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For Immediate Release

Leaders in Accessibility Gather in Richmond on March 1 and 2 for the Accessibility Professional Network Conference

Michael Gottheil, Accessibility Commissioner to the Canadian Human Rights Commission, and Stephanie Cadieux, Chief Accessibility Officer, to deliver keynote, Public is welcome to join

February 8, 2023, Traditional territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) First Nation / Richmond, B.C. - Canada's industry thought leaders will gather to share ideas and collaborate on solutions for improved accessibility at the Accessibility Professional Network (APN) conference on March 1 and 2. Brought to you by the Rick Hansen Foundation, the conference is a two-day in-person and virtual event dedicated to building an accessible and inclusive future for people of all abilities where attendees can learn about key insights, best practices and the latest advancements in accessibility in the built environment.

#APN2023: *Building Together* Presented by Royal Bank of Canada is Canada's premier conference on accessibility in the built environment dedicated to building a more accessible, inclusive future for people of all abilities. Featuring an exciting line up of speakers, this year's conference provides attendees with an opportunity to participate in meaningful conversations with accessibility professionals from around the globe.

"15% of the global population has a disability, making us the largest minority group in the world and the only one that everyone is likely to become a member of at some point in our lives" said Brad McCannell, VP Access and Inclusion at the Rick Hansen Foundation. "It will take businesses, governments, design professionals and disability community leaders to work together to improve accessibility and make the cultural shift to inclusion – thus the theme of this year's conference."



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This year's conference will feature discussions on the latest accessibility legislation and codes, disability justice and policy. It will support accessibility professionals to increase expertise in their field. Attendance is not limited to members of the Accessibility Professional Network. Anyone can attend the conference and are encouraged to join in-person or virtually to broaden the message of Building Together. Select speakers will include:

- Alison Novak, KITE Research Institute, University Health Network, Scientist
- Ana Madariaga, Royal Bank of Canada, Senior Manager Workplace Design Guidelines, Corporate Real Estate
- Christopher Sutton, Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility, Chief Executive Officer
- Dino Zuppa, Accessibility Standards Canada, Chief Operating Officer
- Karen Keddy, Department of Architecture, Ball State University, Associate Professor
- Lui Greco, CNIB, Manager Regulatory Affairs and Atlantic Canada Advocacy
- Matt Neville, Build Nova Scotia, Principal Planner
- Matthew Halverson, City of Vancouver, Associate Director, Facilities Planning
- Meenu Sikand, Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Division, MSA, Assistant Deputy Minister
- Michael Gottheil, Canadian Human Rights Commission, Accessibility Commissioner
- Peter George, CN Tower, Chief Operating Officer
- Shira Standfield, Parks Canada, Advisor - Visitor Accessibility and Inclusion
- Stephanie Cadieux, Government of Canada, Chief Accessibility Officer
- Stuart McReynolds, Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities, Associate Vice President, Programs & Advocacy
- Tanelle Bolt, SoulFly Experiences, Co-founder & Partner - Accessibility & Community

Who	Accessibility Professional Network Conference
What	<i>#APN2023: Building Together</i> Presented by Royal Bank of Canada
When	Date: March 1 & 2, 2023 Time: 9am-4:30pm PT / 12pm –7:30 pm ET
Where	Join virtually or in-person at the River Rock Casino Resort, 8811 River Road, Richmond B.C.



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- How** Purchase your in-person or virtual tickets [here](#).
Prices are \$280 CAD for the 2-day conference. Those who bundle an APN membership with their conference ticket, save \$105 CAD.
- Why** Attend #APN2023: *Building Together* Presented by Royal Bank of Canada to:
- Learn about key insights, best practices, and the latest tools in accessibility;
 - Hear from thought-leaders and leading specialists in accessibility and the built environment;
 - Be ready for changing accessibility legislation in Canada;
 - Network, collaborate, and participate in meaningful discussions with experts from the accessibility field; and
 - Earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) as an RHFAC Professional

APN2023: *Building Together* Presented by Royal Bank of Canada is funded in part by the Government of British Columbia and the Government of Canada's Sectoral Initiatives Program. The conference is also made possible thanks to the generous support of:

- Presenting Partner Royal Bank of Canada;
- Gold Partners Canada Post Corporation and YVR;
- Silver Partners Accessibility Institute at Carleton University, Cadillac Fairview, KPMG LLP, McCarthy Tétrault LLP, Pacific Blue Cross, QuadReal, Scotiabank, Toyota Canada and the University of Alberta Online and Continuing Education; and
- Community Partners Easter Seals BC and Yukon and The Printing House.



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About the Accessibility Professional Network

The Accessibility Professional Network is a membership network created to bring together accessibility professionals including RHFAC Professionals, accessibility consultants, experts in the built environment, students passionate about access and anyone interested in creating a Canada that's accessible for all and barrier free. Become a member today to access exclusive resources and benefits to help you build skills, knowledge, and connections, and stay up to date in the field of accessibility in Canada.

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.

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