
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS – DATE: 2021 June 21
PARKS RECREATION AND CULTURE
COMMISSION

FROM: DIRECTOR – PARKS, RECREATION AND FILE: 2410-20
CULTURAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: RICK HANSEN FOUNDATION

Burnaby Parks is constantly working to improve accessibility in our parks and trails. Following the principles of Universal Design, we strive to make our parks usable to the greatest extent possible, by everyone.

The accessibility standards applied in design and retrofitting of parks facilities are derived from a combination of sources including national and provincial regulatory bodies such as the BC Housing Code for the outdoors environment, and the Canadian Landscape Architecture Association Design Standards for Accessibility. In applying standards to parks, trails, and pathways connecting outdoor amenities, Parks uses parallel standards employed by Parks Canada, BC Parks and Metro Vancouver Parks, so there is consistency regionally, provincially, and nationally, specific to our public spaces and amenities. For over 10 years, the Parks Accessibility program has undertaken annual assessments to compare and upgrade parks infrastructure to these accessibility standards. We also promote accessible features in parks on the web page (<https://www.burnaby.ca/Page6910.aspx>), along with an Accessible Parks Locator App that allows users to search, specifically for, accessible features/amenities in Burnaby Parks (<https://gis.burnaby.ca/accessibleparklocator/>).

The Parks Recreation and Cultural services Department does not have a direct relationship with the Rick Hansen Foundation, however staff are actively involved in the Access Advisory Committee. This corporate Committee is in contact with the Rick Hansen Foundation, semi-regularly. Approximately 2 years ago, leadership from the Rick Hansen Foundation met with the Mayor to inquire if the City would certify its corporate facilities; however, at the time there was substantial fee associated with the process, and it was not pursued.

Going forward however, all new Civic Projects require Rick Hansen training/certification as criteria in its RFP process for consultants/architects of new civic facilities, including the

current Recreation Centre projects. This means that the Rick Hansen Certification lens is applied to Burnaby Civic projects.

Burnaby can undertake Rick Hansen Certification similar to the City of Surrey, with direction from Council.

This is for the information of Commission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Ellwood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "D" being large and prominent.

DIRECTOR PARKS,
RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES

MB:HE:km