



City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Planning Committee  
**From:** Terry Crowe  
Manager, Policy Planning (4139)  
**Re:** **Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee**  
**2005 Annual Report and 2006 Work Program & Budget**

To Planning - Feb 21, 2006

**Date:** February 2, 2006

**File:** 01-0100-20-RIADI-01

### Staff Recommendation

That the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee 2006 Work Program be approved.

Terry Crowe  
Manager, Policy Planning

Att. 2

<b>FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY</b>		
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>		
<b>REVIEWED BY TAG</b>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>sw</i>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>REVIEWED BY CAO</b>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>sw</i>	NO <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 2005, as well as the proposed RIAC 2006 Work Program and Budget.

### Findings Of Fact

#### 1. RIAC 2005 Annual Report

The highlights of RIAC 2005 activities are described in **Attachment 1**.

A review of graffiti removal bylaws, conducted as part of RIACs 2005 Work Program, is attached (**Attachment 2**).

#### 2. RIAC 2006 Work Program and Budget

The RIAC 2005 Work Program and Budget are described in **Attachment 1**.

### Analysis

#### RIAC 2006 Work Program

RIAC has identified four strategic directions, and specific initiatives pertaining to each, as priorities for 2006.

RIAC has also received two Council referrals:

*“That staff consult with the Intercultural Advisory Committee as to how to include all religious groups in the City within the framework of the new policy.”*

*“That staff examine the matter of the ethnic make-up of all committees, and consult with the Intercultural Advisory Committee on this issue.”*

These referrals both pertain to RIACs Strategic Direction,

*“Ensure that City and stakeholder systems, policies and planning processes are aligned with the Intercultural Vision recommended in this plan and use ‘best practice’ methods to make decisions and prevent cross-cultural misunderstanding and antipathy.”*

A 2006 Work Program for these specific initiatives is outlined in **Attachment 1**. Priority will be given to addressing the two Council referrals.

### **Financial Impact**

RIAC receives an annual operating grant of \$5,000 as part of the approved 2006 base budget.

### **Conclusion**

RIACs 2006 Work Program presents steps to further achieve their vision for intercultural life in Richmond, "for Richmond to be the most welcoming, inclusive and harmonious community in Canada".

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



Lesley Sherlock  
Social Planner  
(4220)

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## Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee

### 2005 Annual Report 2006 Work Program and Budget

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#### 2005 Annual Report

Year 2005 was another successful year for RIAC in promoting intercultural harmony in Richmond, in collaboration and cooperation with other community committees and organizations.

#### **1. New Members**

Early in 2005 the RIAC membership was increased to include two youth representatives and a representative of the Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee. These members were introduced to the Committee at the January meeting.

#### **2. Council Referral**

A Council referral regarding a request to light the Menorah at City Hall was discussed in detail. The existing policy stipulated that religious symbols be displayed at the Cultural Centre.

Debate centered around the following issues:

- is the Christmas tree a cultural or religious symbol?
- will controversial groups request that their symbols be displayed?
- might groups antagonistic to each other request to display at the same time?
- how will requests by different denominations to display the same symbol at the same time be handled?
- is it appropriate to display religious symbols in a house of government?
- display criteria (e.g. location, respectful of other religions).

At the January 20, 2005 meeting, RIAC passed the following motion:

"Acknowledging that Christmas is a traditional Canadian Holiday, we support keeping current practices and that all religious symbols are placed at the Cultural Centre as per City Policy."

On October 3, 2005, the General Purposes Committee asked RIAC and staff to revise the existing policy. That month, RIAC members held a special meeting to develop contents for the proposed policy. However, following considerable debate and differences of opinion, RIAC maintained its original position on recommending that such displays continue to be placed at the Cultural Centre.

The policy subsequently adopted by Council (November 2005) to allow the display of religious symbols at City Hall contains many ideas proposed by RIAC at their October meeting.

### **3. RIAC 2005 Work Program Activities**

The RIAC 2005 Work Program focused on five strategic directions and activities, supported by sub-committees and individual members:

- **Newcomers Day Event and Guide**  
Members developed an outline for a Newcomer's Brochure. Work on this project will continue in 2006.
- **Participation Gaps in Electoral System**  
RIAC supported the Civic Engagement Society by hosting a Civic Engagement Forum on September 15. The event was very well attended and a follow-up meeting was held on November 24. A steering committee of community members was formed to carry the initiative forward.
- **Language Barriers**  
A signage audit to determine the number of signs without English was proposed and is included in the proposed 2006 Work Program.
- **Address Perception and Reality of Racism and Discrimination**  
A review of racist related graffiti and Richmond's graffiti removal bylaw, in comparison with other municipalities, was conducted. Members concluded that Richmond's bylaw was satisfactory (see attached report) and will continue to discuss related matters.
- **Ensure that Other Stakeholders are Aligned with the Intercultural Vision**  
Several presentations of the Richmond Intercultural Strategic Plan have been made (listed below). Letters were sent to stakeholders suggesting incorporating this vision in other Terms of Reference.

