



A Gift in Your Will to the Rick Hansen Foundation

The Journey to an Inclusive and Accessible Tomorrow

It all started with one person.

On a cool March day in 1985, a man in a wheelchair emerged from the Oakridge Mall parking lot in Vancouver, British Columbia, with a handful of onlookers.

Unbeknownst to those present, they were witnessing Canadian history in the making. Over the following 26 months, that man would wheel more than 40,000 kilometers, traversing 34 countries, ascending to the heights of the Swiss Alps during his journey. Each turn of the wheel, each push forward, his arms burning with exhaustion, marked a relentless pursuit.

The small group of people watching grew. And grew. And grew.

Two years later, Rick Hansen returned home to thunderous crowds numbering in the thousands. He had circled the globe in his wheelchair, reshaping millions of perspectives on the true capabilities of people with disabilities. In that moment, Rick ceased to be merely a man with a spinal cord injury or somebody defined by a wheelchair. The Man In Motion World Tour compelled the world to view Rick as a person brimming with potential, initiating a profound shift in perception for people with disabilities – everywhere.



Changing Culture, Changing Minds

Do you remember where you were when Rick Hansen finished his Man In Motion World Tour?

Perhaps you watched on television, the enormous crowds tiny on your screen. Maybe you read about it in the Sunday paper, Rick's picture plastered across the front page, hand raised in a wave. It could be that you were among the lucky thousands who saw, with their own eyes, Rick's triumphant arrival back to his home province of B.C. Or maybe it's a story you've heard from parents, aunts and uncles, or even one you've read about in a history textbook.

It was a shift in Canadian history. One man with a dream changed the minds of so many Canadians who started to think differently about disability.

From a single act of dedication came a legacy of impact. Millions of dollars raised for spinal cord injury research and the removal of barriers. Millions of hearts and minds changed forever about what it means to have a disability.

It's Someone You Know

You've likely seen how critical accessibility is in Canada today. While things have certainly come a long way since the Man In Motion World Tour, we still don't live in a country that's inclusive to everyone, everywhere.

Right now, 1 in 5 Canadian adults is living with some form of disability. As our population ages, that number will only grow.

And yet, our country is filled with barriers for people with disabilities that keep them from reaching their full potential.

Our buildings are designed for able-bodied, full-sighted, and hearing people. Our workplaces and schools are built around processes and policies that don't include someone with a disability. And most of all, stigma about disability continues to impact how people with disabilities engage with the world around them because so many people just don't get it.

Someone you know – from an aging parent to a friend with a vision or hearing disability, to a neighbour with a spinal cord injury, or maybe even yourself – is living in a world that isn't built for them. That often doesn't see them beyond their disability.

But you do. You see the person. You see the potential. And you want to help others see it, too.





The Ability to Make Real Change

Within each of us is the power to make an enormous difference – to create a ripple of change for Canadians living with disabilities today and tomorrow.

With a gift in your will, you can join millions of Canadians who've created a legacy of real change, just like Rick's, to build a more accessible Canada for people of all ages and abilities.

They're people like you who've worked hard, saved carefully, invested wisely. Many people have been surprised and delighted to discover that, long after they're gone, they can provide for their children, grandchildren, and loved ones – and at the same time, they can continue to make a difference for people with disabilities in Canada.

If you've never considered giving through your will before, you might find it enables you to make sure more of your hard-earned dollars go to the people and causes you care about rather than the government for taxes.

This kind of giving isn't just for the wealthy. It's for anyone who wants to make their legacy impactful – who wants to be remembered for the kindness, generosity, and compassion with which they lived their lives.

In fact, a gift in a will really is the gift of a lifetime because it's the gift of everything you've built, earned, and stood for throughout your life.

Giving through your will allows you to activate assets like real estate, investments, and savings, that you'd never be able to access during your lifetime. That means that, for many of us, it's the largest gift we can ever make.

It's the kind of gift you wish you could give and the kind of impact you dream of having to truly break down barriers around accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities.

Plus, a gift in your will reduces the tax burden on your estate. That means that instead of going to the government as tax, those assets you worked so hard for will be directed to the things that matter most to you.

It's why you can ensure your loved ones are provided for and make a considerable philanthropic impact simultaneously, with a gift in your will to the Rick Hansen Foundation.

Geno's Legacy for Brother Dave

Since he was a kid, my brother Dave has had a knack for tinkering and building. He modified bicycles and built chopper bikes when he was a child. Then, he worked on cars during his teenage years. I recall him even repairing the suspension on our family car in his high school shop class.

