

ABOUT #APN2021 - Accelerating Access

Join us online for a completely virtual conference, March 11 & 12, 2021.

Welcome to #APN2021 – a conference dedicated to Accelerating Access for people of all abilities. Building on the success of our last conference, #APN2021 once again brings together thought-leaders, researchers and industry leaders in accessibility and the built environment to share ideas and collaborate on solutions that accelerate us forward towards improved accessibility.

Featuring an exciting line up of [national and international panelists](#), this year's two-day conference provides attendees with an opportunity to participate in meaningful conversations with accessibility professionals from around the globe - all from the comfort of home!

Attend #APN2021 to:

- Contribute to the movement of accelerating access by removing barriers in the built environment.
- Connect with like-minded industry professionals through the conference's networking opportunities.
- Inspire discussion, share experiences, and align goals.
- Learn from national and international leaders on what you can do to become more accessible (even if you think you already are!)
- Be part of the conversation on a range of accessibility topics and industry sector panels
- Find leading vendors and solution providers at the Products and Services Showcase

Your #APN2021 Delegate Pass Includes:

- **Plenary sessions** hosting national and international trailblazers
- **Sector and Technical Panels** sharing initiatives advancing accessibility and speaking to work still required
- **Innovation showcase presentations** featuring advancements in accessibility in the built environment from around the world
- **Dedicated networking time**
- **Product and Services Showcase**

Schedule

Thursday, 11th March

10:00 – 17:00

PRODUCT & SERVICES SHOWCASE OPENS

10:50 – 11:00

WELCOME REMARKS

Speaker: [Doramy Ehling](#)

11:00 – 11:45

OPENING PLENARY SESSION

Speakers: [Honourable Carla Qualtrough, MP](#) [Riaz Meghji](#) [Rick Hansen](#)

In this live conversation, our panelists will share their respective journey navigating Canada's built environment, reflecting on what has changed over the years and speak to the changes still required to enable everyone to navigate everywhere across our shared built environment.

This session opens the conference and serves as a call to action for attendees to explore and confirm their role in accelerating access. This session will include a live Q&A chat format.

Panelists:

- **Rick Hansen**, Founder, Rick Hansen Foundation
- **Hon. Carla Qualtrough**, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Government of Canada

Moderator:

- **Riaz Meghji**, Author, Every Conversation Counts, Broadcast Host

11:45 – 12:00

WELLNESS BREAK

12:00 PM – 12:45 PM

PLENARY SESSION: REVOLUTIONIZING DIVERSITY & INCLUSION IN THE EXECUTIVE COMMUNITY

Speakers: [Andrea Nalyzty](#) [Caroline Casey](#) [Paul Clark](#)

Find out how Canadian and global leaders are putting disability on top of the corporate leadership agenda, creating a tipping-point for unprecedented change and unlocking the social and economic potential of 1.3 billion people with disabilities around the world.

Panelists:

- **Andrea Nalyzty**, SVP, Chief Compliance Office and Global Regulations, CIBC
- **Caroline Casey**, Founder & Creator, The Valuable 500
- **Paul Clark**, President, TD Direct Investing & EVP, TD Bank Group

12:45 – 13:00

WELLNESS BREAK

13:00 – 13:45

SECTOR SESSION: POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

Speakers: [Dave Button](#) [Dean Mellway](#) [Paul Davidson](#) [Ron Proulx](#)

More than 1.4 million students are enrolled in post-secondary institutions, staffed by another 46,000 people. Session panelists share what they've learned and the steps universities are continuing take to create meaningful physical access at their campuses and how that fits into the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives at all Canadian Universities.

Panelists:

- **Paul Davidson**, President, Universities Canada
- **Dean Mellway**, Accessibility Advisor, READ (Research, Education Accessibility and Design) and FMP (Facilities, Management and Planning), Carleton University
- **Ron Proulx**, Architect and Chartered Manager, Executive Director Facilities Management, University of Victoria

Moderator:

- **Dave Button**, Vice-President (Administration), University of Regina

13:00 – 13:45

TECHNICAL SESSION: HARMONIZATION OF NATIONAL STANDARDS

Speakers: [Brad McCannell](#) [Dr. Alison Novak](#) [Lui Greco](#) [Philip Rizcallah](#)

This session provides an update on steps underway to harmonize accessibility across Canada and identify the steps needed to accelerate access, leading to a seamless experience navigating the built environment across Canada.

Panelists:

- **Philip Rizcallah**, CEO, Accessibility Standards Canada
- **Dr. Alison Novak**, Scientist, University Health Network & Lead Researcher, A Canadian Roadmap for Accessibility Standards
- **Brad McCannell**, VP Access & Inclusion, Rick Hansen Foundation

Moderator:

- **Lui Greco**, Manager Regulatory Affairs, CNIB (confirmed)

14:00 – 14:30
NETWORKING

14:30 – 15:15
SECTOR SESSION: MUNICIPALITIES

Speakers: [Darren Young](#) [Dave Slater](#) [Marco Pasqua](#) [Tara Cleave](#) [Teresa Olsen](#)

Municipal accessibility champions share how they've been able to successfully move accessibility to the top of council's agenda and discuss the work that still needs to be done to remove barriers within their communities.

