barrier Free Canada, British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability, Canadian Abilities Foundation, Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work, Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, Easter Seals, the International Collaboration On Repair Discoveries, and March of Dimes.



“

Having more campaigns like #EveryoneEverywhere is good because it raises awareness... people with disabilities, we have something to contribute, we just need places to adapt so we can contribute what we have to offer.

—Nathan Shipley, community member with cerebral palsy quadriplegia

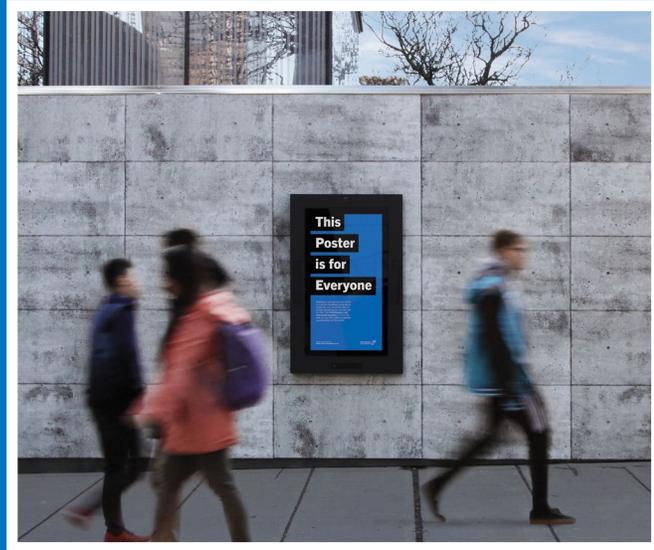


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A Powerful Message

Compelling campaign creative was developed pro-bono in partnership with the passionate and talented team at TAXI Canada. We are incredibly grateful for TAXI's continued support for the cause.

#EveryoneEverywhere launched with “A Poster for Everyone”—a powerful example of the potential of inclusion. The video featured an innovative and inclusive poster that adapts to the needs of its user, whether they require audio description, braille, text at a lower height, or in a different language.



A Public Service Announcement was developed that brought home the message of #EveryoneEverywhere with a powerful emotional connection—that no matter who you are or what your ability is, you should be able to experience life to the fullest capacity. Radio, print, outdoor and online ads led to an online landing page where people can learn more about why accessibility is important, watch videos from community members who benefit from accessibility, share the message, and learn how to take action to improve access.

“

I support the Rick Hansen Foundation's campaign, because it promotes love, compassion, and respect for everyone.

— Catherine O'Hara, voice of #EveryoneEverywhere TV PSA

”



Big Impact

We couldn't deliver such an important message without the generous in-kind support of our national media partners, Corus Entertainment, OUTFRONT Media, Rogers Media, Shaw Communications and The Globe and Mail.

The campaign has reached millions of Canadians across the country, generating more than 1.4 billion total impressions across the disability community, businesses, and the general public. All have felt an emotional connection to our message. The positive implications of this campaign are immeasurable, from creating a compassionate cultural shift, to influencing building owners to incorporate Universal Design into their practice.

Market research conducted in major markets across the country shows that #EveryoneEverywhere is indeed reaching and resonating with Canadians:

- It makes Canadians think more about the potential barriers to accessibility
- Canadians are more likely to encourage improvements to accessibility within buildings that they frequent
- Canadians believe the campaign shares an important message in a well-executed and engaging manner
- Canadians stand behind our mission to remove barriers and liberate the potential of people with disabilities.



Awareness through Leadership

Advocating for Disability Rights

June 21, 2019 marked a historic day for Canadians with the federal government’s Bill C-81, the Accessible Canada Act, receiving Royal Assent. As a member of the Federal Accessibility Legislation Alliance, Rick and the Foundation worked with the disability community to advocate for the federal government’s support. With the increased awareness and legislative backing, we look forward to creating more transformational change by removing barriers for people with disabilities. We thank Parliament for passing the Accessible Canada Act legislation.

Awareness in Media

Rick continued to engage and inspire audiences with his message about the potential of people with disabilities through speaking engagements, media appearances, interviews, and editorial articles. Over the past year, Rick connected with Canadians through:

- Engaging the building industry through his keynote address at BOMEX, the national conference for the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) of Canada.
- Speaking with CTV National News regarding accessibility inclusion in the federal election.
- Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Olympic and Paralympic Games with CTV in February, 2020.



Through this and more, last year Rick and the Foundation were mentioned over 2,900 times through a variety of media outlets, totaling circulation of 266,520,325. Each one of these mentions means another opportunity to communicate the need for improved accessibility and inclusion.

