

## Rick Hansen

**Induction Year:** 1987

**Category:** WAC Bennett Award

### Highlights:

- In the summer of 1973, an automobile crash left Rick a paraplegic and although he could no longer walk, he could dream and he became a world-class athlete.
- In 1983, Rick shared Canada's Outstanding Athlete of the Year Award with Wayne Gretsky
- Between 1979 and 1984, Rick won 19 International Wheelchair Marathons including three world championships
- Rick represented Canada at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, where he competed in the finals of the 1500-metre wheelchair race.
- Competed in team sports, winning Canadian titles in wheelchair volleyball and basketball
- Rick won over 25 track and field medals during the 1979 to 1984 time span including 9 gold medals and 9 records at the Pan American Games in Halifax, N.S.
- Rick coached able-bodied volleyball and basketball and went on to establish and coach wheelchair volleyball in British Columbia
- Set the World Record for the Longest Wheelchair Marathon (24,901.5 miles or 40,000 kilometres) *Guinness Book of Records*.
- Raised \$26 million dollars for spinal cord research and quality of life with his Man In Motion World Tour.
- Rick broke down barriers and changed people's perceptions about what is possible for anyone who dreams big and has the determination to see them through.



- Today, Rick's work continues as the Rick Hansen Man in Motion Foundation continues to raise funds with a commitment to improving the quality of life for people with spinal cord injuries.
- One of Rick's great passions is fishing. Ever since he was a young boy, he enjoyed fishing outings with his father and grandfather and friends. Rick now combines his passion for fishing with his annual events to raise funds to protect fish habitats and support spinal cord injury research.