



City of Richmond


Report to Committee

To: Planning Committee
From: Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning
Re: **RICHMOND INTERCULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2004 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2005 WORK PROGRAM & BUDGET**

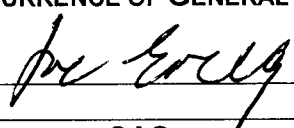


To Planning - Feb 8, 2005
Date: January 10, 2005
File: 0100-20-RIA01-01

Staff Recommendation

That the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee 2005 Work Program be approved.


Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning

Att. 2

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY					
ROUTED TO:		CONCURRENCE		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
Recreation & Cultural Services		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>		
REVIEWED BY TAG		YES	NO	REVIEWED BY CAO	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				YES	NO
				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

This report presents the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC) Annual Report to Council, describing RIAC activities and accomplishments for the year 2004, as well as the proposed RIAC 2005 Work Program and Budget.

Findings Of Fact

1. RIAC 2004 Annual Report
The highlights of RIAC 2004 activities are described in **Attachment 1**.
2. RIAC 2005 Work Program and Operating Budget
The RIAC 2005 Work Program and Operating Budget are described in **Attachment 1**.

Analysis

1. RIAC 2005 Work Program and Operating Budget

RIAC has identified five strategic directions, and specific initiatives pertaining to each, as priorities for 2005. A 2005 Work Program for these specific initiatives is outlined in **Attachment 2**.

In addition to implementation of the Strategic Plan, RIAC will also be:

- meeting with stakeholders to discuss the Strategic Plan and seek partners in implementation,
- working on Council referrals (e.g., reviewing policy re: the display of religious symbols at City Hall), and
- considering community referrals that may arise.

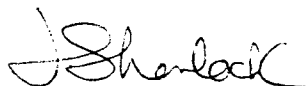
RIAC will be holding a facilitated session in January 2005 to assist members to develop an implementation plan. This will result in further refinement of RIAC's 2005 Work Program.

Financial Impact

RIAC receives an annual operating grant of \$5,000 as part of the approved 2005 base budget.

Conclusion

Staff recommend support for RIAC's proposed 2005 Work Program.



Lesley Sherlock
Social Planner (4220)
LS:cas

RICHMOND INTERCULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2004 Annual Report and 2005 Work Program and Budget

2004 Annual Report

In keeping with the mandate of the Committee, RIAC members have completed another successful year toward its goal of enhancing intercultural collaboration and cooperation in Richmond.

The Committee has promoted intercultural activities through public dialogues, participation in other City committees, receiving presentations from stakeholders and participating in community events.

1. Intercultural Education/Training Forum

In order to develop on-going intercultural dialogue with Richmond residents, an education/training forum, "Approaches to Intercultural Education", was held in April, 2004. UBC Centre for Intercultural Communications, SFU David See-Chai Lam Centre for International Communication, Laurier Institution and the Richmond School District were invited to present the approaches to cross-cultural training provided by their institutions. A cross-section of Richmond organizations and the general public attended the forum and a challenging dialogue between the presenters and attendees took place. Participants left asking for more such sessions and opportunities to interact with others.

2. RIAC Membership - Role of Youth and Seniors

Wishing to involve youth in their proceedings, RIAC members requested that their membership be increased to include two youth representatives. In addition, the Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee (RSAC) requested that a representative of their Committee be appointed to RIAC.

RIAC Terms of Reference were revised to include these representatives, bringing total membership to 17.

Efforts to recruit youth members were successful, and Council has recently appointed two youth representatives to RIAC, as well as a representative of the RSAC.

3. Council Referrals

RIAC's report regarding the inclusiveness of the election process, based on community consultation, was presented to the Planning Committee of Richmond City Council in April 2004. The report was well received.

