

From: [Gates, Brittany](#) TRAN:EX
To: [Hansen, Nicole E.](#) TRAN:EX; [Dhaliwal, Gurveen](#) TRAN:EX; [Sharma, Richa](#) TRAN:EX
Cc: [Plamondon, Lea](#) TRAN:EX; [Kubisheski, Carlee](#) TRAN:EX; [Gedney, Vanessa R.](#) TRAN:EX; [Mazerolle, Beulah](#) TRAN:EX
Subject: MBM MEETING | Dorothy Ehling, CEO, Rick Hansen Foundation | June 11
Date: June 10, 2021 12:36:00 PM
Attachments: [2021-06-10_303364_MBM_Bullets_Rick_Hansen_Foundation_Accessibility_Certification.pdf](#)
[2021-06-09_213685_MN_Rick_Hansen_Foundation_SDPR.pdf](#)

Good afternoon, the attached materials have been uploaded to the MBM [WebDAV](#) for the following:

MEETING:	Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification
MATERIALS:	303364 – MOTI Bullets 213685 – SDPR Meeting Note (<i>Combined into one PDF with links</i>)
DATE:	June 11 th
TIME:	10:00 – 10:30
LOCATION:	MS Teams
PARTICIPANTS:	MOTI: MBM Richa Sharma Gurveen Dhailwal Ed Miska, Ian Pilkington EXTERNAL: Doramy Ehling Deborah Lagueux

Thank you,

Brittany Gates

Documents Coordinator

Office of the Deputy Minister

Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure

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BULLETS

DATE: June 10, 2021
PREPARED FOR: Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of State for Infrastructure
ISSUE: Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification

KEY FACTS

- The Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC) is a program to encourage new and retrofitted construction to meet the needs of people with disabilities.
- The Province of Nova Scotia has created the Community Access-Ability Grant Program, a \$1M/year grant program for non-profits, municipalities and First Nation Communities to apply for up to 2/3 of the cost of infrastructure improvements (to a maximum of \$50K) to remove barriers to people with disabilities.
- To encourage good accessibility submissions to the Grant Program, Nova Scotia is promoting designers to get certified through the RHFAC program, which is offered at the Nova Scotia Community College.
- Nova Scotia does not have a mandatory requirement for grant submissions to be RHFAC certified.
- Nova Scotia is developing a new accessible design standard that will apply to buildings across NS.
- The new standard will be based on CSA B651-18 "Accessible Design for the Built Environment"
- The new standard will not have any certification requirements.
- s.13

PAST INTERACTIONS:

- *TRAN has met with the Rick Hansen Foundation in 2016 and 2020.*
- *The meetings covered similar topics regarding what TRAN is doing to reduce barriers for people with disabilities.*

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Rick Hansen Foundation (the Foundation), founded in 1988, raises funds and awareness to create a world without barriers for people with disabilities.

The Foundation would like the Province to adopt their certification program to ensure any provincial infrastructure meets the high standard they set for accessibility.

Six institutions across Canada teach the certification program, in BC it is the Vancouver Community College.

Eighty-seven people are certified to do accessibility consulting or rate designs for RHFAC certification, 40 of those people are in BC.

Over 500 buildings have been certified, many in BC including municipal buildings, educational institutions, a BC Hydro building and several BCAA buildings.



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Attachments: 301745 BN MRF MBA Meeting with Rick Hansen Foundation

PREPARED BY:

Ian Pilkington
Chief Engineer, Highway Services



MEETING BRIEFING NOTE

DATE: March 30, 2021
PREPARED FOR: Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
ISSUE: Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification
MEETING: Rick Hanse, Founder, Rick Hansen Foundation on April 8, 2021

PROPOSED KEY MESSAGES:

- The Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification is a program to encourage new and retrofitted construction to meet the needs of people with disabilities.
- TRAN supports accessibility through our work with the Accessibility Secretariat on developing accessibility legislation.
- TRAN works with BC Transit and Translink to update custom and conventional transit to improve accessibility.
- Other TRAN actions, such as the Active Transportation Strategy, ride hail regulations and updated rest area guidelines support accessibility.
- TRAN is developing a draft comprehensive set of guidelines supporting disability access at highway rest areas that will ensure any new or updated rest areas are built to accommodate people with disabilities.