Removing Barriers for Everyone, Everywhere

Imagine missing your train to work because there were no audio announcements. Or not understanding a historic speech because they didn't provide captions or an ASL or LSQ translator. Or not accompanying your child to their first day of school because your wheelchair couldn't make it up the front steps of the school.

Unfortunately, for many Canadians, this is a reality. Every day, thousands of individuals encounter barriers because the built environment is not accessible for people with disabilities. Currently, 1 in 5 Canadians has a disability, and with Canada's aging population, this number is growing. When people are unable to contribute and fully participate in life, it affects us all.

Thanks to you, we're working to change this.

Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™

Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ (RHFAC) is a rating system that uses trained professionals to rate the level of meaningful accessibility of the built environment—the places where we live, work, learn, and play. By promoting increased access through the adoption of Universal Design principles, RHFAC helps organizations learn more about their level of meaningful accessibility so they can improve.



Program Growth

We are pleased to report that the RHFAC program continued to grow last year, with RHFAC Professionals performing more ratings for a variety of organizations and building types, and the launch of the first online RHFAC Training course.

The Foundation partnered with PowerEd™ by Athabasca University to deliver RHFAC Training online. The course educates qualified individuals on how to rate the meaningful access of a building using RHFAC rating methodology. By offering the training online, the course is accessible to those who may have difficulty attending in person. As well as online, RHFAC Training is offered across the country at Vancouver Community College, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, George Brown College, Carleton University and Nova Scotia Community College.

Since the program's launch, we have achieved:

790+

RHF Accessibility
Certified Sites



200+

RHFAC Training
participants

50+

RHFAC Gold Sites



80+

RHFAC
Professionals

BC Accessibility Grants Program

Thanks to the Government of British Columbia, \$3.7 million has been awarded for accessibility improvements through the BC Accessibility Grants program and \$1.4 million reimbursed to date. This funding was provided to organizations to increase their inclusivity by upgrading their building's accessibility, based on the needs identified through an RHFAC rating.

BC Accessibility Grants Program Success: Sooke Fire Department

After their local Fire Hall received a Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ (RHFAC) rating, the town of Sooke, BC, wanted to implement the recommended accessibility upgrades to ensure the space was accessible for all building users. Funding from the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) BC Accessibility Grants program, thanks to the Province of British Columbia, has made a big difference to Sooke, a town of 13,000 on the southwest tip of Vancouver Island.

In rural communities, accessibility challenges can be amplified by a lack of infrastructure and smaller budgets. So, being able to benefit from funding such as this to make the Fire Hall more accessible for all the people who access it, including volunteers with varying disabilities affecting their mobility, vision and hearing and a city councilor who uses a wheelchair, was a big windfall.

Fire Chief Kenn Mount credits the success of Sooke's project to a savvy clerical staff who flagged the BC Accessibility Grants program application to the administration and kept the application process moving along.

"It's been quite the learning experience for us," says Mount, "At first, our crew wondered how much of an impact something as simple as changing the door handles could have. Once we started to expand our knowledge about how physical barriers affect people with disabilities, we started to recognize barriers everywhere. Our firefighters feel good about the changes we're making — they're making accessibility their priority, too."



The funding enabled the Sooke Fire Hall to build a brand-new accessible washroom, undertake a complete redesign of its reception area, including the instalment of an automatic door, to better serve area residents with disabilities and improve safety and security.

"The work that's been done at the fire hall is great, and it's got the municipality thinking about other improvements we can make," says Councillor Dana Lajeunesse. "The reception area is adequately sized now, it's much easier to maneuver, and the new counters are at a much better height for signing papers. It's encouraging to see other Sooke residents advocating for better accessibility on other sites, too — eventually, I'd like to see our bylaws include accessibility requirements for new commercial construction."

Ontario Government Funding announcement

Thanks to support from the Government of Ontario, the Foundation began accepting applications from public, private, and non-profit organizations for complimentary RHFAC ratings in ten select municipalities in Ontario. Working with RHFAC Professionals, 250 buildings in Ontario will be rated, allowing organizations to learn more about their level of meaningful accessibility, and how they can become more inclusive.



People with disabilities and our seniors deserve to be independent and fully participate in their communities as consumers and employees. This certification pilot project will help businesses and communities understand how to be more accessible and inclusive for everyone – so that we all benefit. By helping to build awareness of accessible built environments, we are fostering a culture of accessibility and inclusion.



