



## BACKGROUND

### THREE ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUNDS BEING BUILT IN 2010 VENUE CITIES

**Vancouver, B.C. (October 23, 2009):** The Province of British Columbia, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Canada, Rick Hansen Foundation and 2010 Legacies Now are funding three world-class accessible playgrounds. Announced today in Richmond, these playgrounds will meet the needs of children with disabilities, and enable these children to play side-by-side with their siblings, friends and families.

#### QUOTES FROM VENUE CITY PARTNERS:

##### **Richmond**

“This playground is a great addition to the Middle Arm Greenway that will connect the Richmond Olympic Oval with the Canada Line,” says Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie. “It will allow all children equal opportunity to play along the Fraser River.”

##### **Vancouver**

“The new playground in Kitsilano, which will be accessible and fun for kids of all ages, is a welcome addition to our efforts to create a city that everyone can enjoy and use,” says Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson. “This is a great community legacy from the 2010 Games - thank you to our partners at the Province, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Canada, the Rick Hansen Foundation, 2010 Legacies Now and Shane’s Inspiration for making this happen.”

##### **Whistler**

“The accessible playground is one of the many legacies for Whistler brought by hosting the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games,” says Mayor Ken Melamed. “We are extremely grateful to our partners, to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Canada, the Rick Hansen Foundation, 2010 Legacies Now and Shane’s Inspiration for their contribution to a safe and fun place where all kids can play for years to come.”

#### QUOTE FROM SHANE’S INSPIRATION:

“We salute the efforts of the Cities of Vancouver, Richmond and Whistler for their dedication to bringing inclusive play environments to children of all abilities. The Province of British Columbia, 2010 Legacies Now, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Canada and the Rick Hanson Foundation, the collective partners behind these projects, have invested in a legacy that will transform these communities by bringing honor, joy and the magic of play to ALL children,” said Tiffany Harris, founder and CEO, Shane’s Inspiration. “We are honored to have had the opportunity to collaborate on the design of such an important project. We look forward to partnering with these cities in implementing powerful educational programming at these sites once they are open to the public.”

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## **PARTNERS FOR THE ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUNDS PROJECT:**

### **Province of British Columbia**

The Province of B.C. supports accessibility for all British Columbians through community partnerships with a variety of programs and organizations, including 2010 Legacies Now and the Rick Hansen Foundation. Each year, the Province invests more than \$4.3 billion in disability supports and services. These investments support the Government's Disability Strategy, ensuring people with disabilities have easier access to the supports they need.

### **Ronald McDonald House Charities of Canada**

Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®) of Canada is a registered charity dedicated to helping children with serious illnesses or disabilities, and their families, lead happier and healthier lives by supporting each Canadian Ronald McDonald House®, the Ronald McDonald Family Room® Program and by awarding grants to many other children's charities across the country. Since its inception in 1982, RMHC Canada has awarded more than \$60 million in grants to the 12 Ronald McDonald Houses, the Ronald McDonald Family Rooms and to many children's charities across Canada. This support has benefited thousands of children and families in more than 600 communities. Visit [www.rmhc.ca](http://www.rmhc.ca) for more information.

### **Rick Hansen Foundation**

The Rick Hansen Foundation works to create accessible and inclusive communities for people with spinal cord injury and champion research for a cure. Inspired by the extraordinary achievement of founder Rick Hansen's Man In Motion World Tour, the Foundation strives to make a positive difference in the quality of life of people with spinal cord injury. Through innovative thinking and leadership, the Foundation supports its goals by connecting people and resources across all the sectors necessary to deliver effective and lasting results - and to make change possible.

### **2010 Legacies Now**

2010 Legacies Now is a not-for-profit society that works in partnership with community organizations, non-government organizations, the private sector and all levels of government to develop sustainable legacies in sport and recreation, healthy living, arts, literacy, accessibility and volunteerism. 2010 Legacies Now assists communities to discover and create inclusive social and economic opportunities leading up to, and beyond, the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Visit [2010LegaciesNow.com](http://2010LegaciesNow.com) or [2010andBeyond.ca](http://2010andBeyond.ca) for more information.

### **Shane's Inspiration**

Shane's Inspiration is dedicated to breaking down the barriers of bias toward children with disabilities through the creation of universally-accessible playgrounds and play programs that promote inclusion socially, physically and emotionally. Responsible for creating the first universally-accessible playground in the Western United States in 2000, the organization has inspired inclusion movements in communities throughout the U.S. and beyond, reaching India, Mexico and Ireland, among others. They have designed more than 40 inclusive, sensory-rich play environments and have over 90 in development worldwide. Each year, they bring more than 3,000 children with and without disabilities together in Los Angeles through school field trips, monthly community events, and a school-based ability awareness program, "Together, We Are Able." Visit [shanesinspiration.org](http://shanesinspiration.org) for more information.

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