

**NEWS RELEASE**

June 3, 2017

**Beacon Community Services announces Rick Hansen Foundation Access4All Barrier Buster Project**  
**SHOAL Centre Accessibility Project will contribute to more inclusive and accessible Canada**

SIDNEY, BC– Beacon Community Services announced today a \$25,518 funding grant through the Rick Hansen Foundation’s Access4All Program, a Canada 150 Signature Initiative aimed at breaking down barriers for people living with disabilities. The grant will support the community of Sidney’s “Barrier Buster” Project, through the SHOAL Centre Accessibility Project.

Beacon’s SHOAL Centre Accessibility Project was created with the help of Sidney’s Access Awareness Committee, with a goal of making SHOAL Centre fully accessible for local residents.

Thanks to the Rick Hansen Foundation grant, Beacon Community Services, the local charity which operates the SHOAL Centre, will enhance the community centre with:

- automatic flush toilets and motion detecting faucets to four handicap washrooms;
- Braille signage; and
- the addition of three hearing induction loops.

Installations will begin in July and should be completed by October.

“The project will make our washrooms significantly more inclusive and accessible. It’ll also enable individuals with vision and/or hearing loss to more easily navigate around the centre, where they can access all sorts of valuable information and participate in a huge variety of activities,” said Glenys Cavers, Beacon’s Director of SHOAL Centre.

“Beacon Community Services wants to help ensure that every individual has the opportunity to realize their full potential, and it begins with creating inclusive and accessible communities,” said Beacon CEO Bob Boulter. “With support from the Government of Canada and the Rick Hansen Foundation, this project will play an important role. We’re proud to be part of the Canada 150 Access4All program, helping build a world without barriers and delivering on Beacon’s mission of helping people and improving lives.”

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**Backgrounder attached**

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## **BACKGROUND**

### **About the Rick Hansen Access4All Program**

On this upcoming milestone of Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation, the Rick Hansen Foundation, with support from the Government of Canada, invited schools and community groups to learn more about accessibility, identify barriers, and apply for grants of up to \$30,000 to undertake and celebrate accessibility infrastructure improvements in public places and spaces.

For more information on Rick Hansen's Access4All program, please visit:  
[www.rickhansen.com/access4all](http://www.rickhansen.com/access4all)

Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> is an opportunity to celebrate the values of our great country with pride: values such as inclusion, diversity, compassion and access for everyone. As we celebrate these values, it's also important that we create lasting impact. **Together, we can create an accessible Canada and leave a lasting legacy for our country's 150<sup>th</sup>.**

For more information on the Canada 150 Signature initiative, please visit:  
<http://canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1468262573081>

### **About Beacon Community Services**

Established on the Saanich Peninsula in 1974, Beacon Community Services is now one of BC's largest not-for-profit social services organizations. It serves about 10,000 clients in the Greater Victoria, Salt Spring, and outer Gulf Islands areas, including in the fields of: Child, Youth and Family services; Counselling and Mental Health; Employment and Training ; Affordable Housing; Assisted Living and Licensed Dementia Care; Home Support and other health care services; Volunteer Services; and Adult/Senior's Recreation Services.

Additionally, many local community programs to help people and improve lives are supported with funds raised by selling donated items at Beacon's seven thrift shops.

Beacon is proud to offer a wide array of services and amenities at the SHOAL Centre in Sidney. SHOAL services support adults and senior's physical, mental, and social well-being by combining community-based recreation, volunteer, and education services with a seniors' activity centre, a public dining room, and catering, rental and meeting services. An Assisted Living residential care home is on the upper floors.

For more information about Beacon Community Services/the SHOAL Centre, please visit:  
[www.beaconcs.ca](http://www.beaconcs.ca)