— Raymond Cho, Ontario Minister for Seniors and Accessibility



Cost is not a Barrier to Accessibility

In partnership with HCMA Architecture + Design, the Rick Hansen Foundation conducted a cost comparison feasibility study to determine if cost really is a barrier to accessible design. The results have exciting implications for the accessibility field by dispelling the myth that accessible design is more expensive—a huge incentive for industry and government to engage accessibility professionals and become accessible.

Improved access for new builds at minimal cost

1%

The average increase in construction cost to achieve RHFAC Gold* compared to National or Ontario building code.

0.4%

The average increase in construction cost to achieve RHFAC Gold* for an office building compared to National or Ontario building code.

\$0

The cost for new builds to achieve RHF Accessibility Certified* when thoughtful planning and design are applied.

Building to code won't achieve RHF Accessibility Certification

35%

The RHFAC Rating Score a building would achieve if built to National Building Code.

42%

The RHFAC Rating Score a building would achieve if built to Ontario Building Code.

RHFAC Gold: Making an impact for

Last year, RHFAC celebrated the organizations committed to removing barriers and ensuring their spaces are accessible for everyone, everywhere. We proudly awarded many sites with the RHFAC Gold achievement, including the following 6 from coast to coast.

City of Surrey

“This certification illustrates our commitment to investing in facilities and programs that are accessible for everyone,” —City of Surrey Mayor Doug McCallum



Mosaic Stadium

“We are proud to celebrate this prestigious certification. When we opened the doors of our new stadium in 2017, we wanted to be sure that our entire community felt welcomed to enjoy events here. Working with our partners in the accessibility community has been an enriching experience that will impact the future of our City.” —City of Regina Mayor Michael Fougere



Vaughan City Hall

“We have a mission to foster a barrier-free community that is diverse, inclusive and welcoming. We believe every person has the right to access every program or facility, regardless of ability. That is why accessibility planning is an essential part of Vaughan’s current and future growth plans, which includes our goal to create a completely accessible community by 2025.”—City of Vaughan Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua



people with disabilities across Canada

Ottawa Airport



“The airport terminal, which opened in 2003, was built with accessibility in mind. As building code and accessibility standards have evolved over the years, along with the needs of the community, the Authority has endeavoured to not only keep up, but to exceed these standards as it strives to provide the best possible passenger experience. We are delighted to have achieved this exceptional level of certification which is a tribute to the Authority’s commitment to an accessible terminal for all passengers, employees and visitors.” —Mark Laroche, President and CEO, Ottawa International Airport Authority

Halifax Airport



“We care deeply about making tangible improvements that raise the bar and better serve all passengers, partners and community members. That’s why last year, we engaged an RHFAC Professional to rate our facility and reaffirm our commitment to accessibility and inclusion at Halifax Stanfield.” —Joyce Carter, President and CEO, Halifax International Airport Authority

Husky Energy



“Husky wants to be considered an employer of choice, where all employees can deliver their best at work. In designing our office space we took that to heart and engineered with the end user in mind and that included a focus on an inclusive and collaborative work environment.” —Trevor Pritchard, Senior Vice President, Husky’s Atlantic Region



Stanis Smith, Architect, Consultant, and Chair, RHFAC Advisory Committee, speaking at #APN2019

Collaborating with the Community

Accessibility Leadership Forum

It's important to continue uniting Canada's broad and diverse disability community. When we work together, we can strengthen our collective voice and further advancements in accessibility that will benefit us all.

With your support, for the past 5 years we have hosted the Accessibility Leadership Forum, bringing together over 100 leaders of the disability community across the country, to further discuss and collaborate on the accessibility needs of the community. The 2019 Forum took place in October in Toronto and allowed participants to expand on previous conversations through roundtable collaborative discussions.

"The Accessibility Leadership Forum brings Canada's best and brightest to the table when it comes to Accessibility Professionals. It's definitely a conference that should not be missed." —Forum Attendee

Accessibility Professional Network

Last August we were thrilled to launch the Accessibility Professional Network. The network connects professionals in the accessibility community throughout Canada and brings resources to this growing industry. Members have been able to access live webinars, networking opportunities, an industry job board, an online discussion forum, and other resources to support them as they help organizations transform our built environment.

Accessibility Professional Network Conference Gold

Sponsor: Canadian Tire Corporation

Accessibility Professional Network Proudly

Supported by: PowerED™ by Athabasca University, Canada Post, CSA Group, Fasken, Ivanhoe Cambridge, KPMG, RBC, and Scotiabank.



[Lui Greco and Yvonne Felix, CNIB](#)

#APN2019

Last fall, we hosted the Accessibility Professional Network 1st Annual Conference in Toronto. The conference provided a platform for over 200 individuals to learn about national and international initiatives in accessibility, network with other professionals in the field, engage in discussion regarding the built environment and accessibility, and attend presentations from leaders in the industry.



