



News Release

Hansen Foundation Partnership to Help Nunavummiut

IQALUIT, Nunavut (March 20, 2007) – Premier Paul Okalik, Health and Social Services Minister Leona Aglukkaq, and Canada’s ‘Man in Motion’ Rick Hansen today announced that Nunavut has joined a national effort to enhance solutions, research and leadership for people with spinal cord injuries (SCI) and mobility impairment.

“Twenty years ago, Rick Hansen’s Man-In-Motion World Tour inspired us all to see the world through his eyes,” said Okalik. “Today, in celebration of the tour’s 20th Anniversary, we are pleased to announce a partnership which will see the Government of Nunavut contribute \$100,000 over five years to the Rick Hansen Foundation. This funding will complement on-going efforts by the Government of Nunavut to improve the quality of life of Nunavummiut with disabilities with practical solutions, research, and leadership.”

“The Nunavut Disabilities Makinnasuaqtittit Society, health and social service providers, and others involved in providing practical, moral and financial support to people with disabilities will benefit from the expert knowledge of the Foundation’s staff, said Aglukkaq. The Foundation will apply all funds received from the Government of Nunavut back in Nunavut.”

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.

“Thank you Premier Okalik, for your leadership and friendship. I am truly honoured that Nunavut is celebrating our 20th Anniversary with this partnership,” said Hansen. “This collaborative partnership symbolizes the profound commitment we share to ensuring that people with SCI in Nunavut have the opportunity to meet their priority needs and achieve their dreams. The Nunavut Solutions Team will connect with Solutions Teams in every Province and Territory to share learnings, best practices and leadership in support of this goal.

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