PAST INTERACTIONS:

- *TRAN has met with the Rick Hansen Foundation in 2016 and 2020.*
- *The meetings covered similar topics regarding what TRAN is doing to reduce barriers for people with disabilities.*

BACKGROUND:

The Rick Hansen Foundation (the Foundation), founded in 1988, raises funds and awareness to create a world without barriers for people with disabilities.

The Foundation has created an Accessibility Certification program to educate infrastructure owners on how to provide access for people with disabilities and to rank the accessibility of their infrastructure.

The Foundation would like the Province to adopt their certification program to ensure any provincial infrastructure meets the high standard they set for accessibility.

DISCUSSION:

Accessibility Legislation

The Ministry is working with the Accessibility Secretariat on “Building a Better BC for People with Disabilities” initiative.

The B.C. Government is committed to developing new laws, standards, and policies to better support people with disabilities.

The government remains committed to funding improvements and increasing service for handyDART.

BC Transit's conventional fleet continues to see improvements in accessibility, including kneeling buses and introduction of NextRide, a real-time transit location technology.

BC Ferries has been making significant investments in its fleet and at its terminals including improvements to accessibility for people with disabilities.

Examples of improvements include:

- Making washrooms more accessible on vessels and at terminals,
- Providing more elevator access,
- Installing induction loop hearing technology to assist people with hearing impairments,
- Increasing the number of wheelchair accessible spaces in general lounges and food service areas,
- Improved emergency safety systems suitable for passengers with disabilities, and
- Implemented boarding procedures at its major terminals for foot passengers requiring extra time to board and disembark the vessels.

BC Ferries has a joint committee with representatives from various organizations for persons with special needs to better understand how BC Ferries can improve service for their customers with disabilities.

While vessel modifications are often restricted by the age and physical structure as well as financial considerations, new ferries and major upgrades to terminals are being done with barrier-free transportation in mind.

As the Province is not directly involved in operating decisions for BC Ferries, the company would be in the best position to discuss its plans and strategies to improve accessibility.

Inland ferries rarely have passenger accommodation. The ships are principally designed so that people remain in their vehicles.



Our new vessel and our recent additions to the fleet are fully designed to the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) code.

When we are doing major refits on our older vessels, we will implement any changes we can to improve accessibility subject to the age and configuration of the vessel.

All vessels have lifesaving arrangements appropriate for people with disabilities.

Other initiatives – Active Transportation, Ride Hail, Rest Areas:

The government released Move. Commute. Connect – BC's Active Transportation Strategy in 2019 to create transportation networks that are safe, accessible and convenient for users of all ages and abilities. The external stakeholder working group for strategy implementation includes representatives from the disability community.

The British Columbia Active Transportation Design Guide was released to deliver guidance on universal design for active transportation infrastructure and encourages the planning and design of communities that provide mobility for all ages and abilities.

s.12; s.13

New regulations allow both rear and side entry accessible taxis and ride-hailing vehicles.

s.13

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- None.

Attachments:

1. Email of December 5, 2020 from Rick Hansen, Founder, Rick Hansen Foundation

PREPARED BY:	REVIEWED BY:	DATE:
Ian Pilkington, Chief Engineer Engineering Services	Ed Miska, A/Assistant Deputy Minister Highway Services	21-Mar-30
Andrea Mercer, Executive Director Transit Branch	Deborah Bowman, Assistant Deputy Minister Transportation Policy and Programs	
Jodi Dong, Executive Director, Community Policy and Leg. Transit Branch	Deborah Bowman, Assistant Deputy Minister Transportation Policy and Programs	21-Mar-30
Kirk Handrahan, Executive Director Marine Branch	Nancy Bain, Executive Financial Officer Finance and Management Services Department	N/A
Kathy Kirby, Executive Director Policy and Legislation Branch		
	Kaye Krishna, Deputy Minister	

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ATTACHMENT 1: Email of December 5, 2020 from Rick Hansen, Founder, Rick Hansen Foundation

From: Rick Hansen <rhansen@rickhansen.com>

Sent: December 5, 2020 3:25 PM

To: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX <Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: 297561 - On behalf of the Rick Hansen Foundation

Dear Minister Fleming,

I wanted to congratulate you on your selection in the new role as Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and wish you the very best with initiatives you will be undertaking on behalf of all British Columbians.

