



Annual Report

APRIL 1, 2023 - MARCH 31, 2024

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Section 1

Rick Hansen Foundation

About Us

Our Founder

In 1973, Rick Hansen, on his way home from a fishing trip, survived a car accident that left him paralyzed from the waist down. As he learned how to navigate his community in a wheelchair, he also learned how to navigate people's changed attitudes toward him. In 1985, Rick decided to change people's attitudes about disability and in 1987 completed a 26-month wheelchair marathon across 34 countries around the world.

The Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) was established in 1988. For 35 years, RHF has worked to raise awareness, change attitudes, and remove barriers for people with disabilities.

What We Believe

We envision a society that embraces both cultural and physical accessibility, understanding that changes to attitudes, policies and practices are needed to support truly inclusive communities. We invite everyone who shares our belief in creating a world where everyone can thrive and realize their full potential, to join our movement for change.

Message from Our Founder

As Founder and someone who has spent the last 39 years building towards an accessible and inclusive world, I'm proud of the work our board, staff, volunteers, partners, and supporters are accomplishing to remove barriers.

One of the hallmarks of our success is our long history of bringing people together to tackle important barriers that impact people with disabilities so that they can be fully included as active participants and contributors in society.

The only way a small organization like ours can change the world and achieve our ambitious vision is to identify significant solutions that government, private, and social sectors can adopt and implement. Together, we can drive a movement that accelerates meaningful change and allows us to measure our progress effectively.

March 2025 will mark the beginning of the 40th anniversary of the start of the Man In Motion World Tour. I look forward to taking our past successes and strengths and applying them to significant progress over the coming years.

Let's keep going. I truly believe our best work is still in front of us. Anything is possible!

Rick Hansen

Founder, Rick Hansen Foundation

Message from Our Board Chair and CEO

In the pages that follow you will learn about the Foundation's significant accomplishments during the 2023-2024 reporting period.

We are proud to report that, during the past year, we have collaborated with more than 100 organizations across Canada and around the world to increase meaningful access for people with varying abilities. Some examples of our success over this reporting period include:

- The launch of the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC) Fundamentals Training course that was developed in response to ongoing requests from individuals who wish to increase their foundational knowledge on accessible spaces without the indepth exploration of the RHFAC methodology required to become an RHFAC Professional.
- The release of the updated RHFAC Rating Survey (v4.0) that introduces neurodiversity and new technologies as we continue to foster innovation in accessibility in the built environment.
- The launch of the new RHFAC Registry which improves user experience and supports collaboration with RHFAC Professionals and access to data.
- The rating of La Guardia Airport in New York, making it the first site in the United States to announce its RHFAC Gold certification. We are thrilled to add this international travel hub that serves more than 28 million people annually to our roster of RHFAC Gold certified sites.
- We listened and responded to Ontario educators who asked for additional learning material in creating inclusive classrooms for K-12 students with disabilities. In response, the Rick Hansen Foundation School Program (RHFSP) piloted the Ontario Educator Inclusion & Accessibility e-Learning course. The pilot exceeded expectations, registering 1,208 educators in just seven weeks.

- Across Canada, we collaborated with the Canadian Disability Network, formerly known as the Pan-Canadian Disability Coalition, a group of more than 35 disability organizations that aligned to advocate government on the passage of Bill C-22, the Canada Disability Benefit Act.
- We continued our engagement with a provincial network of clinicians, health care experts, community service providers, and persons with lived experience to advance the BC Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Care Strategy, Phase 2.
- Our approach to strategic planning during this period was collaborative, bringing together the combined knowledge and advice of a working group of the Board and the Foundation's senior management. With a clarity of purpose and a great measure of forethought as to how the Foundation could be guided over the 2024-2028 fiscal period, we crafted a plan that is innovative and transformational in its approach to our program planning and that enables scaling at every step of our growth.

We are proud to report that The Rick & Amanda Hansen Scholarship for Youth with Disabilities, funded generously by the April 1 Foundation, was created to provide financial support to Canadian youth with disabilities to pursue post-secondary education. This scholarship will make a profound impact on the lives of Canadian youth with disabilities by removing financial barriers and supporting career aspirations through access to post-secondary education.

