

Date: 2020-11-06

Subject: **Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC) Program – City of Brampton Facilities**

Contact: Teresa Olsen, Deputy Clerk, Administrative Services and Elections

Report Number: Legislative Services-2020-392

Recommendations:

1. **THAT** the report titled Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC) Program – City of Brampton Facilities to the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of December 8, 2020, be received;

Overview:

- **The Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF), in partnership with and funding by the Government of Ontario, offered 250 organizations in select municipalities across Ontario a complimentary rating through the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification Program.**
- **The City submitted applications to the program for nine (9) City facilities.**
- **On September 30th, 2020, the City was notified that all nine facilities have been approved to receive the complimentary ratings.**

Background:

In early 2020, the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) announced that, with support from the Province of Ontario, the Foundation would be offering 250 complimentary ratings through the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC) program to public, private and not-for-profit organizations in a number of municipalities across Ontario including the City of Brampton.

The Foundation made a presentation to the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) on March 10, 2020 related to the benefits of the RHFAC program and the details related to the Pilot Project funded by the Province. Originally the AAC was tasked as the body

that would select the applications received for the City of Brampton however due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and subsequent closure of many facilities across the province, the RHF extended the deadline for applications and made a decision to establish a Committee consisting of members of AAC's across the selected municipalities to review all applications and tasked with selecting the successful applicants. Notification was sent to our AAC members providing an opportunity for members to apply to sit on this Committee.

The City submitted nine (9) applications to the RHFAC program for the following City facilities:

- Lester B. Pearson Theatre
- BFES Apparatus and Maintenance Facility
- Brampton Gateway Terminal
- Gore Meadows Community Centre and Library
- Cassie Campbell Community Centre
- The Rose Theatre
- City Hall
- Bramalea Transit Terminal
- POA Courthouse

The Library Board also submitted an application for Springdale Library in collaboration with the City submissions.

Current Situation:

On September 30, 2020, the City received notification from the Rick Hansen Foundation that all nine (9) City sites as well as Springdale Library had been approved for the complimentary ratings (for a total of 10 city-owned sites). These assessments will provide the City a report card to better understand our level of meaningful access for people with disabilities in each of the selected facilities and identify areas for enhancements. Staff are excited to participate in this program as we believe this is an opportunity to foster more inclusive public spaces for people of all abilities.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications to the City from this report.

Term of Council Priorities:

This report fulfills the Council Priority of the City of Brampton as a Mosaic, recognizing the City's continued commitment towards accessibility for all residents of Brampton.

Conclusion:

This report advises Committee on the recent selection of 10 City-owned sites to receive a complimentary accessibility rating through the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification Program. Rating results, once available, will be provided to the Committee at a future meeting.

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