

February 15, 2024

File: 1-71-5; 0400-92; cc 0620-03

Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Board
c/o Cariboo Regional District
Attention: Alice Johnston, Deputy CAO / Manager of Corporate Services
Suite D, 180 Third Avenue North
Williams Lake, BC
V2G 2A4

Dear Alice:

RE: Universal Accessibility Assessment for Hospital Redevelopment Project – referred by City WL Council

Council, at its regular meeting held February 13, 2024, considered the above matter. Quoted hereunder is Resolution No. 63/24 as passed at that meeting.

“That pursuant to Committee of Whole Council Report #08-2024, Accessibility Advisory Committee Report #01-2024 and the report of the Manager of Economic Development dated December 20, 2023, Council formally request that the Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital Board have the current design plans for the Cariboo Memorial Hospital expansion project be reviewed by a qualified Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certified (RHFAC) professional, including the overall universal design components of the building plans, to ensure that any issues identified be acknowledged prior to construction.”

In accordance with the above-quoted Resolution, we are requesting that this item be considered by the Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Board at the March 22, 2024 CCRHD meeting. Please confirm inclusion of this item once approved for this agenda. Once confirmed, we will also be submitting a delegation request for Beth Veenkamp, Manager of Economic Development, and a member(s) of the Rick Hansen Foundation to present to the CCRHD in support of this request.

Should you have any questions in this regard, contact the undersigned at 250-392-1773 or rcoupe@williamslake.ca.

Yours truly,



Ross Coupé
Corporate Officer



**CITY OF WILLIAMS LAKE
COMMITTEE OF WHOLE COUNCIL
REPORT #08-2024**

PRESENTED: Regular Meeting of Council – February 13, 2024 **DATE:** February 7, 2024
FROM: Committee of Whole Council **FILE:** 1-71-5; 0400-92; cc 0620-03
SUBJECT: Universal Accessibility Assessment (CMH)

The Committee of Whole Council met on February 6, 2024 to consider the above matter and makes the following recommendation to Council:

RECOMMENDATION:

“That the report of the Manager of Economic Development dated December 20, 2023 be received and Council formally request that the Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital Board have the current design plans for the Cariboo Memorial Hospital expansion project be reviewed by a qualified Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certified (RHFAC) professional, including the overall universal design components of the building plans, to ensure that any issues identified be acknowledged prior to construction.”

Respectfully submitted,

Ross Coupé
Corporate Officer



CITY OF WILLIAMS LAKE COUNCIL REPORT

DATE OF REPORT: December 20, 2023
DATE & TYPE OF MEETING: February 6, 2024 Committee of Whole Council Meeting
AUTHOR: **Beth Veenkamp, Manager of Economic Development**
SUBJECT: **UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT FOR HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT**
FILE: **1-71-5; 0400-92; CC 0620-03**

Recommendation

That Council receive the report for information and formally request that the Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital Board have the current design plans for the Cariboo Memorial Hospital expansion be reviewed by a qualified Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certified (RHFAC) professional including the overall universal design components of the building plans to ensure that any issues identified be acknowledged prior to construction.

Purpose

To inform Council of the opportunity to request that the current design plans for the Cariboo Memorial Hospital expansion be reviewed by a qualified Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certified (RHFAC) professional.

Discussion

Background

For the purposes of this report, the following acronyms are used:

- *Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF)*
- *Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC)*
- *Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification – “Accessibility Certified Gold” (RHFAC Gold)*

In June of 2023, the City of Williams Lake committed to supporting and implementing the goals of the Rick Hansen Foundation Certification Program in the Williams Lake Accessibility Plan adopted in the summer of 2023.

In the fall of 2023, the Mayor and Manager of Economic Development met with Rick Hansen who expressed his hope that the City would take a leadership role in ensuring that the community take the opportunity at the pre-building stage to assess the building plans of the hospital expansion project with the lens of universal design.

Analysis

Subsequent meetings with the RHF, staff found that to have the existing building plans reviewed by a RHFAC professional is a fairly simple process, and that the designer of the project (Stantec) do have an RHFAC professional on staff that could do this review. Alternately, the work could be contracted to

other providers of this service, including the Rick Hansen Foundation which has a social enterprise that does this work. The estimate to have the plans reviewed with the RHFAC lens was less than \$10,000.

The benefit of doing this work at the pre-build stage is to catch any potential large problems before construction is underway. Identifying any issues will be far less expensive to amend in the design phase than finding issues while the building is in progress or when the project is finished. It was explained that because the build is for a hospital it likely is going to meet the threshold to be RHFAC. To reach the Gold standard, there could potentially be some recommendations for different choices for the finishing work on the project. Amendments at the design phase will save costs and since this project is in its very early stages, and prior to the purchasing and procurement for interior finishing stages the time to undertake this work is now. Rick Hansen himself was very keen for our community to undertake this assessment to see if we could achieve a Certified or Gold rating on this new build.

For the facility expansion to be RHFAC Certified the requirement is:

The design must include a universal accessibility consultant with RHFAC Professional certification to review the proposed design and prepare reports outlining their findings and providing recommendations for ways to improve accessibility. At the 100% Issue for Review stage, the RHFAC Professional must complete an RHFAC Rating Survey on the RHFAC Registry based on information collected during their review of the drawings, submit the rating for adjudication, and address any issues identified by the adjudicator.

Options

The CCRHD could direct the designer of the project to undertake the assessment or could elect to contract this work to another certified agency. There would be a cost for this assessment, and then the modification to any designs that need to be adjusted. The City does not have the authority to require this action of the CCRHD, but a formal request from Council to those decision-makers to take this additional step will ensure that we are delivering the best possible project for the community. Taking this step would go a long way in demonstrating that Williams Lake upholds its commitment to reflect the values and principles of universal design. This has been one of the legacy pieces from the Man in Motion World Tour that has been championed by the Rick Hansen Foundation for many years. Considering Williams Lake does not have many “tax-payer” led construction projects it is a rare opportunity to start setting the standard and upholding the commitments and goals of the Williams Lake Accessibility Plan.

Other Considerations

The RHF has many publications that show that the RHF Certified or Gold Status rating can be achieved in the planning and design stage with as little as a 1% increase in the final budget. Representatives from the RHF have offered to attend a future meeting to answer any questions, as well as participate in a mentorship role during the process.

This matter is also being reviewed by the City’s Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) on the same day it is slated to be reviewed by the Committee of the Whole Council. If the AAC provides any recommendations on this matter, this will be shared verbally with Council.

Financial Considerations (Cost and Resource Allocation)

- Yes
- N/A – There are no costs associated with this item for the City, but, if accepted, there would be costs born by the Hospital District.

Legislative Considerations (Applicable Policies and/or Bylaws)

- Yes – The proposed action would be in-line with the City of Williams Lake’s [Accessibility and Inclusivity Plan](#).
- N/A

This project aligns with the following Focus Areas of Council’s Strategic Plan:

- Collaboration and Partnerships
- Indigenous Relations
- Livability / Positive Atmosphere
- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Organizational Effectiveness
- OR
- *Core Service (not identified in Focus Areas, but necessary local government function)

This report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Building Inspector
- Planner

Approved for Agenda by:

Chief Administrative Officer

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Veenkamp
Manager of Economic Development