I was one of the first people to sign up...as an RHFAC Professional, I knew the Network was going to advance my knowledge and skillset in order to best perform my job.

— Marco Pasqua, RHFAC Professional, motivational speaker and entrepreneur.



Helping Industry Make an Impact

By partnering with organizations in the building and design industry, we're encouraging organizations to include people with disabilities in their plans. We were pleased to partner with the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) Canada last year, an organization making accessibility a priority. BOMA is an association for property owners and managers, supporting education, advocacy, recognition, and networking.

We worked with BOMA to create a brand-new accessibility guide as a resource for building owners and managers to be inclusive of people with different physical disabilities, so their buildings can be sustainable for our aging population.

As part of our partnership, BOMA encouraged their members to get their sites rated for meaningful accessibility through RHFAC. Buildings that achieve "RHF Accessibility Certified" or "RHF Accessibility Certified Gold" now get additional points to become "BOMA Best" buildings — a certification that recognizes excellence in energy and environmental management performance in commercial real estate. By acknowledging accessibility, these sites are showing the importance of social sustainability, ensuring all people can use a building's facilities for years to come.



Inspiring Youth Across the Country

Nothing is more powerful than a young person who acts on their passions. When youth take action on matters that are important to them, the world can be changed for the better.

The Rick Hansen Foundation School Program (RHFSP) builds on this belief by empowering students of all ages to become accessibility and inclusion champions. Last year, your generosity helped us:

- Provide lessons and activities that help educators teach about accessibility and inclusion
- Inspire students through RHF Ambassador presentations
- Celebrate acts of compassion by awarding students and educators as RHF Difference Makers

Every year the RHF School Program grows, and every year it impacts more students across Canada. We couldn't do this without your support.

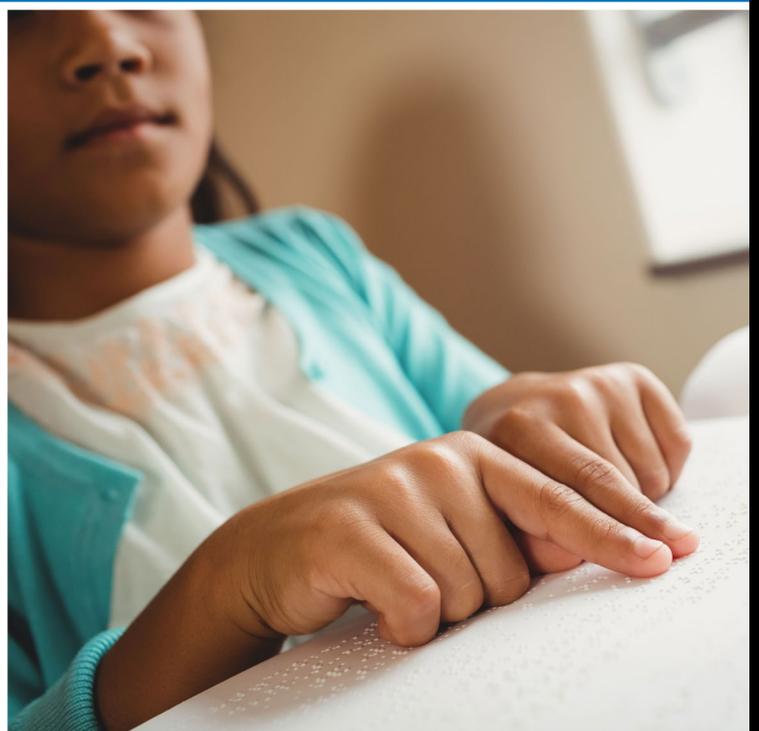
In 2019-2020:

3,251

new educators registered with RHFSP, for a total of 11,692 across Canada

5,328

schools in Canada have educators using RHFSP resources



RHF Ambassadors

Our team of Ambassadors are a diverse group of people with different disabilities affecting their mobility, sight, and hearing, and each has a unique story and perspective that they share in presentations with schools and communities across Canada. RHF Ambassador presentations provide opportunities for students and educators alike to engage in meaningful conversations about disability, accessibility, and inclusion.



In 2019-2020:

341

RHF Ambassador presentations were given across Canada

60,000+

students were engaged through RHF Ambassador presentations

Difference Makers

It's important to recognize the inclusive leaders in our community, whether they're a six-year-old student, or a sixty-year-old teacher. By celebrating those who are making our communities a safer and more welcoming place, we're making a statement about the kind of world we want to live in.