Dave was an apprentice mechanic when he sustained a spinal cord injury. I remember him applying for a job that he was well-qualified for, but I remember he faced discomfort from others around hiring someone who used a wheelchair. But Dave didn't let that deter him. Not only did he go on to run his highly successful auto parts business but he also was a well-regarded bracket racer for several years, lining his truck up against people who didn't have any mobility challenges.

In his own way, Dave is a fantastic ambassador for people with disabilities. He met Rick Hansen in 1985 – a year after his own spinal cord injury – when Rick came through our town on his Man In Motion World Tour. Rick spoke to Dave about wheelchair basketball and I think this inspired all of us as it was so important to have a role model focused on ability.

To this day, Rick is doing so much positive work and moving issues forward. I wanted to leave a legacy gift to RHF not only because of my family connection but for all the people I've encountered in the spinal cord injury community and that face accessibility challenges. I want to continue supporting this work in shaping a barrier-free Canada so that people like my brother have the opportunity to participate in society – just like everyone else.

– **Geno Padovese**



A History of Disability Impact

You can join your legacy to Rick's, and to so many other Canadians who are choosing to break down barriers for people with disabilities.

For 35 years now, the Rick Hansen Foundation has been driving progress for people with disabilities. From innovative spinal cord injury research, to raising awareness and removing fundamental accessibility barriers, we continue to deliver innovative solutions that enable people with disabilities to live the full, meaningful lives they deserve.

We identified a need for and fostered the establishment of the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre and the International Collaboration On Repair Discoveries (ICORD), which brings together researchers dedicated to improving the care and finding cure for paralysis after spinal cord injury.

We developed the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ (RHFAC), a national rating and recognition system that provides a consistent measurement of the level of meaningful access of buildings from the perspective of people with mobility, vision, hearing, and cognitive disabilities.

We've been championing dialogues around disability at every level, from school auditoriums to boardrooms to government chambers. The RHF School Program delivers resources to educators, so youth from kindergarten to Grade 12 can learn to embrace accessibility and inclusion and become difference makers in their communities. Meanwhile, the Leadership Accessibility Fund brings together leaders in business, government, the disability community, and the public to influence policy and create a cultural shift.

With a gift in your will to the Rick Hansen Foundation, you transform our impact into your legacy. Similar to Rick's journey, your ripple of change will gain momentum, growing and spreading far beyond, surpassing your wildest expectations to make a greater difference than you ever dreamed.



A Legacy for Michael

I am 33, and I have spina bifida and hydrocephalus. At nine, I trained in adaptive taekwondo at Variety Village in Ontario. There, I met Rick Hansen, who graciously signed an autograph book I still have to this day. That encounter marked the beginning of my lifelong admiration for him. I vividly recall the awe I felt meeting the man who wheeled around the world, including places that wheelchairs weren't made to go to – the Great Wall of China is one that comes to mind. The Man In Motion World Tour inspired my own athletic journey; it intensified my determination to showcase my capabilities. Now, this drive has shifted to my career, where, in just a year, I've improved the accessibility of my workplace.

Growing up, I often found myself as one of a select few or simply the only person with a disability in the room. It often led to unnecessary struggles. Accessibility levels the playing field where all members of society can contribute to the best of their abilities. It's crucial to instill in young people with disabilities that their dreams aren't bound by their disability. We must also dismantle misconceptions, including the notion that the disability community seeks special treatment when all we desire is equal treatment. As a family, we've always believed in giving back to organizations like the Rick Hansen Foundation, which does so much to empower people with disabilities.

– **Michael Kahn**



Young Michael meeting Rick Hansen at an adaptive taekwondo facility. The autograph read: “To Michael, never give up on your dreams - Rick”

Your Legacy of An Accessible World

Your gift will transform lives for people with disabilities in the years to come.

You'll create more accessible spaces, buildings and schools, providing cities, businesses, and professionals with the tools and resources they need to design and build spaces where everyone is truly welcome.

You'll inspire the next generation of leaders, helping them learn the value of diversity, the importance of inclusion, and the power of making a difference.

You'll influence policy, raise awareness, and change attitudes about disability, shifting our very culture to become more inclusive and kind.

That's the power of a gift in your will to the Rick Hansen Foundation. It's a gift that will take the values you hold dearest, and the things you believe most deeply, and use them to shape the future.