### **4. Presentation by RIAC to Community Groups**

RIAC members presented the 2004 – 2010 Richmond Intercultural Strategic Plan to a number of community organizations and institutions. All were well received.

Presentations were given to:

- South Arm Community Association (Everett McKenzie)
- Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee (Everett McKenzie)
- Richmond Community Services Advisory Council (Francis Chan)
- Scouts Canada (Lawrence Lim)
- Richmond Chinatown Lions Club (Lawrence Lim)
- Civic Education Society (Annie McKitrick)
- UBC School of Social Work (Shashi Assanand)

Further presentations may include:

- Richmond Sunrise Rotary Club
- Steveston Rotary Club
- Asia Pacific Business Association

- Richmond Chamber of Commerce
- Richmond School Board
- University Women's Club

## **5. Presentations Received by RIAC**

In trying to establish a working relationship and cooperation with other community organizations promoting intercultural harmony, RIAC invited different organizations to present during the monthly meetings. Presentations were received from the following groups:

- Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) of BC – Mahmood Awan re: Multicultural Advisory Committee and its work.
- BC Hate Crime Team – Sgt. Mark Graf re: definition of hate crime, duties of Hate Crime Team and police officers when responding to a hate crime.
- Jorda Miller, RCMP Crime Analyst, re: Hate Related Graffiti.
- Hon. Olga Ilich, Minister of Tourism, Sports and the Arts and MLA, Richmond Centre re: Intercultural Issues.
- Michael Yue, Civic Education Society, re: Civic Engagement.

## **6. RIAC Participation in Community Events**

RIAC representatives attended community events including:

- Richmond Committee on Disability Roundtable on Multicultural Service Delivery Meeting
- Celebration of Life, in commemoration of Lillian To, SUCCESS
- BC Dialogue on the Future of Multiculturalism
- Law Enforcement Aboriginal Diversity Network
- Cross Cultural Conflict Resolution Training
- Seniors Affordable Housing Coalition
- Civic Education Society Annual General Meeting

## **7. Correspondence**

RIAC correspondence has included:

- A letter to community stakeholders inviting partnerships to implement the 2004 – 2010 Richmond Intercultural Strategic Plan.
- A letter to each MLA, as well as the Minister of State for Immigration and Multiculturalism, to familiarize them with RIAC's work and invite them to visit. A copy of RIAC's Strategic Plan was also included.
- A letter to Vancouver Coastal Health re: National Advisory Council on Aging publication, "Seniors on the Margins – Seniors from Ethnocultural Communities", encouraging consideration of recommendations.
- Letters of invitation to the Minister of Multiculturalism (Raymond Chan) and Heritage Canada to send representatives to RIAC meetings.
- A report to AMSSA about RIAC activities, featured as an example of community development in the Fall 2005 edition of Cultures West.

**8. Other**

**- Ethnic Discrimination Among Teenagers**

The issue of racially motivated incidents in the schools was brought to the Committee and discussed in detail. It was also noted that schools have a policy in place for addressing such incidents. RIAC felt that it should not react before the Superintendent had a chance to address the issue internally.

**- School District ESL Policy Discussion**

The School District ESL review was discussed and reviewed for information.

**- Multifaith Calendars**

Multifaith Calendars were purchased by RIAC for distribution to Mayor, Council, Staff and RIAC members.

**2006 Work Program**

Please see the attached RIAC 2006 Work Program

**Proposed 2006 Budget**

RIAC has an approved budget of \$5,000 for 2006. This will cover the costs associated with meetings, forums, interpretation/translation materials and consultant fees associated with implementation of the 2006 Work Program. Any specific costs that may arise associated with the implementation of the Strategic Plan will be presented separately.

I would like to thank all RIAC members, Mayor, Councillors, community groups and stakeholders who cooperated and supported us throughout the year in promoting and working toward intercultural harmony.

