

Rick Hansen Foundation launches Buildings Without Barriers Challenge at BOMEX 2023

**Challenging commercial and multi-unit residential property owners
and managers to improve accessibility for 2024 and beyond**

September 29, 2023, Traditional territory of the x̱w̱məθkw̱əy 'əm (Musqueam) First Nation / Richmond, B.C. – The Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) is pleased to announce the launch of the Buildings Without Barriers Challenge at [BOMEX 2023](#) in Edmonton, Alberta. This new challenge builds on the success of the 2020/2021 Buildings Without Barriers Challenge and now includes four award categories in 2024.

In Canada, almost 50% of adults have experienced a permanent or temporary physical disability or live with someone who has. [Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ \(RHFAC\)](#) is a national rating system that measures and certifies the level of meaningful access of buildings and sites.

“Organizations who make a pledge through the Buildings Without Barriers Challenge are demonstrating their leadership and making a commitment to ensure accessibility is part of every conversation around the built environment,” says Brad McCannell, VP Access and Inclusion, Rick Hansen Foundation. “We’re challenging property owners and managers to accelerate their accessibility journey and support their tenants by making spaces such as our stores, malls, offices and condominiums more inclusive for employees, customers and visitors of all ages and abilities.”

Long established as Canada’s premier Commercial Real Estate conference, BOMEX connects and informs the best builders in the industry. For three days, influencers and decision-makers come together to study the complex issues affecting building owners, their managers, and their service groups while celebrating the industry’s success through the National Award program.

Adds McCannell, “The Challenge recognizes an organization’s Commitment, Innovation, Accessibility Progress and Accessibility Future. These four aspects look at the holistic and overall approach to accessibility. When organizations are looking at accessibility during all stages of building whether it’s a brand-new build or a renovation, we know that attitudinal changes are happening.”

The four categories for the 2023/2024 RHF Buildings Without Barriers Challenge are:

- **The Commitment Award** for an organization with the most buildings or pre-construction plans RHFAC rated;
- **The Innovation Award** for a building with the highest number of innovation points on their RHFAC rating;
- **The Accessibility Progress Award** for a previously rated building who achieves the highest overall improvement in their RHFAC rating; and
- **The Accessible Future Award** for the organization with the highest RHFAC rating for a new development in the design or pre-construction phase.

Building Without Barriers Challenge pledges will be accepted between September 29th and November 15th, 2023. Organizations must commit to having at least 3 sites RHFAC rated between January and June 2024. All participants will be recognized and awards given out at BOMEX in September 2024, taking place in Vancouver, B.C.

Learn more about the 2023/2024 RHF Buildings Without Barriers Challenge and make your pledge at RickHansen.com/Challenge.

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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 over 35 years, RHF has worked to raise awareness, change attitudes, and remove barriers for people with disabilities. For more information on the RHF Accessibility Certification program visit RickHansen.com/RHFAC.

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