



News Release



Premier Okalik Welcomes Canada's Man In Motion To Nunavut

Premier Okalik welcomes Rick Hansen
for inaugural trip to Iqaluit in celebration of 20th Anniversary of Man In Motion Tour

IQALUIT, Nunavut (June 6th, 2007) – Premier Paul Okalik, Health and Social Services Minister Leona Aglukkaq, and Canada's 'Man In Motion' Rick Hansen met members of the community today to celebrate Hansen's Man In Motion 20th Anniversary and to officially sign a partnership between the Rick Hansen Foundation and the Government of Nunavut.

In March 2007, Premier Okalik announced his commitment to contribute to Rick Hansen's work with an investment of \$100,000 for the disability community in Nunavut. Today, Premier Okalik, Minister Aglukkaq and Hansen joined together in the spirit of friendship with the official signing of the partnership. With this contribution, Nunavut joins a national effort to enhance solutions, research and leadership for people with spinal cord injuries (SCI) and mobility impairment.

"Today, I am honoured to welcome Rick Hansen to Nunavut as he celebrates the 20th Anniversary of his Man In Motion World Tour," Said Okalik. "His tour inspired us to see the world through his eyes and to address accessibility in our own communities. Twenty years later, he is continuing this good work. It is a pleasure for the Government of Nunavut to partner with the Rick Hansen Foundation to improve the quality of life of Nunavummiut with disabilities."

"Through this partnership, the Government of Nunavut contributed \$100,000 over five years to the Rick Hansen Foundation," said Aglukkaq. "This funding complements ongoing efforts by the Health & Social Services to improve the quality of life of Nunavummiut with disabilities with practical solutions, research, and leadership. The Foundation provides expert knowledge and applies all funds received from the Government of Nunavut back in Nunavut."

"Thank you Premier Okalik, for your leadership and friendship. I am truly honoured to be celebrating our partnership here with you in Iqaluit, during our 20th Anniversary, and am grateful for your contribution," said Hansen. "This collaborative partnership symbolizes our shared commitment to ensuring that people with SCI in Nunavut have the opportunity to meet their priority needs and achieve their dreams. By connecting with Solutions Teams in every Province Territory, the Nunavut Solutions Team will be able to share learnings, best practices and leadership to make a difference."

“We look forward to working with our partners in government and the community in Nunavut to improve the quality of life of people with spinal cord injury and related disabilities, and advance research towards a cure in the future,” said Hansen.

The \$100,000 contribution will be made in five equal payments over the next five years. In turn, the Rick Hansen Foundation will work with a Nunavut-based ‘Solutions Team’ to help deliver practical solutions to groups and individuals, as well as access research programs and initiatives. Leadership activities such as the annual ‘Wheels In Motion’ fundraiser will also be supported.

The Rick Hansen Foundation works to create more accessible and inclusive communities for people with a spinal cord injury, and supports the search for a cure. The Foundation achieves its goals by connecting the people and resources that make innovation possible.

For more information, visit www.rickhansen.com.

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