My special thanks to Councillor Linda Barnes and Lesley Sherlock for their outstanding work and support throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Parvin Partovi, Chair  
Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee  
December 2005

**RIAC 2005 Members**

**Citizen Appointees**

- Norberto Balce
- Rod Belleza
- Shawkat Hasan
- Zhenyi Li
- Lawrence Lim
- Parvin Partovi
- Joshua Singh (Youth)
- Pablo Virk (Youth)

**Organizational Appointees**

- Shashi Assanad, Ministry of Children & Family Development
- Chak Au, Richmond Health Services
- Tony Carrigan, School District #38
- Mohinder Grewal, Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee
- David Hansen, RCMP Richmond Detachment
- Francis Chan, Richmond Community Services Advisory Council
- Everett McKenzie, Richmond Community Services Advisory Council
- Annie McKittrick, Richmond Community Services Advisory Council
- Balwant Sanghera, Richmond Community Services Advisory Council

**Proposed RIAC 2006 Work Program**

Strategy/Initiative	RIAC Actions/Steps	Expected Outcome of RIAC Actions	Indicator of RIAC Success	RIAC Lead/Sub-cte	Partners
<p>1. Address language barriers that interfere with building a connected and welcoming community, while also encouraging the use of heritage languages</p> <p>Coordinate the implementation of a signage audit to assess the significance of language barriers in the community in accessing commercial and public services</p>	<p>Conduct audit on number of signs displaying only a language other than English</p>	<p>Information about extent of non-English signage</p>	<p>Audit Complete</p>	<p>Lawrence Howard</p>	<p>Educational Institution</p>
<p>2. Address the perception and reality of racism and discrimination in the community. Dispel misconceptions related to culture that maintain stereotypes and foster prejudice</p> <p>Learn more about incidence and nature of racism in the community and methods of combating it.</p> <p>Support community events aimed at encouraging intercultural interaction and correcting stereotypes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review status in Fall 2006</li> <li>- Prepare list of intercultural &amp; multicultural events, including dates, objectives.</li> <li>- Request meetings with organizers of community cultural events and discuss methods of supporting intercultural opportunities.</li> <li>- Prepare list of types of intercultural activities that could be integrated into community events.</li> </ul>	<p>Up to date information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Produce calendar informing community about Richmond celebrations and dates.</li> <li>- Community events providing more opportunities for intercultural interaction and learning</li> </ul>	<p>Review complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Calendar distributed</li> <li>- Number of community events providing intercultural opportunities</li> </ul>	<p>David</p>	<p>RCMP</p>
<p>Establish media watch mechanisms to monitor media reports that present misconceptions and stereotypes and that foster prejudice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RIAC response coordinated by RIAC member</li> <li>- Invite dialogue with media representatives, city public relations and local media groups to develop partners for project.</li> </ul>	<p>Report documenting the extent and nature of biased media reports.</p>	<p>Reduced incidence of media reports that contain stereotyped, biased or prejudicial statements</p>	<p>Francis Shashi</p>	<p>Media</p>



**Proposed RIAC 2006 Work Program (cont.)**

Strategy/Initiative	RIAC Actions/Steps	Expected Outcome of RIAC Actions	Indicator of RIAC Success	RIAC Lead/Sub-cte	Partners
<p>3. Ensure that City &amp; stakeholder systems, policies and planning processes are aligned with the Intercultural Vision recommended in this plan and use 'best practice' methods to make decisions and prevent cross-cultural misunderstanding and antipathy</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"> <li>- Arrange meetings to discuss the Vision, Principles and Strategic Initiatives and to explore ways in which RIAC and partners might work together.</li> <li>- Meet with City staff to discuss implementation of specific initiatives as way of achieving Vision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some stakeholders and City Advisory Committees making reference to Vision and Principles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RIAC meets with stakeholders/committees to discuss Vision and Principles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nick, Rod Mohinder</li> <li>- Alan Shawkat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Other City Advisory Ctes.</li> <li>- All Stakeholders</li> </ul>
<b>Council Referrals</b>					
<p>"That staff consult with the Intercultural Advisory Committee as to how to include all religious groups in the City within the framework of the new policy."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Subcommittee meeting in February to determine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommendations to Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To be determined</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shashi Howard</li> <li>- Lawrence Parvin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cultural, Heritage, RMCS</li> </ul>
<p>"That staff examine the matter of the ethnic make-up of all committees and consult with the Intercultural Advisory Committee on this issue."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Subcommittee meeting in February to determine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommendations to Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To be determined</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nick, Rod, Mohinder, Alan, Shawkat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clerks</li> </ul>
<p>4. Continue support for newcomers through current City and stakeholder programs and partnerships</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"> <li>- Prepare draft of Newcomers' Guide</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brochure prepared for newcomers to Richmond</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Booklet distributed and found useful</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Norberto, Rod, Francis, Nick, Alan, Parvin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School Board</li> <li>- Other levels of Gov't.</li> <li>- RCMP</li> <li>- Business</li> <li>- Media</li> <li>- NGO's</li> <li>- Religious / ethnocultural groups</li> <li>- others</li> </ul>



## “Graffiti” Bylaw Comparison

Presented to the Richmond Intercultural  
Advisory Committee - September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Prepared by: Cpl. David Hansen  
Richmond R.C.M.Police

## **Purpose of the Report**

The Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC), as part of its 2005 Work Program, explored how to encourage the City, stakeholders, property owners, and individuals to remove racist graffiti in a timely manner. To attain this goal, a comparative review of existing bylaws was conducted, with the objective of forwarding recommendations to Council.

