



For Immediate Release

UBC Receives 2026 BOMA Canada Rick Hansen Accessibility Award for Maclsaac Health Building

October 5, 2026: Traditional territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) people/ Richmond, B.C. – The University of British Columbia (UBC) has been recognized as a national leader in inclusive building design. The **Maclsaac Health Building** has received the 2026 BOMA Canada Rick Hansen Accessibility Award, recognizing the highest [Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™](#) (RHFAC) rating achieved by a BOMA Canada member building in the past year.

The Maclsaac Health Building was recognized for creating an environment that supports people with mobility, vision, hearing and cognitive disabilities through thoughtful design and an ongoing commitment to removing barriers.

Nearly two-thirds (64%) of Canadians have a disability or live with or care for someone with a disability, and that number will continue to grow as Canada's population ages. When people of all abilities can access the buildings where we live, work, learn and play, everyone can participate more fully in our communities.

"Accessibility is a fundamental component of how we plan, design, deliver, and maintain buildings at UBC. The Maclsaac Health Building reflects our commitment to creating environments where students, faculty, staff and visitors can participate fully, independently and with dignity", said John Metras, Chief Campus Operations Officer *pro tem*. "This recognition highlights the collaborative efforts of many partners who helped advance accessibility as a core project objective from the earliest stages of planning and design."

The Maclsaac Health Building is a six-storey, approximately 25,100-square-metre academic and health sciences facility that opened in December 2025. As an integrated hub for health, learning and research, the building brings together Student Health & Wellbeing, the Maclsaac School of Nursing, the School of Kinesiology, a team-based primary care teaching clinic and interdisciplinary research programs under one roof.

Developed in close collaboration with Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm), the project incorporates Indigenous perspectives throughout the design, including a welcoming public realm, native plantings and artworks by Musqueam artists. The building was designed to achieve LEED Gold certification, target Zero Carbon Building certification and meet leading accessibility standards.

Accessibility features incorporated throughout the facility include universal washrooms, accessible teaching and research spaces, assistive listening systems, visual fire alarms, adjustable lighting and acoustic treatments that support a broad range of user needs.

“Accessibility is about considering the diverse ways people experience and use a building, and the greatest opportunity is when that thinking starts at the design stage. With more Canadians living with disability or supporting someone who does, accessibility can no longer be treated as an optional feature,” said Amanda Basi, Senior Director, Programs, Rick Hansen Foundation. “UBC is showing what leadership looks like by creating spaces that work better for everyone.”

Increasingly, accessibility is being viewed as a key measure of building performance alongside sustainability and energy efficiency. Through RHFAC, organizations across Canada are using a consistent framework to identify barriers, measure progress and create more inclusive spaces.

RHFAC is Canada’s leading building accessibility rating system, measuring how well spaces support people with mobility, vision, hearing and cognitive disabilities. The program helps organizations identify barriers, prioritize improvements and demonstrate leadership in accessibility.

The award reflects UBC’s broader commitment to advancing accessibility across its campuses through inclusive planning, design and operations. Accessibility objectives are embedded within UBC’s capital projects and informed by the University’s Accessible Building Guidelines and Accessible British Columbia Act commitments.

For more information, visit www.RickHansen.com/RHFAC.

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About BOMA Canada

BOMA Canada is the national voice of Canada’s commercial real estate industry, bringing the industry together to improve building performance, advance professional excellence and address the issues affecting commercial real estate.

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About the Rick Hansen Foundation

A legacy of Rick Hansen's Man In Motion World Tour over 40 years ago, The Rick Hansen Foundation is a registered charity that exists to remove those barriers and accelerate a global movement toward an accessible, inclusive and healthy world. We bring people and organizations together to turn innovative ideas into real-world solutions. Together, we're continuing Rick's dream of a world without barriers for everyone, everywhere.

Visit www.RickHansen.com to learn more.

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About UBC

The University of British Columbia (UBC) is a global centre for teaching, learning and research, consistently ranked among the top public universities in the world.

UBC embraces innovation and transforms ideas into action. Since 1915, UBC has been opening doors of opportunity for people with the curiosity, drive and vision to shape a better world.

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