



# Richmond Centre for Disability

## ACCESS & AWARENESS FORUM

June 3rd, 2010, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Richmond City Hall



## FORUM PROGRAM PACKAGE

June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, Thursday

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Council Chamber, Richmond City Hall  
6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond

### WELCOME

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the Access & Awareness Forum on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010. The Forum is hosted by the Richmond Centre for Disability (RCD), with the sponsorship of the City of Richmond. We wish you a pleasant experience and this package provides information about your participation in this Forum.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### VENUE

- ▶ The Forum will take place at the **Council Chamber** in the Richmond City Hall
- ▶ The Coffee Break will take place in **Room 1003**, across from the Council Chamber

### PARKING

- ▶ Off Site Long Term parking (over 2 hours) is available at the Cultural Centre parkade top level or at Minoru Park
- ▶ Visitors with disabilities may use the surface, grade level parking area north of City Hall, for which there are no set time restrictions; an approved accessible parking permit must be displayed at the vehicle

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

## THEME

The theme is to promote awareness of Five-Star Accessibility in Education, Transportation, Housing, Employment, and Recreation – a user-friendly community for everyone, through active and progressive civic and government participation.

## GOALS

The goals are to encourage and facilitate accessibility on behalf of all members of the community by:

1. Improving access to education, transportation, housing, employment and recreation, which are the qualities of a five star community;
2. Promoting public awareness;
3. Recognizing the importance of civic and government participation;
4. Encouraging cooperation among all services and interest groups to ensure a better community for everyone;
5. Improving communication among all levels of government and service agencies to make recommendations regarding policy and legislation

## BACKGROUND

In 2008 Rick Hansen, after conclusion of his Man in Motion World Tour on June 1 the previous year, requested to establish a National Access Awareness Week to promote better community access for people with disabilities. For the first ten years, a national committee coordinated planning for the Week in communities all over Canada. Some provinces afterward continued to celebrate the annual awareness week, and for some it evolved into an annual Disability Awareness Week.

The idea of the National Access Awareness Week is to bring together, in a spirit of partnership, people with disabilities, voluntary organizations, service providers, businesses and governments to affect meaningful changes in the daily living of people with disabilities.

The main focus is on the issues of Education, Transportation, Housing, Employment, and Recreation. National Access Awareness Week is intended to raise public awareness of the barriers, to encourage communities to assess the level of accessibility in their jurisdiction, and to plan for the removal of barriers. “Access” means more than just removing physical barriers; it means changes in attitudes and support that allows all people with visible or invisible disabilities to be part of community life.

# AGENDA

**1:00 p.m.**

**Welcome Address**

*Mayor Malcolm Brodie, City of Richmond*

**Opening Remarks**

*Vince Miele, RCD Board Chair*

*Frances Clark, RCD Founder and Board Secretary*

**1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Presentations**

**1:15 p.m.**

**“Global Approach to Accessible Community”**

*Emese Szucs, Accessibility Program Manager, Social Planning & Research Council of BC*

**1:30 p.m.**

**“Employment and Workplace Inclusion”**

*Greg Travers, Partners for Workplace Inclusion Program BC at the Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work*

**1:45 p.m.**

**“Accessible Transportation”**

*Jim Dawe, Transition and Quality Assurance, TransLink*

**2:00 p.m.**

**“Architectural Accessibility & History of Building Codes & Accessible Designs”**

*Tom Parker, Vice Board Chair, Richmond Centre for Disability*

**2:15 p.m.**

**“Access Awareness and Global Accessibility Initiative”**

*Nancy Thompson, Director, Rick Hansen Foundation*

**2:30 p.m.**

**Break** (*Refreshments sponsored by the City of Richmond*)



**3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Round Table Discussion** (*Facilitator: Vince Miele*)

- ▶ *What does “Accessibility” and “Inclusion” mean to you?*
- ▶ *How to share knowledge among agencies planning for accessible communities?*
- ▶ *What are the barriers to full participation in communities?*
- ▶ *What is the next step to a fully inclusive society?*

