

Rick Hansen Wheels In Motion

presented by
 Scotiabank

For Immediate Release
June 14, 2010

RECORD TURNOUT FOR VANCOUVER/LOWER MAINLAND RICK HANSEN WHEELS IN MOTION

Vancouver, BC – The sunshine took a little while to come out Sunday morning, but that didn't stop a record number of volunteers from happily setting up the 8th Annual Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion at the PNE, where a record number of teams contested the Wheelchair Challenge. While the final figure is still being tallied, an estimated \$75,000 was raised at the Vancouver/Lower Mainland event for projects to help improve the lives with spinal cord injury.

“The participants came together to help keep alive the dream that Rick Hansen had 25 years ago,” said Vancouver event chair Kirk McLardie. “I am happy that his dream of encouraging an inclusive and accessible society continues because of the large number of supporters and participants. We are so very grateful to all those who came out and enjoyed the day, and for the sponsors that helped make the event happen.”

The defending championship team from McDonalds, one of the event sponsors, again took home the trophy after facing intense competition from the other teams. They had the chance to experience what it is like to navigate through life in a wheelchair. The Team Spirit Award went to the team from the Pacific National Exhibition, sponsors and facility hosts for this year's event.

Besides the wheelchair challenge, spectators and participants enjoyed the mostly-sunny day enjoying the interactive displays including trying out the sport of wheelchair rugby. Rick Hansen Foundation Ambassador Darryl Neighbour had a steady stream of people taking the opportunity to meet him and to touch the gold medal he won at this year's Paralympic Games in Vancouver. He was a member of the Canadian gold medal curling team.

In the 25 years since his legendary Man In Motion World Tour captured the nation's imagination, Rick Hansen has continued his journey to realize the dream of a world that is inclusive and accessible to all. Thousands of Canadians demonstrated their support for this dream at Rick Hansen Wheels In Motion events across Canada Sunday. Preliminary results indicate that this year's event has already raised more than \$1 million, with additional funds still to come. Since the inception of Rick Hansen Wheels In Motion in 2003, Canadians have raised more than \$10 million to support some 900 projects in communities across Canada that improve the quality of life of people living with SCI.

Funding recipients in Vancouver/Lower Mainland include the Sam Sullivan Disability Foundation, BC Wheelchair Sports and the BC Paraplegic Association. The event was made possible with the support of its sponsors: Scotiabank, Advance Mobility, BC Hydro, Corus Entertainment, Global BC, ICBC, Invacare Canada, McDonalds, Pacific National Exhibition, Playland, Westshore Constructors and Work Safe BC.

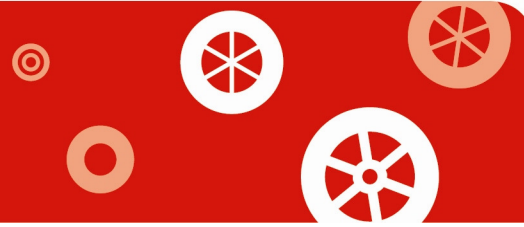
“This year saw the launch of the 25th Anniversary of the Man In Motion World Tour with many exciting initiatives planned over the next two years until May 22, 2012, and Wheels In Motion marked another milestone

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in our journey towards making Canada a better place for people of all abilities,” said Rick Hansen, President and CEO of the Rick Hansen Foundation. “It is inspiring to see so many people striving to realize the same dream – a Canada that is inclusive and accessible for everyone.”

Wheels In Motion events are organized across Canada by the Rick Hansen Institute – a national network of individuals and organizations passionate about improving the quality of life of Canadians living with SCI. Comprised of people with SCI, service providers, researchers, healthcare professionals and others, RHI works at the local, regional and national levels to identify priority unmet needs and support solutions that make a genuine difference in the lives of Canadians with SCI. For more information about the Rick Hansen Institute, please visit: www.rickhanseninstitute.org

Canadians can continue to donate at Scotiabank branches across Canada or online at www.wheelsinmotion.org until June 30, 2010.

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Event photos for media use are available. Please contact:

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