We are sincerely grateful to our supporters for partnering with us on our inspiring journey to make the world accessible for everyone everywhere. As is always the case, our success is made possible through the hard work and dedication of many, and our deepest gratitude extends to our Board directors, staff, and donors. Thank you!

With appreciation,

Tamara Vrooman, O.B.C. Chair, Board of Directors

Doramy Ehling
Chief Executive Officer



Section 2

Global Conversations

Highlights



Rick Hansen Foundation was granted special consultative status by the United Nations' Economic and Social Council.



1,779 people have attended our Power of Inclusion webinars since launching in 2021, including 285 people this year.



5,200 visits to our School Program resource library with downloads from around the world.



Approximately 1,000,000 people are visiting sites that have been rated using RHF's Accessibility Certification, including sites in the US.

Global Conversations

In June 2023, we received official notification that the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted the recommendation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to grant the Rick Hansen Foundation special consultative status. We are thrilled to have access to a global network of disability organizations and NGOs that regularly consult with the UN and its agencies.

In 2021, we launched a Power of Inclusion webinar series to raise awareness about continuing physical and attitudinal barriers. To date, we have welcomed 1,779 people to our panels including 285 people to this year's panel titled The Power of Mind Friendly Communities.

Our online School Program resource library was accessed more than 5,200 times and resources were downloaded from countries around the world.

The Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification's methodology for rating meaningful accessibility in the built environment is being recognized internationally. Launched in Canada in 2017, our program is now expanding into the United States with up to a million people visiting sites that have been rated using RHFAC.



Photo caption: RHF staff stand on and around a globe at Larry Berg Flight Path Park in Richmond B.C.



Section 3

Meaningfully Accessible Lived Environments: The RHF Accessibility Certification Program

Highlights



1,803 people have enrolled in at least one RHFAC course this year.



More than \$400,000 was disbursed to eight municipalities in B.C. to improve accessibility in 24 public buildings.



531 RHF Accessibility Professional Network members - our highest yet.



147 sites were rated this year, up from 122 last year.



Disbursed more than \$927,000 in tuition grants for 527 learners.

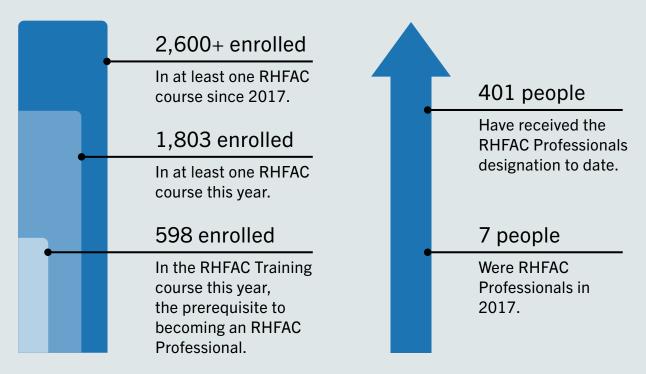
The RHF Accessibility Certification Program

Developed in 2017, the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility
Certification™ (RHFAC) program is Canada's only rating survey based on
Universal Design principles and the holistic user experiences of people
with mobility, vision, and hearing disabilities as well as those who are
neurodivergent. Sites demonstrating excellent meaningful access are
recognized, with the top tier accorded RHFAC Gold status. This year, we
expanded our education and training services and completed operational
initiatives to improve our ability to provide client-centered service.

Community of Practice: Supporting the next generation of accessibility champions

- Partnered with nine post-secondary institutions across Canada including Laurentian University, Toronto Metropolitan University, and the University of Alberta, that joined our network this year to offer RHFAC courses.
 - » Introduced two new online courses, RHF Inclusion & Accessibility Training and Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ (RHFAC) Fundamentals Training that promote a culture of access and inclusion.
 - » Disbursed more than \$927,000 in tuition grants, removing financial barriers for 527 learners across Canada.
- 531 RHF Accessibility Professionals Network members, our highest ever since F2023 when there were 289.
- More than 3,000 registrants for our annual conference or webinar series this year.

