

Date: 2020-10-01

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

Contact: Teresa Olsen, Deputy Clerk, City Clerk’s Office

Report Number: Legislative Services-2020-219

Recommendations:

1. That the report titled **Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC) Program – City of Brampton Facilities** (RM21-2020, BJX), to the Committee of Council meeting of October 7, 2020 , be received; and
2. That the City Clerk be authorized to execute the Participation Agreement with the Rick Hansen Foundation for complimentary ratings on nine (9) City facilities through the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification Program.

Overview:

- **The Rick Hansen Foundation, 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.**
- **The City is required to enter into a Participation Agreement with the Rick Hansen Foundation to participate in the complimentary ratings program.**

Background:

In early 2020, the Rick Hansen Foundation 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 on March 10th, 2020 as well as to City Council at the March 11th, 2020 meeting related to the benefits of the RHFAC program and the details related to the Pilot Project funded by the Province.

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

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

Current Situation:

On September 30th, 2020, the City received notification from the Rick Hansen Foundation that all nine City sites had been approved for the complimentary ratings.

The Participation Agreement was forwarded to Legal Services for review prior to this report being brought forward.

As the assessment 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, it would be beneficial to enter into the Participation Agreement in order to proceed with the complimentary ratings.

With approval from Council, the City Clerk would execute the Participation Agreement on behalf of the City and an RHFAC Professional would be scheduled to complete the complimentary ratings at each of the nine (9) City facilities.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

As the ratings are being offered complimentary, due to funding from the Province, there are no financial implications to the City. Results from the facility reviews and ratings may identify accessibility improvements to enhance universal access for all, which can inform future budget considerations.

Other Implications:

Some staff resources will be required to facilitate the provision of required information to the RHFAC professional who completes the complimentary ratings. These resources are not expected to have an impact on operations or finances.

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. The City Clerk's Office strives to promote accessibility for all as a key priority in our day-to-day business and future planning.

Conclusion:

Participating in the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC) Program will deliver a snapshot of the nine identified City facilities related to accessibility requirements for people with varying disabilities which will foster more inclusive public spaces for people of all abilities. It is recommended the City enter into the Participation Agreement to engage the RHFAC Professional to complete the ratings on the nine City facilities.

Authored by:

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