4. Other Undertakings

Presentations Received by RIAC

RIAC meetings have been held each month. Groups intending to promote intercultural activities were invited to present to RIAC members during monthly meetings. Presentations were received from the following groups:

- ❖ Miscellaneous Productions - Elaine Carol & Jules Rochielle re: Miscellaneous Magazine, "e-race" production
- ❖ Suzanne Greening, Arts Co-ordinator, City of Richmond, re: Asian Heritage Month and At-Risk Youth and the Arts
- ❖ Meeting with Raymond Chan, Minister of State (Multiculturalism)
- ❖ Baldwin Wong, Social Planner, City of Vancouver, re: Newcomer's Guide
- ❖ Don Pearson, Manager of Community Relations, Community Bylaws Department, re: Graffiti Removal, Signage Bylaws

RIAC Participation in Community Meetings/Events

Members attended and participated in:

- ❖ Immigration and Migration Forum organized by Vancouver Foundation
- ❖ Black History Month
- ❖ Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society's Fund Raising Dinner
- ❖ Roundtable hosted by Richmond Disability Resource Centre
- ❖ Philosopher's Café in the Cultural Centre highlighting Asian Heritage Month
- ❖ Press Council of BC Lunch & Forum re: Ethnicity in the Media
- ❖ Richmond Chinese Community Support Society Seniors Recognition Event
- ❖ Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC (AMSSA) Annual General Meeting

Letters of Recognition

To acknowledge contributions made by citizens of BC, letters of recognition were sent to:

- ❖ Debbie Osipov, Principal, J.N. Burnett Secondary School, re: student production of award-winning anti-racism video
- ❖ Trevor Lai, children's author and illustrator, for promoting intercultural harmony
- ❖ Ben Dayson, winner of Library Champion Award for donation of Judaica collection to Richmond Public Library

Presentations to Council

The following RIAC reports were presented to Council:

- ❖ RIAC report on Inclusiveness of the Election Process
- ❖ RIAC 2004 - 2010 Richmond Intercultural Strategic Plan and Work Program

5. 2004 – 2010 Richmond Intercultural Strategic Plan and Work Program

After extensive consultations in the past years, the Committee spent a significant amount of time in developing recommendations for presentation to the City Council.

The RIAC Community Consultation process involved three phases: Stakeholder Consultation, Public Consultation and Focus Group sessions with residents of Richmond. This included adult as well as youth participation. In addition, a focus group with RIAC members was also held to ensure that their expertise was incorporated and a RIAC Strategic Planning Session based on the results of the community consultation process was conducted. The report to the Council Planning Committee was presented on March 8, 2004. Based on Planning Committee's directives and RIAC's amendment, the revised report was presented to the Planning Committee on September 4, 2004. After receiving their approval and suggestions, the report was presented to Richmond City Council on October 12, 2004 and approved.

The report was released to the media and the public in November, 2004. There was a tremendous interest expressed by the media with regard to the report.

2005 Work Program and Budget

1. 2004 - 2010 Richmond Intercultural Strategic Plan and Work Program

RIAC has received extensive support from City Council, staff and the public in developing recommendations to enhance intercultural activities so that Richmond's vision for it to be the most welcoming, inclusive and harmonious community in Canada can be realized.

RIAC members will be working in full partnership with the stakeholders in Richmond to implement the recommendations made in the 2004 - 2010 Richmond Intercultural Strategic Plan and Work Program.

The Committee has prioritized exploring the following strategic directions and initiatives for 2005:

- ❖ Address language barriers that interfere with building a connected and welcoming community, while also encouraging the use of heritage languages.
 - Specific activities to be determined.
- ❖ Address the perception and reality of racism and discrimination in the community. Dispel misconceptions related to culture that maintain stereotypes and foster prejudice.
 - Encourage the City, stakeholders, property owners and individuals to remove racist graffiti in a timely manner.
- ❖ Address participation gaps in events and electoral processes
 - Analyze available research and information regarding barriers faced by different cultural groups, from their own background and experience concerning participation in governance, elections, and volunteerism in Richmond, and make recommendations.
 - Assist in the development of awareness materials and information campaigns, specifically designed for different populations, that address barriers to and build

efficacy for participating in the rights and responsibilities afforded to residents of Richmond.

- Support stakeholder activities that foster civic participation (e.g., Richmond-based research on electoral participation, tours of civic facilities including City Hall & community centres, study circles).

- ❖ Encourage the City and stakeholders to align their systems, policies and planning processes with the approved Intercultural Vision and use 'best practice' methods to make decisions and prevent cross-cultural misunderstanding and antipathy.
 - Encourage including a reference to the approved Intercultural Vision and principles in the Terms of Reference of other City and stakeholder committees, task groups and the like, where appropriate.