RHF Accessibility Certification Program



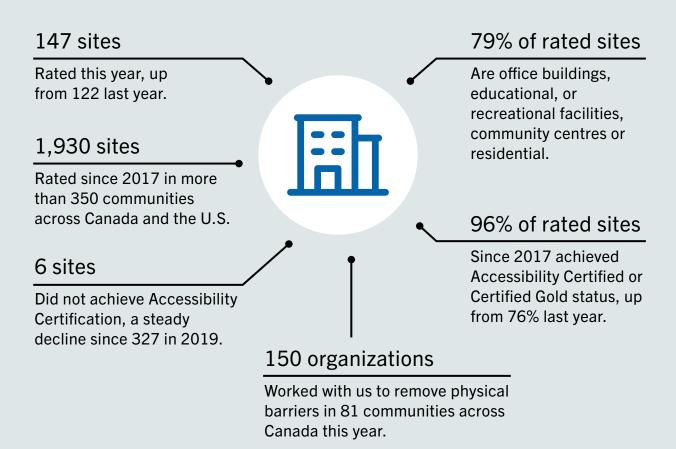
Achieving meaningful access for Everyone, Everywhere

- This year we partnered with more municipalities, industry leaders and First Nations communities across Canada to launch new accessibility projects:
 - » Disbursed more than \$400K to eight municipalities across B.C. to improve accessibility in areas such as entranceways, vehicle access, washrooms, and wayfinding in community and aquatic centres, ice rinks, museums, and parks, to remove barriers through the RHF BC Accessibility Grants program.
 - » Partnered with the MaRS Innovation District to launch an accelerator for an additional 20 municipalities across Canada to support adoption and implementation of accessibility policy.
 - » Building on the success of the first edition, we launched the 2023-2024 Buildings Without Barriers Challenge. Seventeen

organizations joined the Challenge with property owners, managers and, tenants working together to make their stores, malls, offices, and condominiums more inclusive for employees, customers, and visitors of all ages and abilities. The winners will be announced September 2024 at the industry conference, BOMEX, in Vancouver, B.C.

- » And we provided up to \$82,500 to the Seabird Island Band, Malahat Nation and Ditidaht First Nation to fund accessibility improvements.
- » We look forward to sharing results as these projects are completed.
- Updated our rating survey RHFAC v4.0 to address neurodiversity in addition to vision, hearing, and mobility disabilities.

RHFAC Rated Sites



- Made a series of operational improvements to implement more clientcentric services including developing an in-house online registry to empower clients such as buildings owners and managers to make data-driven investment decisions on accessibility upgrades to their buildings.
- Continued to partner with the Social Sciences and Humanities
 Research Council (SSHRC) funded project "Quality in the Built
 Environment Quality through the Lens of Lived Experience" on a
 five-year project, collaborating with 14 universities, 70 researchers,
 and 67 public and private organizations at the municipal, provincial,
 and national levels to stimulate a vital dialogue demonstrating how
 those active in considering and creating the built environment across
 Canada can contribute to a redefinition of quality that moves us to
 heightened equity, more social value and greater sustainability.



Photo caption: Lui Greco from CNIB asks a question of the panelists at the APN 2024 conference.

Major funders: Governments of Canada, British Columbia, Ontario and Nunavut and RBC.

Note that the views expressed in this report are RHF's and do not necessarily reflect those of the Government of Ontario.



Section 4

Amplifying Inclusive Schools and Communities:
The RHF School Program

Highlights



761 educators completed our Inclusion & Accessibility E-learning course in Ontario.



5 Difference Maker of the Year Awards were given out to recipients across Canada.



18,800 children and youth were reached through 96 Ambassador presentations and accompanying educator resources.



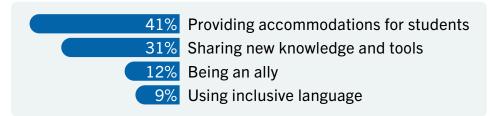
We launched the Rick & Amanda Hansen Scholarship for Youth with Disabilities

The RHF School Program

Since 2001, the Rick Hansen Foundation School Program has supported educators, children, and youth to become accessibility leaders through education, mentorship and awards. This year, we trained educators in Ontario on how to create meaningfully accessible and inclusive classrooms, recognized a new generation of youth leaders, and launched a scholarship enabling students with disabilities to attend post-secondary school in Canada.