The RHF Difference Maker program celebrates acts of inclusion through certificates, and Difference Maker of the Year awards. These celebrations are inspired by the lesson plans in the RHF School Program Difference Maker toolkit, which support educators to teach students about the importance of inclusion and the power we all have to create change.

Rick Hansen Foundation  School Program

PRESENTED BY



FUTURE PROSPECTS



Scotiabank®

Download free educational resources
and empower a new generation of
accessibility champions.

rickhansen.com/schools



 @rickhansen

SUPPORTED BY

Canada



RHF Ambassador Jackie Silver speaking with a group of students.

Meet Vanessa Pollard: Educator and Ambassador

“One of my missions is to teach kids how to make society more inclusive so any kid with a disability won’t have to go through the challenges I had to face when I was growing up,” says Vanessa Pollard, an educator in Coquitlam, BC.



Teaching with a Disability

Over the years Vanessa has taught from Kindergarten to Grade 5 and is currently teaching English as an Additional Language and working in student services. No matter what grade the students are, Vanessa is always open about the fact that she’s hard of hearing. She says it can be encouraging for students of all ages to see that just because she has a disability, she is still successful—embodying the lesson that challenges can be overcome.

As part of her mission to empower students and foster inclusive learning environments, Vanessa uses educational resources from the Rick Hansen Foundation School Program (RHFSP). The bilingual resources, which include “toolkits” filled with curricula-aligning lesson plans and activities for a variety of ages, are all available for educators to download for free on the Rick Hansen Foundation website.

Abilities in Motion

Vanessa is a big fan of the RHFSP Abilities in Motion Toolkit, which has lessons and activities for students from kindergarten to Grade 12. The lessons and activities increase awareness about the importance of accessibility and inclusion through communication, teamwork, mentoring, and creative thinking.

“The Abilities In Motion toolkit is very clearly laid out—I love the visuals. Us teachers love the activities and we love the fact that it categorizes based on different disabilities. It’s very holistic. It’s a phenomenal resource.”

She also says that after doing one of the lessons or activities it’s clear students have a deeper understanding of the experiences people with disabilities have. “It gives them the responsibility of what they can do to help out on the playground, classroom, or in their community.”

RHF Ambassador

Vanessa also happens to be an RHF Ambassador, and with her educational background is a natural when it comes to engaging a group of young people. Recently, she presented to a group of Girl Guides. She connected her own personal story and the importance of inclusion to the topic of mindfulness—something she knows students are currently learning about in school.

Like the toolkits, educators can book a free RHF Ambassador presentation for their school online. There are two digital versions of presentations available for everyone.

Empowering the Next Generation

Vanessa is excited to continue delivering presentations and teaching kids about inclusion. Resources like those provided by RHFSP are important, she says, because they help create important conversations.

These compassionate conversations lead to more social awareness and confidence for people with disabilities, ensuring they feel comfortable in their classroom and community: “They won’t have to fear any negative consequences because they have a disability, and they’ll feel accepted and included because they’re just being seen as regular people.”

Along with your support, these impacts from RHFSP were made possible by our Co-Presenting Partners Boston Pizza Foundation Future Prospects and Scotiabank and the generous support of CGI, Brian Hesje, Honda Canada Foundation, The Gordon and Ruth Gooder Charitable Foundation, and The Slaight Family Foundation.



Investing in SCI

RHF continues to be committed to improving the quality of life for individuals with spinal cord injury (SCI). Over the past year, your generosity has ensured that organizations such as the International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries (ICORD) and the Praxis Spinal Cord Institute, continued to collaborate and conduct international research to find solutions to cure and care for persons living with SCI.

Blusson Integrated Cures Partnership

The Blusson Integrated Cures Partnership (BICP), funded by RHF, is a collaborative effort between the Praxis Spinal Cord Institute (Praxis), and the International Collaboration on Research Discoveries (ICORD), to make the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre (BSCC) a global hub for interdisciplinary SCI research. Below are some highlights of the impact of these efforts:

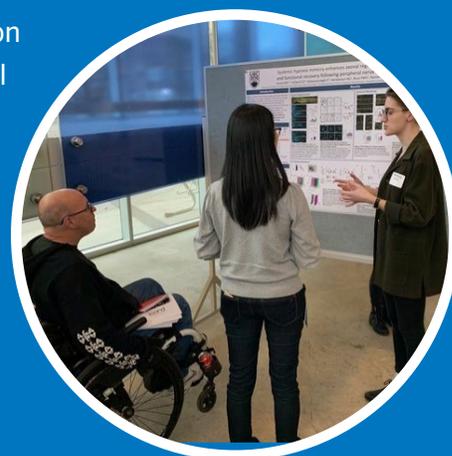
- The Spinal Cord Injury Research Evidence (SCIRE) Community website was maintained and updated for use by a global audience. It offers chapters on topics related to spinal cord injury in English and French, consumer-appropriate videos and links to other resources.
- Praxis' Consumer Engagement Lead presented on consumer engagement and integrated knowledge translation at scientific meetings in Canada, the US, Europe and Australia. They also consulted on SCI research projects, undertook knowledge exchange activities as well as other patient engagement meetings.
- Two consumer conferences and meetings were supported in fiscal 2019-20: Working2Walk2019 and the 3rd Annual Meeting of the North American Spinal Cord Injury Consortium (NASCI). In addition, four consumers were supported to participate in the inaugural Reeve Summit 2020: Where Care, Cure and Community Connect.
- BICP funding for innovative quality improvements focused on two client-driven IT-based solutions: the Global Research Platform (GRP) and the Emergency Department Patient app (a mobile application which allows SCI patients in emergency departments to receive notifications when called to see a doctor).



ICORD

ICORD is one of the most interdisciplinary SCI research programs in the world, with researchers dedicated to the development and translation of more effective strategies to promote prevention, functional recovery, and improved quality of life after SCI. Highlights of ICORD's achievements over the past year include:

- Drs. Tania Lam and Lynn Stothers collaborated on a seed grant-funded project which led to a successful three-year operating grant for Dr. Lam, entitled EXURCISe, for improving Urinary Continence in people with Spinal cord injury, as well as a four-year Craig H. Neilsen Foundation grant for Dr. Stothers.
- A seed grant awarded to Drs. Cheryl Wellington and Brian Kwon in 2018 was pivotal in generating pilot data for their successful application to Paralyzed Veterans of America for their project, Translating Neurochemical Biomarkers from TBI to Acute Spinal Cord.
- Seed funding for Drs. Carolyn Sparrey, Bonnie Sawatzky, and Jaimie Borisoff has fostered a robust collaboration with visiting professor Dr. James Laskin of the University of Montana to develop an adapted row ergometer.



Annual Research Meeting

On March 10 and 11, 2020, ICORD researchers, staff, and students got together at their annual research meeting to present and get feedback on their research, and hear from international experts in SCI. In addition to a plenary lecture by Swiss urologist Dr. Kessler, meeting participants heard talks by ICORD Principal Investigators and senior staff, and saw 56 research posters presented by trainees and staff.

The Praxis Spinal Cord Institute

The Praxis Spinal Cord Institute (Praxis) mobilizes international innovation in research and care to improve the lives of people with SCI in Canada and around the world. Over the years, Praxis has:

- Led improvements in care for more than 4,500 Canadians with SCI, including supporting best practices training for over 700 clinicians; interacting with over 20,000 people with SCI; supporting over 250 peer-reviewed publications; and engaging with over 60 healthcare sites globally.
- Operated Canada's primary SCI data repository, the Rick Hansen Spinal Cord Injury Registry (RHSCIR), with more than 8,000 participants; 54% of the RHSCIR network was successfully accredited to Accreditation Canada's Standards for Spinal Cord Injury Acute and Rehabilitation Services.

RHF Commitment to Everyone, Everywhere

The Rick Hansen Foundation continues to prioritize accessibility, diversity, and inclusivity in all aspects of our own organization, including our systems, technology, policies, and culture. We remain committed to these values on an ongoing basis through continuous learning and training. For example, last year RHF management was excited to take part in training with Accessible Employers.

This past year we worked with BCIT, where our headquarters is located, to improve the accessibility of the facilities. Improvements included adding braille signage, accessible signage, and seating in the front lobby. These features have been well-received by staff and visitors alike and have enabled us to achieve RHFAC Gold.

Our internal office is also accessible and conducive to working collaboratively for team members with different abilities, with features like height-adjustable desks and abundant lighting. We have a flexible work environment where staff have options to work from home, work in the office, or a combination of the two, as well as working part- or full-time. With 36% of staff members who self-report as having a disability, we continually look for ways to ensure our entire workforce is safe, comfortable, and can succeed in our work environment.

We continue to build and enhance our relationships with the community and where we post job opportunities, including Neil Squire, Pacific Autism Family Network, Discover Ability Network, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, and CNIB.

The Foundation intentionally placed a significant focus on our Culture last year, building on our principle of People First with the establishment of a Culture Committee. The committee is comprised of 15–20% of our staff, and meets regularly to identify, focus on, and action employee experience and values.