- ❖ Continue support for newcomers through current City and stakeholder programs and partnerships.
 - Welcome newcomers to Richmond through stakeholder partnerships (e.g., hosting an annual event, brochure, letter of welcome).

2. Council Referrals

On November 1, 2004, Council made the following referral to RIAC:

“That the request of the Lubavtich BC be forwarded to the Intercultural Advisory Committee and to staff to review the current policy”.

RIAC has commenced this discussion and will report back to Council in 2005.

3. Community Issues

The Committee will also continue to work with any other issues that arise in the community in order to reach effective conclusion.

Proposed 2005 Budget

RIAC has an approved budget of \$5,000 for 2005. This will cover the costs associated with meetings, forums, interpretation/translation materials and consultant fees. Any specific costs that may arise associated with the implementation of the Strategic Plan will be presented separately.

The year has been energizing for all of us. I would like to thank all RIAC members, Mayor, Council and other Stakeholders who have supported us throughout the whole year in making Richmond a unique city and an example for others to follow. My special thanks to Counsellor Linda Barnes; Manager of Policy Planning, Terry Crowe and Social Planner, Lesley Sherlock for supporting us throughout the process. My sincere appreciation for Lesley Sherlock's continued excellent work which has made it possible for us to accomplish our desired goals.

Respectfully submitted,

Shashi Assanand, Chair
Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee

RIAC 2005 Work Program						
Strategy/Initiative	RIAC Actions/Steps	Expected Outcome of RIAC Actions	Indicator of RIAC Success	RIAC Lead/ Sub-cte	Partners	
<p>1. Strategic Direction #1: Address language barriers</p> <p>Specific activities to be determined</p>						
<p>2. Strategic Direction #2: Address racism and misconceptions</p> <p>c) Encourage the City, stakeholders, property owners and individuals to remove racist graffiti in a timely manner.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review relevant City and other municipal bylaws - discuss with City Bylaws staff - explore options - prepare report - present report to Council - increase public awareness - re: bylaw & procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review existing bylaw 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - less graffiti - quicker removal of graffiti 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Business -RCMP -religious/ethnocultural orgs. -media -others 	
<p>3. Strategic Direction #4: Address participation gaps in events and electoral processes</p> <p>a) Analyze available research and information about barriers to participation in the electoral process, etc., and make recommendations.</p> <p>b) Assist in the development of awareness materials and information campaigns for different populations re: their rights and responsibilities</p> <p>c) Support stakeholder activities that will foster civic participation (e.g., Richmond-based research, tours of civic facilities, study circles).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further discussions with City Clerk - Civic Education Society - Form sub-committee - Base further actions on results of ongoing discussions, current information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improved materials - stakeholder involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statistics indicating increased participation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Civic Education Society -religious/ethnocultural org's -community associations -NGOs -other levels of gov't -others 	
<p>4. Strategic Direction #7 – City & Stakeholders' decision processes</p> <p>a. Encourage reference to Intercultural Vision and Principles in City and stakeholders' Terms of Reference, where appropriate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RIAC to contact City Advisory Ctes, and stakeholders to promote strategic plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholders and some City advisory committees making reference to Strategic Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RIAC contact committee members to provide information 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -other City Advisory Ctes. -All stakeholders 	

RIAC 2005 Work Program

Strategy/Initiative	RIAC Actions/Steps	Expected Outcome of RIAC Actions	Indicator of RIAC Success	RIAC Lead/ Sub-cte	Partners
<p>5. Strategic Direction #9 – Continue Support for Newcomers</p> <p>a. Welcome newcomers to Richmond through stakeholder partnerships (e.g., hosting an annual event, brochure, letter of welcome)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meet with City Communications staff, other stakeholders - form subcommittee with partners - explore sponsorship - review draft 	<p>Brochure prepared for newcomers to Richmond (N.B. RIAC first focusing on brochure)</p>	<p>Booklet distributed and found useful</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -School Board -Other levels of govt. -RCMP -Business -media -NGOs -religious/ethnocultural groups -others