Promoting a New Perspective on Disability



# PRESENTERS BIOGRAPHIES & ABSTRACTS

## Emese Szucs

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### Biography

Emese Szucs is the Manager of Accessibility Programs at Social Planning & Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) and oversees many of the organization's accessibility projects as well as the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities. She has considerable experience in the area of community accessibility and inclusion of those with disabilities and from various ethnic backgrounds. She sits on numerous civic and advisory committees working on accessibility and inclusion, such as TransLink's Access Transit Users Advisory Committee as well as their technical working group on eligibility. Emese is the past president of AMSSA (Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies) and recently joined the Regional Council of the Canadian Red Cross Lower Mainland. Currently Emese is overseeing the Accessible By-Laws Model project, SPARC's Annual Access Awareness Day campaign and has developed and presented numerous community dialogues on accessibility. Emese has sat on several technical working groups addressing access and inclusion issues, one of which was the Measuring Up Guide working group.

**1:15 p.m.      "Global Approach to Accessible Community"**

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"An accessible community benefits us all and works to ensure that everyone in society, including people with disabilities and seniors live independent and fulfilling lives. Inclusive communities are able to meet the needs of their members and to foster equity in opportunities and active community participation. Without a clear definition of disability in Canada, it is often left to individuals to decide how to address access issues and for whom. We must strive towards the goal of an inclusive community where all members can have equal access to employment, a good standard of living, recreation, transportation and most importantly the opportunity to participate in every aspect of community life. People with disabilities provide society with a unique set of skills, enabling it to be diverse and complete. Without diversity society would not be whole. This presentation will introduce a holistic interpretation of an accessible and inclusive community."

# NOTES



# PRESENTERS BIOGRAPHIES & ABSTRACTS

## Greg Travers

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### Biography

Greg Travers has over 28 years in the rehabilitation profession. Greg currently works as an Employment Coordinator with the Partners for Workplace Inclusion Program and assists many individuals in finding employment from the Greater Vancouver Area. Greg has worked as a Vocational and Employment Counsellor and has assisted hundreds of individuals with disabilities seek and find employment. Greg has been a member of Canadian Association of Rehabilitation Profession (CARP) since 1989 and joined the CARP Board in 2000 with contributions to the Professional Development and Education Committee serving as CARP BC Society President for 2002, 2003 and 2004. Greg as a quadriplegic has volunteered on The City of Richmond Design Panel for four years and did variance requests for the City of Vancouver's planning department. Greg currently sits on the advisory committee for City of West Vancouver, City of North Vancouver and the District of North Vancouver for accessibility. Greg's passion is to have an accessible and inclusive neighbourhood for all members of the community.

**1:30 p.m.      "Employment and Workplace Inclusion"**

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"The Partners for Workplace Inclusion Program (PWIP), funded through the Opportunities Fund Government of Canada, offers FREE one stop employment services for job seekers with self-declared disabilities. Working together with employers and community organizations, this project is dedicated to enhancing employment opportunities for people with disabilities and providing employers with qualified candidates to meet their hiring needs.

We offer the client everything from resume tips, skills and vocational assessments, job searching strategies, to funding for short term training and job accommodations. We assist clients with disabilities to enhance their job readiness skills through a network of training & supports which will help secure meaningful and equitable employment. Work experiences, on-the-job training, volunteering, mentoring or job shadowing, short term skill training, workshops, wage subsidies and social support may be part of the activities.

Potential employers will have access to employment support services such as a Target Wage Subsidy where we reimburse 50 % of the wage, disability awareness training, accommodation specialists, and adaptive technology support. Our goal is that by providing professional support to community and business partners, barriers in the workplace will be diminished.”

Greg will briefly cover how the 4 below categories affect persons with disabilities success in accessing the workforce.

- Disability supports and services
- Education and training
- Employment and income
- Health and Well Being

A detailed paper on Greg Traver’s presentation is available separately in appendix.