Letter from the Treasurer

At a time when the world is facing new and increasingly complex challenges, it is humbling to reflect on how the generous support of our donors, partners and stakeholders has enabled us to improve accessibility and inclusion for the millions of Canadians living with disabilities.

This past year, the Government of Ontario provided funding for 250 complimentary Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ (RHFAC) ratings for public, private, and nonprofit organizations in ten select municipalities across the province. Participating organizations will gain a deeper understanding of their level of accessibility and how they can become more inclusive, thereby ensuring all Ontarians have equal access to their facilities.

We are also pleased to report that the funding previously provided by the Government of British Columbia for accessibility improvements through the BC Accessibility Grants program is now being disbursed to qualifying recipients. To date, we have disbursed \$1.4 million for completed projects. These organizations have made their spaces more inclusive by upgrading accessibility based on the needs identified through their RHFAC rating.

In continued support of our mission, the Foundation's Board of Directors approved an ongoing investment to advance the case for accessibility in the built environment, and to further our broader accessibility initiatives across Canada.

In closing, we reconfirm the Board's continued commitment to fiscal accountability and transparency. As part of our commitment, we are proud to maintain our accreditation by Imagine Canada, which sets the standards in these areas for registered charities and nonprofits.



Eric Watt, FCPA, FCA, ICD.D
Treasurer, Board of Directors
Rick Hansen Foundation



Statement of Financial Position as of March 31, 2020

| Assets | 2020 \$ | 2019 \$ |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Current Assets | | |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | 9,108,968 | 8,546,048 |
| Short-term Deposits | - | 5,103,288 |
| Accounts Receivable | 189,762 | 156,557 |
| Interest Receivable | 140,887 | 101,540 |
| Prepaid Expenses and Deposits | 466,295 | 179,748 |
| | <u>9,905,912</u> | <u>14,087,181</u> |
| Investments – at fair value | 5,167,373 | 5,693,074 |
| Capital Assets | 193,304 | 214,725 |
| UBC Endowment Rights | 60,323 | 140,754 |
| Intellectual Property Rights | 1,800,000 | 1,800,000 |
| | <u>17,126,912</u> | <u>21,935,734</u> |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | 2020 \$ | 2019 \$ |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities | 861,036 | 685,280 |
| Deferred Contributions | 9,331,926 | 13,594,168 |
| | <u>10,192,962</u> | <u>14,279,448</u> |
| Net Assets | | |
| Unrestricted | 1,895,838 | 2,029,928 |
| Internally Restricted | 4,904,544 | 5,497,790 |
| Endowment | 133,568 | 128,568 |
| | <u>6,933,950</u> | <u>7,656,286</u> |
| | <u>17,126,912</u> | <u>21,935,734</u> |

Please refer to our full set of audited financial statements at rickhansen.com.

Statement of Operations

for the year ended March 31, 2020

| Revenue | 2020 \$ | 2019 \$ |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Government and Other Grants | 6,251,829 | 7,169,098 |
| Sponsorships and Donations | 2,500,882 | 2,148,954 |
| Investment Income | 1,237,187 | 1,332,390 |
| Other | 579,469 | 558,139 |
| | <u>10,569,367</u> | <u>11,208,581</u> |

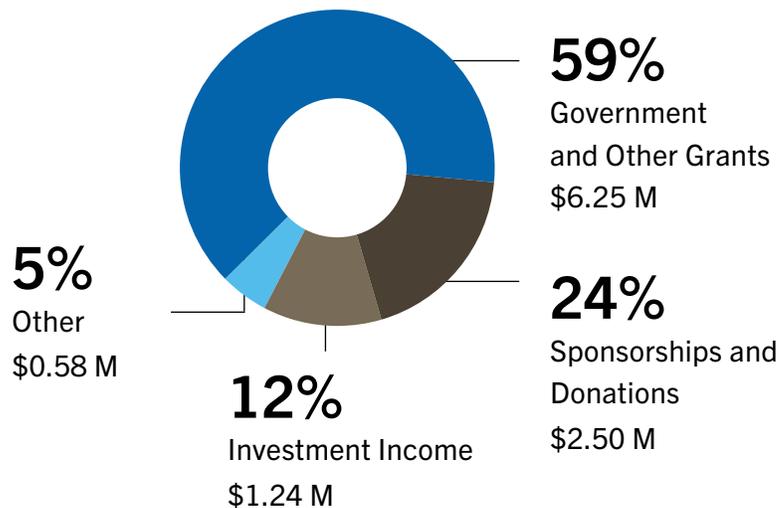
| Expenses | 2020 \$ | 2019 \$ |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Research | 2,183,003 | 2,434,405 |
| Accessibility | 3,528,840 | 3,882,251 |
| Education and Outreach | 1,166,940 | 1,028,062 |
| Awareness | 1,987,052 | 1,859,432 |
| Other | 94,000 | 59,958 |
| Total Programs | <u>8,959,835</u> | <u>9,264,108</u> |
| Fundraising | 583,792 | 1,001,183 |
| Management and Administration | 1,235,465 | 1,053,290 |
| | <u>10,779,092</u> | <u>11,318,581</u> |
| Deficiency of Revenue Over Expenses Before the Undernoted Items | (209,725) | (110,000) |
| Fair Value Changes on Investments | (517,611) | 42,577 |
| Loss on Disposal of Capital Assets | - | (704) |
| Deficiency of Revenue over Expenses for the Year | <u>(727,336)</u> | <u>(68,127)</u> |