Supporting educators to create inclusive and accessible classrooms

- Partnered with educators and the Government of Ontario's Ministry
 of Education to launch the RHF Educator Inclusion & Accessibility
 E-learning course designed to increase the confidence that educators
 have in supporting their students in understanding the importance of
 disability inclusion in the classroom and community.
 - 761 educators completed the course, surpassing our target of 500.
 - » 99% of individuals reported the course helped them identify practical strategies and tools to promote inclusion and accessibility in their classrooms and schools.
 - » The top changes educators reported making included:



We completed a comprehensive review of our educator resources including ensuring all documents are accessible, print-friendly, and aligned to the educational competencies of each province or territory in Canada.

RHFSP Statistics

79 Difference Maker

Of the Year Awards issued since 2014

to 123

Accessibility and inclusion leaders since 2014

271,000 children

And youth have been reached through

~2,000

Ambassador Presentations since 2016

2 members

Of the Youth Leadership Committee became RHF Ambassadors this year



79% of Ambassador

Presentations have been delivered in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario since 2015



67% of children

And youth engaged this year were in elementary school

Championing the next generation of youth leaders

- Five Difference Maker of the Year Awards were awarded in May for the 2022-2023 school year to recipients across Canada.
- Youth Leadership Committee members met monthly to provide youth perspectives on RHF School Program initiatives as well as participate in skill building seminars on topics ranging from public speaking to navigating social media.

RHF Ambassador presentations are inspired by our first Ambassador, Rick Hansen. Our Ambassadors are inspiring, fun, and engaging speakers who draw on their personal experience living with a disability to educate children and youth on how to create accessible and inclusive classrooms and communities.

- We reached more than 18,800 children and youth this year through 96 presentations and accompanying educator resources.
- RHF Ambassador presentations are primarily delivered virtually; however we received several requests for in-person presentations this year. We anticipate this trend will continue and plan to pilot a limited number of in-person presentations next year.

Removing financial barriers to postsecondary education for students with disabilities

 We launched the Rick & Amanda Hansen Scholarship for Youth with Disabilities to enable youth with disabilities to attend post-secondary school in Canada. Successful applicants are eligible to receive up to \$40K over five years for tuition and other costs. Our first cohort of recipients will be announced at the start of the 2024-2025 academic year.



Photo caption: Rick and Amanda Hansen.

Rick & Amanda Hansen Scholarship for Youth with Disabilities Major funders: April 1 Foundation.

RHF School Program Major funders: Government of Ontario's Ministry of Education, Scotiabank, the Gordon and Ruth Gooder Charitable Foundation and the Skidmore Foundation.



Made possible by the generous support of Scotiabank, The Gordon and Ruth Gooder Charitable Foundation, and The Skidmore Foundation.

Scotiabank.

THE GOODER FOUNDATION

Skidmore



Section 5

Enhancing the Responsiveness of the Spinal Cord Injury Health and Research Ecosystem: The RHF SCI Cure and Care Program

Highlights



Extended funding this year to maintain our partnership with ICORD



Since 2013, we've provided ~\$1.9 million to support 100 seed grants



We continue to support Dr. Stacy Elliott to establish Canada's first Centre of Excellence in Sexual Health and Spinal Cord Injury



We continue to work to advance an SCI Care Strategy in the province of British Columbia

The RHF SCI Cure and Care Program

From supporting the establishment of the UBC International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries and the Rick Hansen Institute (now known as the Praxis Spinal Cord Institute or Praxis) to funding seed grants, research meetings, and knowledge translation initiatives, RHF's commitment to improve the health outcomes of people sustaining a spinal cord injury has helped catalyze B.C. into an internationally recognized hub of innovation.

In 2013, we announced a ten-year commitment to support the Blusson Integrated Cures Partnership (BICP), an innovative collaboration bringing the Rick Hansen Institute (now Praxis) and ICORD together to establish the Blusson Centre in Vancouver, B.C., as a world-class centre of research focused on cures for spinal cord injury. We extended funding this year to maintain the partnership with ICORD and are pleased to share some cumulative results achieved.