## NOTES

# PRESENTERS BIOGRAPHIES & ABSTRACTS

## Jim Dawe

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### Biography

1970 – 1974	Lived in Richmond <grin>
1994	Started with BC Transit Bus Operations as an Operations Development Advisor at Gateway in Surrey
1996	Assigned the automation project to modernize the HandyDART reservations system
1997	Seconded to the Service Contracts & Accessible Transit Department – appointed Chair of the Accessible Transit Committee
1999	Transferred to the newly formed TransLink entity as a Program Manager within the Contract Services department and continued with being Chair of the TransLink Accessible Transit Committee
2008 – 2009	Transferred to the newly created Access Transit Department as Manager Transition & Quality Assurance with Coast Mountain Bus Company

**1:45 p.m. “Accessible Transportation”**

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### Presentation Outline

- Metro Vancouver’s Integrated Road, Transit & Marine Network
- Ways to Get Around
- HandyCard
- Buses and Community Shuttles
- SkyTrain
- Elevators at SkyTrain Stations
- SeaBus
- West Coast Express
- HandyDART
- Access Transit

A complete set of slide handout of Jim Dawe’s Presentation is available separately in appendix.



# NOTES



# PRESENTERS BIOGRAPHIES & ABSTRACTS

## Tom Parker

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### Biography

2003	Retired
1992 - 2003	Senior Researcher, Canada Mortgage and Housing, focus on housing for seniors and persons with disabilities
1972 - 1992	Canadian Paraplegic Association Rehab counselling and Administration in British Columbia, New Brunswick & Alberta

### Community activities & Committee memberships that relate to access & disability

**Currently**

- Richmond Centre for Disability, Vice Chair, Board of Directors
- City of Richmond Advisory Design Panel

**In the past**

- Canadian Standards Association, B651 barrier-free design committee
- National Building Code, Standing Committee on part 3.8
- City of Ottawa, Disability Issues Advisory Committee
- Alberta Building Code Committee
- City of Calgary Disabled Access Review Committee
- City of Vancouver Advisory Committee on Disability
- B.C. Building Code Committee

### 2:00 p.m. “Architectural Accessibility & History of Building Codes & Accessible Designs”

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- Beginning of Awareness and Accessibility
- Evolution of Building Codes and Standards
- Charter of Rights and Freedoms Canada 1982
- CMHC Flexhousing guidelines for homes that adapt to life’s changes
- Britain early 90’s “Life Time Homes” -- all new homes to be visitable
- Richmond Design Guide 8189 -- to encourage builders to design/build for convertability

A detailed note paper on Tom Parker’s presentation and complete set of slide handout is available separately in appendix.



# NOTES



# PRESENTERS BIOGRAPHIES & ABSTRACTS

## Nancy Thompson

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### Biography

Nancy Thompson, Manager of the original Man in Motion World Tour has over 25 years of experience working in the field of disability. Primarily with the Rick Hansen Foundation, Nancy has been an integral force and instrumental key player on a number of highly commended national and international initiatives that aim to enhance the lives of those living with disability. She has represented the Rick Hansen Foundation and working closely with the Canadian Government to develop and initiate National Access Awareness Week, developed and lead the Congress Program for Independence 1992 - International Congress and Exposition on Disability, lead the Canadian Neurotrauma Research Partnership program, and directed and developed the successful national annual fundraiser, Rick Hansen Wheels In Motion. Most recently, Nancy was a Director for the Spinal Cord Injury Solutions Network.

Nancy is currently leading the Global Accessibility Initiative, the international conference and exposition – Inter-Dependence 2012 and the Rick Hansen Difference Maker Awards – all programs of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary campaign that aim to create accessible and inclusive communities and further spinal cord injury research. She is responsible for developing and managing all aspects of these key Rick Hansen Foundation initiatives.

### **2:15 p.m. “Access Awareness and Global Accessibility Initiative”**

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“When Rick Hansen set out on his Man in Motion World Tour 25 years ago, he was determined to make communities more accessible and inclusive. While tremendous progress has been made since then, we still have a long way to go. Many standards, guidelines and tools have been developed to inform and direct the level of accessibility in the built environment, however, no one assessment tool or accessibility rating system has been uniformly adopted across Canada much less internationally.