Please refer to our full set of audited financial statements at rickhansen.com.

Revenue for the year ended March 31, 2020

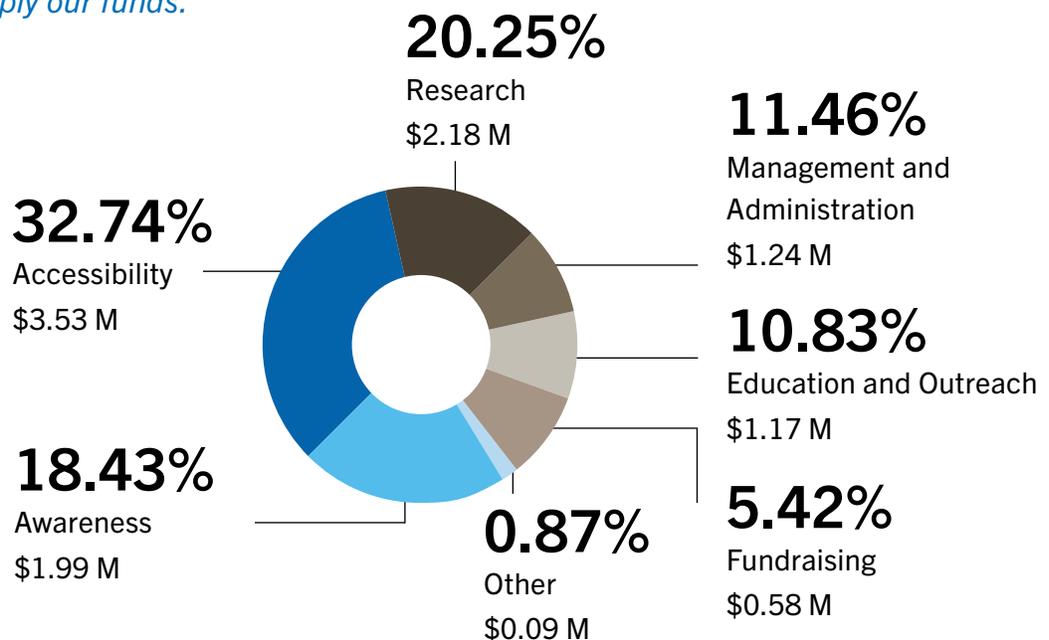
Where our funding comes from.

The Rick Hansen Foundation generates revenue from federal and provincial governments, donations and sponsorships from a wide range of individuals and organizations who support our mission and vision, and earns income on endowments and investments.



Expenses for the year ended March 31, 2020

How we apply our funds.



Thank You to our Partners and Supporters

We are incredibly grateful to all of the funders, donors, supporters and partners committed to removing barriers for people with disabilities and creating a Canada where everyone can go everywhere.

Thank you!

Federal Funders

Government of Canada

- Canadian Heritage
- Employment and Social Development Canada

Provincial & Territorial Government Funders

Government of British Columbia

- BC Neurotrauma Fund
- BC Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

Government of Ontario (Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility)

Government of Nova Scotia (Department of Justice Accessibility Directorate)

Government of Nunavut (Department of Family Services)

Community Partners

British Columbia

BC Wheelchair Basketball
 BC Wheelchair Sports
 Disability Foundation
 ICORD
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 Spinal Cord Injury BC
 University of British Columbia
 Vancouver Coastal Health Society

Manitoba

Canadian Paraplegic Association (Manitoba)

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THE GOODER FOUNDATION



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**Thank you, again, for your
continued commitment.
Together, we can create
a Canada for everyone,
everywhere.**



Rick Hansen Foundation

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