Panelists:

- **Tara Cleave**, Support Services & Accessibility Manager, City of Surrey
- **Darren Young**, Manager of Building Infrastructure, Halifax Regional Municipality
- **Dave Slater**, Coordinator, Community Wellbeing & Inclusion, City of Regina
- **Teresa Olsen** – Deputy Clerk, Administrative Services and Elections, City of Brampton

Moderator:

- **Marco Pasqua**, Accessibility and Inclusion Consultant, Marco Pasqua Enterprises

14:30 – 15:15
TECHNICAL SESSION: ARCHITECT & DESIGNERS – IT STARTS WITH A PLAN

Speakers: [Amy Pothier](#) [Christopher T. Sutton](#) [Lorene Casiez](#) [Stanis Smith](#)

Join our panelists as they share the steps they have been able to take to accelerate access by applying Universal Design principles to their work and explore what the profession thinks is needed to enable the mainstream adoption of meaningful access.

Panelists:

- **Lorene Casiez**, Accessibility & Wellness Lead for Human Space, BDP Quadrangle
- **Amy Pothier**, Inclusive Design and Building Code Strategist, Gensler
- **Christopher T. Sutton**, CEO, Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility

Moderator:

- **Stanis Smith**, Architect & Board Member, Rick Hansen Foundation

15:15 – 15:30

WELLNESS BREAK

15:30 – 16:25

IN CONVERSATION: WHY THIS MATTERS & WHAT CAN YOU DO

Speakers: [Charlene VanderGriendt](#) [Jill Wurflinger](#) [Lauren McDougall](#) [Paul VanderGriendt](#) [Rich Padulo](#) [Siena Padulo](#)

Be inspired by two “ordinary” Canadian families driven by extraordinary passion to break down barriers and accelerate access, creating an inclusive world for everyone, everywhere.

Panelists:

- **Rich Padulo**, Founder, Treat Accessibly
- **Siena Padulo**, Treat Accessibly
- **Charlene VanderGriendt**, Owner, Oasis B&B
- **Paul VanderGriendt**, Planner, Problem Solver and Storyteller
- **Lauren McDougall**, Senior Advisor & Accessibility Advocate, BMO

Moderator:

- **Jill Wurflinger**, Director, The Rick Hansen Foundation School Program & Para Rowing Coach, FISA/World Rowing

16:30 – 16:45

DAY ONE- CONCLUSION

Speakers: [Brad McCannell](#) [Doramy Ehling](#)

Speakers:

- **Doramy Ehling**, CEO, The Rick Hansen Foundation
- **Brad McCannell**, VP, Access & Inclusion, The Rick Hansen Foundation

16:30 – 17:00

NETWORKING

Friday, 12th March

08:30 – 15:00

PRODUCT & SERVICES SHOWCASE OPENS

08:50 – 09:00

DAY TWO OPENING REMARKS

Speaker: [Doramy Ehling](#)

09:00 – 09:30

INNOVATION PRESENTATION: ISRAEL

Speakers: [Kevin Ng](#) [Yuval Wagner](#)

Presenter:

- **Yuval Wagner**, Founder & Chair Access Israel Org

Moderator:

- **Kevin Ng**, Content Lead, Accessibility Certification, RHFAC

09:00 – 09:30

INNOVATION PRESENTATION: NETHERLANDS

Speakers: [Mike Greer](#) [Wilbert Willems](#) [Wouter Schelvis](#)

Breda for Everyone

Presenters:

- **Wilbert Willems**, Platform Chairman, Breda for Everyone
- **Wouter Schelvis**, Accessibility Advisor, Platform, Breda for Everyone

Moderator:

- **Mike Greer**, Outreach & Engagement Specialist, RHFAC, The Rick Hansen Foundation

09:45 – 10:15

INNOVATION PRESENTATION: USA

Speakers: [Jonathan R White](#) [Kevin Ng](#)

Presenter:

- **Jonathan R White**, Centre for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access, University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning

Moderator:

- **Kevin Ng**, Content Lead, Accessibility Certification, RHFAC

09:45 – 10:15

INNOVATION PRESENTATION: USA

Speaker: [Jenny Blome](#)

Speaker:

- **Chris Minter**, Architect, Populous Architects of Seattle Climate Pledge Arena

Moderator:

- **Jenny Blome**, Manager Special Projects, RHFAC

10:15 – 10:30

WELLNESS BREAK

11:00 – 11:45

PLENARY SESSION: ACCESSIBLE WORKPLACES & ECONOMIC INCLUSION

Speakers: [Jeff Willbond](#) [Maureen Haan](#)

Persons with disabilities represent an untapped workforce that can not only provide economic benefit to Canada, but ensure everyone can participate and contribute to our communities. According to Conference Board of Canada's report, The Business Case to Build Physically Accessible Environments, 57% of Canadians with physical disabilities who are currently unemployed believe they would be able to work if workplaces were made more accessible. What's more, almost half (49%) of Canadians with physical disabilities who are currently working believe they would be able to work more hours if workplaces were made more accessible.