- Since the beginning of the partnership, we have provided approximately \$1.9M to support 100 seed grants which have been instrumental for researchers. This year, Dr. Christopher West leveraged a \$20K seed grant funded by RHF into successful grants funded by other organizations including the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation (\$240K) and Canadian Institutes for Health Research (\$800K). ICORD researchers collectively attributed seven scientific articles published this year to results realized through seed grants.
- The International SCI Biobank (ISCIB) is a translational research resource that supports biomedical research to ultimately improve patient outcomes following SCI. The only SCI biobank of its kind, the ISCIB has supported research from academic and commercial institutions across ten countries and has been acknowledged in three independent, third-party papers in peer-review journals.
- We also continued to fund the Yuel Family Physical Activity Research Centre (PARC) including online and in-person adaptive spin classes, a course offered in partnership with the UBC School of Kinesiology

that provides participants with individualized exercise prescription, physical activity counselling and technique coaching.

We also continued to support Dr. Stacy Elliott to establish Canada's first Centre of Excellence in Sexual Health and Spinal Cord Injury. This year, Dr. Elliott and her team completed a white paper, *Meeting the unmet need: a vision for equitable access for British Columbians with SCI/D for sexual and reproductive rehabilitation,* to educate policy makers and funders on the need for services required by the SCI population in B.C. and the limitations of the current Sexual Health Rehabilitation Service (SHRS) at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) and GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre (GFS).

And, we continued to work with a provincial network of clinicians, health care experts, community service providers and persons with lived experience to advance a BC SCI Care Strategy, including implementing a hub and spoke health network to underpin better and more consistent care in neurotrauma rehabilitation in British Columbia and look forward to engaging with the Government on BC on ways we can mutually support activities in this area.



Photo caption: John Chernesky from Praxis Spinal Cord Institute speaking at the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre.

Major funder: Government of British Columbia



Section 6

Removing Barriers to Nature: The RHF Accessible Outdoors Program

The RHF Accessible Outdoors Program

When people with disabilities are able to access the natural environment, it leads to a more inclusive and healthier world for everyone, everywhere. This year, we started developing our newest program, the RHF Accessible Outdoors Program, which will launch next year. Although access to the natural environment has been shown to improve wellbeing, these spaces are often inaccessible to people with disabilities, resulting in inequities and exclusion. Thanks to generous support from the Peterson Family Foundation and Power to Give, RHF is working with local non-profits to remove barriers to accessibility in the outdoors. The program includes three streams: facilitating outdoor access for people with disabilities, empowering the next generation of Difference Makers to advance accessibility in their communities, and gathering lived and academic insights to inform future programming.



Photo caption: The RHF Accessible Outdoor Program accessible vessel.

Major funder: The Peterson Family Foundation and The Power to Give Foundation



Section 7

Reporting

Our Team

Our promotion of staff's work life balance enable staff to work remotely, while providing staff-led initiatives such as a summer fortnight work schedule and a fall wellness challenge.



We continued to participate in the Government of Canada's 50/30 Challenge that encourages Canada for-profit and non-profit organizations to achieve gender parity and significant representation of under-represented groups on its Board and senior management teams.

We continued to work with Cheryl Stafford & Associates to provide managers with leadership training.

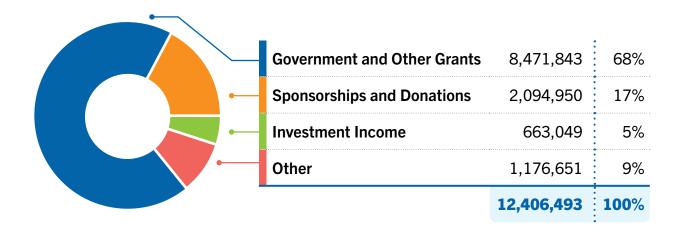


Photo caption: Linda Weber with her guide dog at the Surrey Arts Centre in Surrey, B.C.

