

Wavefront Centre scores Canada's highest rating for accessibility

New building in Vancouver scores 96% under the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ program, achieving the highest national rating to date.

Tuesday, October 27, 2020 (Vancouver, BC) – Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility has achieved the highest national accessibility rating to date under the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ (RHFAC) program. With a score of 96 out of 100 points (96%), the 'RHF Accessibility Certified Gold' rated building has set the Canadian benchmark for meaningful accessibility in the built environment.

The RHFAC program rates the level of meaningful access of the built environment, based on the holistic user experience of people with varying disabilities affecting their mobility, vision, and hearing. To date, over 1,300 sites across Canada have been rated through the program.

Wavefront Centre's Gold rating demonstrates the organization's commitment to removing barriers for people with disabilities creating an inclusive and highly accessible office space. Key innovative accessibility features that were widely praised by RHFAC Professionals – and led to Wavefront Centre's benchmark Gold rating – include:

- Rounder corridors for improved sightlines. Wider corridors so people can walk side by side and face each other when signing or speaking.
- Acoustic baffles, ceiling tiles, wall panels to reduce reverberation (echo) and for improved sound absorption.
- Door and wayfinding signs in high contrast and braille.

Rick Hansen, Founder of the Rick Hansen Foundation, said: “Wavefront Centre has raised the bar for accessibility building standards across Canada through this outstanding achievement, and we are delighted to celebrate with them. We encourage other organizations to look at Wavefront Centre for inspiration in reviewing the meaningful accessibility of their buildings, and begin the journey towards creating a more inclusive future for everyone.”

Christopher T. Sutton, Chief Executive Officer at Wavefront Centre for Communication

Accessibility, commented: “Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility is proud to receive the highest national accessibility rating under the RHFAC program. As the leading provider of services that break down barriers to communication for people who are Deaf, DeafBlind, hard of hearing and hearing, we wanted to build an inclusive environment that showcased the best in universal design for our clients, employees and community. To achieve this high standard, we brought experts from around the globe together to ensure this facility was a space that welcomed everyone.”

For more on the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ program, please visit www.rickhansen.com/RHFAC

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 nearly 30 years, RHF has worked to raise awareness, change attitudes, and remove barriers for people with disabilities. Visit www.rickhansen.com to learn more.

About Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility

Wavefront Centre envisions a society where Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, Late-Deafened, Oral Deaf and Hearing people can interact freely without communication barriers. Established in 1956, as a registered non-profit charity, Wavefront Centre helps people overcome communication barriers so they can live full and inclusive lives. Services include Audiology, Employment Counselling, Seniors Outreach, Communication Devices, Sign Language Interpreting and Clinical Research.

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