## **Scope of the Review**

A comparison of the Richmond bylaw to related bylaws from the cities of New Westminster, Surrey, Vancouver, North Vancouver, and Burnaby was conducted. A copy of these bylaws had been provided to RIAC by Lesley Sherlock, Social Planner, and are available through her.

Further information was brought to RIAC in the form of personal presentations.

- Sgt. Mark Graf, BC Hate Crimes Team discussed his role and the role of his unit in the Province of BC. He noted that their statistics indicate that "Hate Crimes" are not an issue in Richmond.
- Ms. Jorda Miller, Richmond Detachment Crime Analyst, presented local statistics from the past three years comparing calls for service to the RCMP for general graffiti and graffiti that was noted to be racially based. There were no significant calls or numbers of note.

The parameters for this bylaw review included definitions, time period set for removal/action, and offences/penalties specified (comparative table attached).

From the reference material provided to RIAC, it should be noted that both the cities of Vancouver (Graffiti Removal Program) and Richmond (Graffiti Hotline) have additional programs in place to address this issue.

## **Summary**

In comparison to the other cities, Richmond's bylaw is quite extensive and detailed. Richmond is the only city that goes so far as to include a reference in their definitions to "offending material". The "time period" for action falls within normal parameters. However, the ability of the City to increase or decrease this time period (based on seriousness) is something that is not available in the other cities, thus rendering it more flexible than other bylaws.

The above information was presented to RIAC, and based on this presentation it was concluded that Richmond's bylaw, as written, was satisfactory and that no recommendations for change would be put forward.

The committee will continue to discuss and review related matters as part of its 2006 Work Program and Schedule.

## Bylaw Comparison Table

City	Definition	Time Period	Offence/Penalty
<b>Richmond</b> "Unsightly Premises Regulation - Bylaw 7162"	- graffiti specifically defined and includes "offending material" - further definitions include rubbish and filth	- action must be taken with 14 days of service of an Order to Comply - time to reply can be adjusted (+ or -) as is reasonable in the circumstances - City may enter if no action	- summary conviction penalty as provided in the Offence Act. - no penalty defined - each day is a separate offence
<b>New Westminster</b> "Unsightly Premises Bylaw 5969"	- graffiti specifically defined regarding types but not offensive nature - further includes rubbish	- person must comply within 10 days of the delivery of notice. - City may enter if no action	- bylaw states failure to comply as "offence", but type not defined (likely Offence Act governed)
<b>Surrey</b> "Community Improvement and Unsightly Property Bylaw 13150"	- graffiti specifically defined regarding types but not offensive nature - further includes rubbish, filth, and discarded materials	- owner/occupant, upon service of notice must remedy the unsightliness or non-compliance within 30 days - City may enter if no action	- summary conviction offence - fine not less than \$100, but not exceeding \$2000 (likely Offence Act governed) - each day is a separate offence
<b>Vancouver</b> "Graffiti Bylaw 7343"	- graffiti specifically defined regarding types but not offensive nature - bylaw specific to graffiti	- person must remove the unsightly accumulation within 10 days of notice being served. - City may enter if no action	- bylaw states failure to comply as "offence", but type not defined (likely Offence Act governed) - fine of \$100 or \$500, but not more than \$2000
<b>North Vancouver</b> "Graffiti Bylaw 6696"	- graffiti specifically defined regarding types but not offensive nature - bylaw specific to graffiti	- any appeal to a notice served must be brought in writing within 15 days to the City Clerk. - time period to comply commences immediately upon Council's decision on the appeal.	- summary conviction offence - fine not less than \$500, but not exceeding \$2000 (likely Offence Act governed) and the cost of prosecution - each day is a separate offence
<b>Burnaby</b> "Unsightly Premises Bylaw 5533"	- does not define "graffiti" - refers to rubbish, filth, and discarded materials	- no period of time defined - City may enter if no action	- summary conviction penalty as provided in the Offence Act.