I would like to take this time to personally thank you for your hard work in your previous role as Minister of Education.

As you may know, our work with your government to date ensures that British Columbia is becoming a national leader in accessibility in the built environment and barrier-free inclusive design for all. In support of this, we believe that our accessibility certification (RHFAC) program continues to offer your government value as you plan and execute all new and retrofit construction. Our hope remains that British Columbia adopts RHFAC to evaluate its building portfolio, ensure meaningful accessibility, and be recognized as a national and global leader.

We look forward to working with you and your government as we build a barrier-free province and extend BC's leadership nationally. All the while, deepening the positive impact throughout British Columbia as your government makes new infrastructure investments across all capital construction.

I will follow up directly in the new year to continue discussing how best to move forward together.

Once again, congratulations!

Sincerely,

Rick

Rick Hansen, C.C., O.B.C.

Founder, Rick Hansen Foundation



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MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION

MEETING INFORMATION NOTE

DATE: June 11, 2021

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of State for Infrastructure

MEETING DETAILS: Rick Hansen Foundation alignment of Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification and infrastructure investments

BACKGROUND:

The Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) is a not-for-profit organization that develops programs and initiatives to change attitudes and remove barriers for people with disabilities. Doramy Ehling has been the CEO of RHF since December 2018.

Accessibility Certification Pilot Program –

On March 17, 2017, RHF signed a funding agreement with Government for \$9 million to establish and administer the “B.C. Government Accessibility Grant and Accessibility Certification Pilot Program.” The funding consists of:

- \$5 million for the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC) program, a LEED-style system to rate accessibility for retail, commercial, institutional, and multi-family residential buildings. To date, a total of 1,252 RHFAC ratings have been conducted, including the 1,100 complimentary ratings completed by March 31, 2019 thanks to government funding.
- \$4 million for the B.C. Accessibility Grants Program, which provides up to \$20,000 for accessibility improvements. As of March 31, 2020, RHF approved funding for 237 projects from 154 different organizations, representing \$3.72 million. To date, 101 of the 237 approved projects have been reimbursed a total of \$1.42 million.

BC has provided significant financial support to the RHF in recent years (Appendix A), including a \$10 million grant. This funding agreement spans a five-year period from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2023 and the RHF has indicated that \$ 5,899,475 remains as of March 31, 2020. The funding supports the continuing efforts of the RHF to:

- Remove barriers for persons with disabilities in BC, including research focused on spinal cord injuries. Key activities undertaken by the RHF include: investments in government outreach and engagement, investment in foundation staff, a new accessibility professional network online platform, public opinion research, and a cost feasibility study;
- Leverage investments from other governments and the private sector. Key activities undertaken by the RHF include: funding from the Governments of Ontario and Nova Scotia, private sector support, in-kind support from industry to raise awareness, private sector staff secondment support; and

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MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION

MEETING INFORMATION NOTE

- Increase awareness. Key activities include: the #EveryoneEverywhere Awareness Campaign, outreach through digital channels, earned media and public relations, Accessibility Leadership Forum, Accessibility Professional Network.

Rick Hansen met with David Galbraith and Lori Wanamaker (March 8), Minister Simons (March 11) and Premier Horgan (March 19). During these meetings, RHF advocated that the government of British Columbia make the following commitments:

- BC Government establishes a collaborative working relationship with the Rick Hansen Foundation to:
 - Revise and enhance accessibility legislation and regulations including the *Accessible B.C. Act*;
 - Work with the Parliamentary Secretary for Accessibility to ensure the next iteration of the BC Building Code includes changes that will make new buildings more accessible;
 - Revise and update policies & procedures that apply to major capital projects (i.e. Capital Asset Management Framework);
 - Utilize RHF relationships with key accessibility agencies; and
 - Establish a rating system to certify accessible environments for new construction and upgrades to public facilities.
- BC government incorporates and mandates a new BC Accessibility Standard applicable to all new construction and upgrades to public facilities.