How do we engage employers – large and small – to accelerate access in the workplace?

Speaker:

- **Maureen Haan**, President and CEO, Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work

Moderator:

- **Jeff Willbond**, Director General, Proactive Compliance, Canadian Human Rights Commission

12:00 – 12:30
NETWORKING

12:30 – 13:15
SECTOR SESSION: SPORTS & RECREATION

Speakers: [Aaron Bruce](#) [Karen O'Neill](#) [Kirsten Sharp](#) [Nick Morris](#)

Sport has always been an integral part of improving the lives of people with disabilities. It is a rehabilitation tool, a mental health tool, and as a physiotherapy tool. This session will examine how sports facilities and support infrastructure impacts athletes at the professional and amateur levels, and sports fans alike.

Panelists:

- **Aaron Bruce**, Vice-President Sports & Games, Canada Games Council
- **Karen O'Neill**, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Paralympic Committee
- **Nick Morris**, O.A.M, Games Access Consultant, Morris Goding Access Consulting Australia

Moderator:

- **Kirsten Sharp**, Athlete

12:30 – 13:15
TECHNICAL SESSION: CREATING ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES

Speakers: [Erin Shilliday](#) [Samantha Proulx](#) [Sophie Aladas](#) [Tim Archer](#)

Creating accessible communities where everyone can live and participate fully in all aspects of their communities requires thoughtful planning, policies and participation from various stakeholders. Our panelists will share how they are addressing barriers in their communities through the use of technology and what you can do to advance access.

Panelists:

- **Tim Archer**, Principal, Advanced Listening
- **Sophie Aladas**, CEO, Key2Access
- **Erin Shilliday**, Co-Founder, Pedesting

Moderator:

- **Samantha Proulx**, Principal, Accessible Built Environment (ABE) Factors

13:15 – 13:30
WELLNESS BREAK

13:30 – 14:15

SECTOR SESSION: COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

Speakers: [Benjamin Shinewald](#) [Lachlan McQuarrie](#) [Michael Brooks](#)

The commercial real estate sector – whether owners, managers, investors or tenants – have made sustainability a default business consideration. In doing so, they are embarking on environmentally-friendly strategies that increase property values while meeting their tenants' demands.

What can we learn to accelerate access? In this session, leaders from the commercial real estate sector will share the lessons learned on what is required to create a compelling business case for accessibility based on lessons learned from the sustainability movement.

Panelists:

- **Michael Brooks**, CEO, REALPAC
- **Lachlan McQuarrie**, Board of Directors, GBCI Canada

Moderator:

- **Benjamin Shinewald**, CEO, BOMA Canada

13:30 – 14:15

TECHNICAL SESSION: HOME ACCESSIBILITY

Speakers: [Linda Kafka](#) [Nancy Bestic](#) [Perry Chao](#) [Ron Wickman](#)

As aging in place becomes more in demand, meaningful accessibility within the residential realm needs to become a reality. In this session, we will explore creating new norms for mainstream housing, and learn about the CSA Group's latest research and development of new standards on accessible, affordable housing.

Panelists:

- **Perry Chao**, Project Manager, Construction and Infrastructure Standards, CSA Group
- **Ron Wickman**, Architect and Author, Ron Wickman Architects
- **Linda Kafka**, Founder, LivABLE Environment Inc.

Moderator:

- **Nancy Bestic**, Director, Health and Safety Standards, CSA Group

14:30 – 15:15

PLENARY: MEETING THE BUILT WORLD WITH OUR BODIES

Speakers: [Sara Hendren](#) [Stanis Smith](#)

Join our closing session as Sara Hendren, who is an artist, design researcher and writer, speaks to how we meet the built world in our many bodies in the tools we use the products in our daily rituals, the rooms where we live and work and the streets we traverse. Sara's work includes social design projects and mixed media collaborations that engage technology and the adaptive human body. She is the author of *What a Body can Do? How we Meet the Built World*.

Speaker:

- **Sara Hendren**, Author and Associate Professor, Olin College of Engineering

Moderator:

- **Stanis Smith**, Architect & Board Member, Rick Hansen Foundation

15:15 – 15:30

CONCLUSION: CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

Speaker: [Doramy Ehling](#)

15:30 – 16:00

NETWORKING