



Press Release

RICK HANSEN RELAY TO VISIT PORT COQUITLAM IN 2012

Port Coquitlam, B.C. – APRIL 14, 2011... A community celebration will greet the Rick Hansen 25th Anniversary Relay when it rolls through Port Coquitlam on May 17, 2012.

Port Coquitlam will be one of more than 600 communities visited by the relay, which will re-create the Canadian portion of Hansen's Man in Motion World Tour.

"I remember my parents waking me up at 6:30 in the morning when Rick Hansen first came through. We went down to the corner of Coast Meridian and Prairie and watched him fly by," recalled Mayor Greg Moore.

"Port Coquitlam has a strong connection with Rick Hansen because of Terry Fox – he comes out and speaks almost every year at our Terry Fox Hometown Run. This relay will be another opportunity for our community to come together and show support for an important cause."

The stop in Port Coquitlam will come near the end of the 12,000-km relay, which begins Aug. 24, 2011 in Newfoundland and ends May 22, 2012 in Vancouver. The Port Coquitlam Spirit Committee will begin working with the City this May to plan the welcoming event.

While Hansen will not be wheeling across the entire country as he did 25 years ago, he will be present at a number of stops. Walking, running and wheeling in his place will be 7,000 Canadians carrying handcrafted sterling silver Rick Hansen Medals, produced by the Royal Canadian Mint.

Canadians can apply or nominate someone to be a medal-bearer through an online contest at www.rickhansenrelay.com. Entrants must be age 13 and up and can request to participate in any community along the route, including Port Coquitlam. The online contest is open to individuals creating a more accessible and inclusive world, youth leaders, people who are protecting the environment or any Canadian who is seeking ways to improve the lives of others.

Announcing the launch of the online contest on April 5, Rick Hansen Foundation President and CEO Rick Hansen said: "This is the start of a movement for 7,000 Canadians to help inspire the nation and live by the credo that anything is possible."

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