



Parkdale Community Rink achieves top accessibility rating under the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ program

- Parkdale Community Rink is the first outdoor ice rink to achieve Gold certification under the RHFAC program
- Parkdale Community Association is the first accessible outdoor community rink in Alberta; it has rebuilt its outdoor rink to remove barriers for visitors and make the facility more inclusive to the community.
- The new rink meets accessibility standards for sledge hockey, including accessible washrooms, warming benches to transfer to sleds, ramps to the rink, clear rink boards, and wider rink entry that is barrier free.

November 2, 2022 – *(Calgary, AB / Treaty 7 territory of Southern Alberta)* - The Parkdale Community Rink announced today it has achieved an ‘Accessibility Certified Gold’ rating under the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ (RHFAC) program. The rink, which is Calgary and Alberta’s first accessible outdoor community rink, was designed and built to meet accessibility standards for sledge hockey. A fundamental objective of the design brief was inclusivity — not just for players, but for spectators as well – this involved installing transparent boards to ensure wheel-chair users can easily see the rink.

Achieving a score of 88 out of 100 points, this Gold rating is a significant milestone in Parkdale Community Association’s journey towards accessibility, demonstrating its commitment to removing barriers and supporting the inclusion of people of all ages and abilities. The rink is the first to achieve Gold certification under the RHFAC program, making it the blueprint for accessible ice rinks across the nation.

Based on extensive community input, the Parkdale Community Rink has a broad range of accessibility features that led to its Gold rating including:

- Warming benches to transfer to sleds
- Accessible access from parking lots
- Clear rink boards
- Wider rink entry that is barrier free
- Accessible washroom facilities
- Accessible locker/change room



Brad McCannell, Vice President of Access and Inclusion at the Rick Hansen Foundation, said: “We’re delighted to see that Parkdale Community Association Ice Rink has secured an RHFAC Gold rating. By prioritizing accessibility, Parkdale will improve the user experience of people of all ages and abilities – an important step in Canada’s journey towards a more inclusive future.”

Amanda Affonso, President at Parkdale Community Association, commented: “Community infrastructure like rinks bring people together by creating gathering places. It is important that these places are welcoming, inclusive and resilient for many years to come. I am very proud of what we’ve achieved at Parkdale.”

Alan Halbert, Calgary Sledge Hockey, added: “I am really excited about what this facility means for the sport of sledge hockey, both at a competitive and grassroots level. I hope this focus on accessibility becomes the norm and standard for all ice rinks across Canada.”

The accessible rink is open to the community and local organizations for sledge hockey, public skating, grassroots hockey, tournaments, rentals and events.

The project was realized through collaborative community partnerships; the Parkdale Community Association received funding from the City of Calgary, Parks Foundation Calgary, the Calgary Flames Foundation, the Government of Alberta, Calgary Foundation, ENMAX and Calgary Parking Authority. It also received invaluable consultation from Level Playing Field, LOLA Architecture and the Calgary Sledge Hockey Association.

The RHFAC program allows organizations to rate the level of meaningful access of sites, based on the holistic user experience of people with varying disabilities affecting their mobility, vision and hearing. To-date, over 1,663 sites across Canada have been rated through the program.

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 Parkdale Community Association

Established on December 29, 1953, the Parkdale Community Association is a proud, active and welcoming neighbourhood that offers programs, services and facilities that make us a vibrant inner-city community. Our mission is to create an environment for people to connect in a complete and healthy community. To learn more about Parkdale visit www.parkdaleyyc.com

RHF Media Contact:

Cynnamon Schreinert, HartleyPR
604-802-2733
Cynnamon@hartleypr.com

Parkdale Community Association Media Contact:

Amanda Affonso, President
president@parkdaleyyc.com
403.837.6332