In response to this need, the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) is launching the Global Accessibility Initiative. This comprehensive five star rating system, assessment tool and guidelines, based on existing good practices, will provide immediate, consistent



information about the level of accessibility via mobile hand held devices, the internet and GPS navigation systems. This will empower people with disabilities to make informed decisions, and leverage their consumer power to help increase accessibility in our society. The RHF envisions this initiative will help create global awareness and provide an impetus for communities, business and governments to make change, measure progress and, over time, increase accessibility for all members of society. Ensuring that people with disabilities including the aging population have options to continue to actively participate in their communities will be one of the defining social policy challenges facing all levels of government over the next decade.”

A complete set of slide handout of Nancy Thompson’s Presentation is available separately in appendix.

## NOTES



## ABOUT RCD

### Promoting a New Perspective on Disabilities

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#### **RCD is about PEOPLE .....**

- ◆ Not-for-profit, disability-led and community based service agency
- ◆ A grass root organization run by and for people with disabilities
- ◆ Multi-disability, self-directed and inclusive approach
- ◆ Support Independent Living (IL)

#### **Our Commitment .....**

The year of 2010, the Richmond Centre for Disability (RCD) is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year of establishment and 10 years of direct services to persons with disabilities.

The RCD has grown because of invaluable community support, dedicated volunteers and strong board governance. We will continue to do our best in representing the disability community – and to remain worthy of the trust of our participants, supporters, funders as well as the community.

#### **Facts about RCD .....** Every year

- 🔊 Served over 17,000 people with disabilities
- 🔊 Provided over 80,000 service hours
- 🔊 Total volunteer hours of nearly 9,000 hours
- 🔊 Offered over 600 training sessions
- 🔊 Issued over 1,200 Accessible Parking Permits
- 🔊 Recruited and trained 70 volunteers
- 🔊 Specialized services to children and youth
- 🔊 Support for parents and family

Visit RCD website at [www.rcdrichmon.org](http://www.rcdrichmon.org) for more information.





# Richmond Centre for Disability

**"2010" marks the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the RCD**

The year 2010 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the RCD. As part of our celebration and in keeping with our overall aim to create more awareness about accessibility in our community and the role of people with disabilities, we have planned to kick off a series of activities to commemorate this occasion throughout the year.

## **2010 Celebration Calendar - Upcoming:**

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>June 3</b>       | Accessibility Forum at Richmond City Hall – Five Star Accessibility for People with disability  |
| <b>July 24</b>      | Roll & Stroll at RCD Summer Picnic – Minoru Park  |
| <b>October 2</b>    | RCD 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraising Gala – Executive Airport Plaza & Convention Centre   |
| <b>December 1-4</b> | RCD International Wheelchair Curling Bonspiel – Richmond Curling Club   |
| <b>December 3</b>   | United Nation's International Day of People with Disabilities Celebration<br>Closing Ceremony of RCD 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration |

We welcome you to come and support our celebration by participating in events and activities. We look forward to more opportunities to meet, hear and partner with community members like you, with common goals to heighten awareness to disability issues and to promote full inclusive community. We also thank you wholeheartedly for your continuous support of the RCD; you are part of our successes and achievements, past, present and future.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Forum Planning Committee

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Vince Miele ..... Chair, Board of Directors, RCD  
Frances Clark ..... Founder, Secretary, Board of Directors, RCD  
Angela Gauld..... Recording Secretary, Board of Directors, RCD  
Alan Hill..... Cultural Diversity Coordinator, City of Richmond  
Ella Huang ..... Executive Director, RCD  
Eileen Kalshoven..... Executive Assistant, RCD  
Viet Vu ..... IL Program Director, RCD  
Tom Tang ..... Graphic Design and Technical Support, RCD

## Forum Presenters

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Special Thanks to our presenters:

Emese Szucs ..... Social Planning & Research Council of BC  
Greg Travers ..... Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work  
Jim Dawe ..... TransLink  
Nancy Thompson ..... Rick Hansen Foundation  
Tom Parker ..... Richmond Centre for Disability

## Special Thank You

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- ▶ Thank you to Mayor Malcolm Brodie for delivering the Welcome Address
- ▶ Thank you to Emese Szucs of SPARC BC for her inputs and support
- ▶ Thank you to City of Richmond, Community Service Department for sponsorship of refreshments
- ▶ Thank you to City of Richmond for provision of venue and forum related arrangement

**THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!**