Fiscal 2024 Financials

Revenue for the year ended March 31, 2024

Where Our Funding Comes From



Expenses for the year ended March 31, 2024

How We Put the Funding to Work

	Accessibility Program	6,728,312	48%
	Awareness Program	2,236,430	16%
	Research Program	1,675,494	12%
	Management and Administration	1,551,652	11%
	Education & Outreach	1,075,140	8%
	Fundraising	773,995	6%
	Other Programs	29,983	0%
		14,071,006	100%

Statement of Financial Position and Operations

March 31, 2024, with comparitive information for 2023

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 10,063,948	\$ 13,457,357
Accounts receivable	567,187	299,585
Prepaid expenses and deposits	347,413	230,996
	10,978,548	13,987,938
Investments held at fair value	7,186,284	6,555,046
Tangible capital assets	638,969	137,331
Intangible assets	1,069,661	-
Intellectual property rights	1,800,000	1,800,000
	\$ 21,673,462	\$ 22,480,315
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 1,322,826	\$ 824,052
Deferred revenue	 391,936	99,383
Deferred contributions	8,991,176	10,938,509
	10,705,938	11,861,944
Deferred capital contributions	1,569,921	-
	12,275,859	11,861,944
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	2,379,617	4,245,605
Internally restricted	6,884,418	6,239,198
Endowment	133,568	133,568
	9,397,603	10,618,371
Commitments		
Related party transactions		
Related party transactions		

Statement of Operations

March 31, 2024, with comparative information for 2023

		2024		2023
Revenue:				
Government and other grants	\$	8,471,843	\$	8,293,614
Sponsorships and donations		2,094,950		2,502,229
Investment income		663,049		598,017
Other		1,176,651		628,999
		12,406,493		12,022,859
Expenses:				
Accessibility		6,728,312		3,806,695
Awareness		2,236,430		1,838,842
Research		1,675,494		2,326,193
Education and outreach		1,075,140		985,007
Other		29,983		54,400
Total programs		11,745,359		9,011,137
Fundraising		773,995		746,299
Management and administration		1,551,652		1,517,458
		14,071,006		11,274,894
Surplus of revenue over expenses before the undernoted items		(1,664,513)		747,965
Fair value changes on investments	•	443,745	•	(344,045)
Surplus (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	\$	(1,220,768)	\$	403,920

Please refer to our full set of audited financial statements at RickHansen.com.

Thank You!

Thank you to the continued support of our funders, donors, supporters and partners committed to removing barriers for people with disabilities and creating a world where everyone can go everywhere!

Major Gifts

Anonymous (2) Paul Bronfman Family Foundation

April 1 Foundation RBC Foundation
Cadillac Fairview RE Royalties
Ida Chong, FCPA, FCGA Rod Graham

Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation Ronald S. Roadburg Foundation

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Estate of Joan Helen Matthews

Estate of Eileen Angela Mary

Nichols

Planned Gifts

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Community Partners

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Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Tuugaalik High School

Society University of British Columbia

International Collaboration on Vancouver Adaptive Snow Sports

Repair Discoveries Program

Malahat First Nation VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation

Sakku School, Nunavut Victor Sammurtok School

Community Fundraiser

Fundraiser in memory of Lori McDermid, Port Elgin, ON

Connect with Us

Executive Team

Doramy Ehling, Chief Executive Officer
France Gagnon, Chief Financial Officer & Vice President, Operations
Brad McCannell, Vice President, Access & Inclusion
Sarah McCarthy, Vice President, Strategic Initiatives
Mike Reid, Vice President, Resource Development

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Donations

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info@rickhansen.com 1-800-213-2131

RHF School Program schools@rickhansen.com

RHF Accessibility
Certification Program
access@rickhansen.com

Accessibility Advisory Services rickhansen.com/advisory-services

Spinal Cord Injury Enquiries sci-research@rickhansen.com

Social Media

Follow @RickHansenFdn on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, <u>X</u> and <u>LinkedIn</u> to stay up-to-date on the latest in accessibility news and on the impact our supporters are making for people with disabilities.

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Lisa Coltart, CPA, CA
Rich Donovan
Rod Graham
Jane Halford, FCPA, FCA, ICD.D
Amanda Hansen
Dr. Colleen Nelson
Hugh O'Reilly
Ryan Peterson
John Ruffolo, FCPA
Suki Sekhon
Ida Chong, FCPA (retired July 2023)
Greg Yuel (retired July 2023)

Program Committees

- Accessibility Certification Program Advisory Committee and Technical Subcommittee
- School Program Advisory, International Advisory, Resource Review and Youth Leadership Committee



We are proud to be one of 77 organizations globally selected by an independent review panel for <u>the Valuable 500 Directory</u>. The directory features organizations with expertise in digital, physical and cognitive accessibility, as well as tools for inclusive recruitment and branding practices.



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