As the need grows, so will your ripple of change. Canada will be made more welcoming, more considerate, more tolerant, more diverse in the years to come – all because of your commitment today.

Who among us doesn't want to create that kind of change. For ourselves and those we love? For our communities? For our country? For the world?

For Everyone. Everywhere.

And the ripple starts with you.



Thank you for your interest in leaving a gift in your will to the Rick Hansen Foundation.

Your dedication for people of all abilities means a brighter tomorrow where barriers crumble, attitudes shift, and our nation thrives on the strength of unity and inclusion. A gift to the Rick Hansen Foundation in your will is an investment in equity.

Our information for your will:

Legal name: The Rick Hansen Foundation

Charitable Business Number: 10765 9427 RR 0001

Mailing Address: 300-3820 Cessna Drive, Richmond, BC Canada V7B 0A2

Leaving a Gift in Your Will

How to include the Rick Hansen Foundation in Your Will

Ensuring a lasting impact with a gift to the Rick Hansen Foundation in your will is surprisingly simple. When creating or updating your will, you have the power to provide for your loved ones while also leaving a meaningful bequest to support the creation of an accessible and inclusive world.

If you already have a will, you can update it by adding a codicil, which is an amending document that changes or deletes an existing provision or adds a new one. Codicils are signed and witnessed in the same way wills are and are kept with the will.

If you don't have a will, you can create a secure and legal document online in under 20 minutes at no cost. **The Rick Hansen Foundation has partnered with Willfora, a resource that allows Canadians to leave instructions on how their estate will support their loved ones and the causes they care about.**

You can create your will using Willfora at no cost. Visit [RickHansen.com/Legacy](https://rickhansen.com/legacy) to learn more.



What kind of gift can I leave?

Charitable bequests can take many forms and often consist of cash and/or securities. Some of the most common types of bequests, along with sample wording for your will are below:

Residual bequests designate Rick Hansen Foundation as the beneficiary of part, or all, of your estate – but only after all debts, taxes, administrative expenses and specific bequests have been paid.

A residual bequest is a good choice if you are unsure of the size of your estate.

Sample wording: “I give to Rick Hansen Foundation all (or _____%) of the residue of my estate to be used at the discretion of the organization.”

Percentage bequests allow you to leave a specific percentage of your estate to be donated to Rick Hansen Foundation.

Sample wording for a percentage gift in your will: “I give to Rick Hansen Foundation Foundation the percentage of (_____%) to be used at the discretion of the organization.”

Specific bequests designate a specific amount to be donated to Rick Hansen Foundation.

Sample wording for a specific gift in your will: “I give to Rick Hansen Foundation the sum of \$_____ to be used at the discretion of the organization.”

Additional support

While the information provided in this document is intended for a general audience, it is not a substitute for professional advice. We strongly recommend that you discuss your plans with your lawyer and/or financial advisor before proceeding with a gift.



Confirmation of Your Legacy Gift to the Rick Hansen Foundation

Thank you for considering a gift to the Rick Hansen Foundation in your will. While you are under no obligation to tell us about your gift, we would love to hear what inspired you to leave a gift to the Rick Hansen Foundation, if you choose to do so. Please feel welcome to send us your Declaration of Intent form, by mail to Rick Hansen Foundation 300–3820 Cessna Drive, Richmond, BC Canada V7B 0A2 or email spimpao@rickhansen.com. We will also keep you up to date with our latest news and stories of impact.

DECLARATION OF INTENT

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

I/We support the Rick Hansen Foundation with a future gift that is:

- A specific amount
- A percentage of my estate
- The residue of my estate after other bequests have been made

In honour of your commitment to the Rick Hansen Foundation, how may we recognize your legacy gift in our publications:

- I / We would like our name/s to appear as _____
- I / We wish our gift to remain anonymous.

Signature of Donor _____

Signature of joint donor (if applicable) _____

Dated _____

The Rick Hansen Foundation is happy to provide additional information and assistance to you on how you can support our work. We'd love to hear from you. Please contact:

Sandra Pimpao
Director, Resource Development

Email: spimpao@rickhansen.com
Phone: 1-800-213-2131, and press 3

RickHansen.com/Legacy

The Rick Hansen Foundation is proud to be recognized as a 5-Star Charity by Charity Intelligence Canada.



Rick Hansen Foundation

300–3820 Cessna Drive, Richmond, BC Canada V7B 0A2

1-800-213-2131 | @RickHansenFdn

Charitable Registration Number: 10765 9427 RR 0001



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