ISSUES:

Capital Infrastructure Plan

The RHF has been identifying initiatives in BC's Capital Infrastructure Plan, (e.g. school and hospital upgrades, housing initiatives, and primary care centres) where it would like to see a commitment to accessibility in the built environment. The *Accessible BC Act*, introduced on April 28th, 2021, will direct government to produce a cross-government accessibility plan in Fall 2022.

RHF may request that BC incorporate the RHFAC standard into their policy for infrastructure investments. In 2019, RHF commissioned a cost feasibility study from HCMA Architecture + Design which evaluated the cost comparisons of the RHFAC, Canada's 2015 National Building Code and the 2018 Ontario Building Code. The study identified that RHFAC could be achieved in new buildings at no additional cost and certification at the gold level could be achieved a 1% increase in costs.

Proposal to revise and update policies & procedures that apply to major capital projects (i.e. Capital Asset Management Framework)

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MEETING INFORMATION NOTE

The Capital Asset Management Framework (CAMF) Guidelines support public sector agencies by describing the Province's minimum standards, policies, and processes for managing capital assets. RHF has not articulated a specific policy proposal about how it would recommend updating the CAMF. However, it is likely that RHF's objective is to introduce a requirement that buildings subject to the CAMF are certified by the RHF certification program.

Proposal to establish a rating system to certify accessible environments for new construction and upgrades to public facilities

It is likely that this proposal would require updates to BC's Capital Asset Management Framework (see heading above).

Proposal for BC government to incorporate and mandate a new BC Accessibility Standard applicable to all new construction and upgrades to public facilities.

The proposed *Accessible BC Act* would enable the development of Accessibility Standards in a range of areas, including in the Built Environment. The legislation would also establish a new Provincial Accessibility Committee to support the development of accessibility standards. Recruitment for the Provincial Accessibility Committee will commence following the enactment of legislation and RHF will have the opportunity to put representatives forward for consideration. The development of Accessibility Standards for the Built Environment will require close engagement with multiple Ministries (i.e. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Attorney General/Minister Responsible for Housing) as well as significant public and stakeholder engagement. BC will also be looking at best practices nationally and internationally to guide the development of accessibility standards.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- We recognize and appreciate the great work carried out by the Rick Hansen Foundation.
- We will work with our colleagues including the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and the Parliamentary Secretary for Accessibility to identify how we can support an accessible and inclusive province.
- The *Accessible BC Act* and the cross-government accessibility plan we'll be developing next year will help us to increase collaboration across Ministries to improve access for everyone.

Enclosures/Attachments

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MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION

MEETING INFORMATION NOTE

Appendix A: Public Accounts Payments to RHF FY14-15 to FY19-20

Appendix B: RHF BC Government Funding Report June 2020

Appendix C: RHF Annual Report 2020

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Appendix A**Payments on Public Accounts to Rick Hansen Foundation: 2014/15 to January 2020**

Fiscal Year	Ministry	Amount
2014-15	Justice	\$1,976,412
2014-15	SDSI	\$36,220
2015-16	PSSG	\$1,859,094
2015-16	SDSI	\$173,866
2016-17	PSSG	\$2,011,792
2016-17	SDSI	\$9,237,499
2017-18	Health	\$10,000,000
2017-18	PSSG	\$2,160,708
2017-18	SDPR	\$301,142
2018-19	PSSG	\$2,000,000

Payments on Public Accounts to Praxis (Rick Hansen Institute)

Fiscal Year	Ministry	Amount
2017-18	Health	\$10,000,000



**Removing Barriers for Persons with Disabilities
Status Report for the Province of BC
June 2020**

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Annual Report April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

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