
First Nations Bunkhouse

The First Nations Bunkhouse was constructed around 1895 as a dwelling for First Nations workers employed by the Phoenix Cannery. The building is constructed of vertical red cedar board and secured with square cut iron nails. The building is similar in form to First Nations longhouses where cannery workers lived communally, living in the building during the fishing season and returning to their traditional grounds in the off-season. The building was originally located on pilings further from the main dyke. Some time between 1942 and 1946, it was moved to its present location.



Strategic Direction 1: Intercultural Connections

Showcasing Richmond’s diversity allows residents to have a better understanding and respect for different cultures. Cultural celebrations can be learning opportunities for the host community and allow them to become engaged with the lives of newcomers. These celebrations can also be a way of bringing newcomers into direct engagement with local residents.

One of the ways to foster harmonious relations between cultures is through mutual exchanges that do not seek to eliminate differences but instead facilitate meaningful contact between diverse communities. The City believes that fostering cultural harmony needs to go beyond recognizing and celebrating diversity; it is equally important to encourage opportunities for Richmond residents of diverse backgrounds to interact with and learn from each other. This can lead to increased intercultural understanding and respect, and also increases a sense of community for both recent immigrants and long-term residents.

Recommended Actions		Timeline
1.	Continue to recognize and celebrate Richmond’s diverse cultures and unique heritage through intercultural celebrations and events.	Ongoing
2.	Develop and implement a neighbourhood approach to facilitating positive intercultural exchange and understanding between Richmond’s diverse cultural communities, such as community-based dialogues, storytelling, and sharing of art, food, and music.	Short term
3.	Review the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s (TRC) report and explore opportunities for Richmond to respond.	Short term
4.	Identify and recognize community champions who improve awareness, acceptance and positive relations among people of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and between long-time residents and recent immigrants.	Medium term
5.	Incorporate criteria into the City Grant program that supports programs and events that facilitate intercultural interaction and promote intercultural understanding.	Medium term

Strategic Direction 2: Collaboration and Partnerships

Richmond has a strong network of Community Associations and Societies, community service organizations, community service organizations, and ethno-cultural and faith-based community groups that deliver various services in the community. The City has established collaborative partnerships with many of these organizations to identify and meet the needs of Richmond's diverse population. The City values working together to share information, identify gaps in services, and respond to challenges and opportunities in the community.

The City recognizes that an essential part of fostering a culturally harmonious society is building the capacity of Richmond's community service organizations and ethno-cultural community groups. Central to the process of capacity building is access to resources that allows these organizations and groups to serve the unique needs of the diverse communities in Richmond.

Recommended Actions		Timeline
1.	Continue to work with Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC) members to implement the RIAC Intercultural Strategic Plan and Work Program.	Ongoing
2.	Continue to support the capacity building of community service organizations that serve the needs of Richmond's diverse population.	Ongoing
3.	Pursue opportunities to participate in joint planning and networking with community service organizations in order to share information and identify gaps in program and service delivery.	Short term
4.	Participate in community initiatives that seek to develop mechanisms for responsive action against incidents of racism.	Short term
5.	Pursue programs and funding opportunities provided by senior levels of government regarding cultural harmony initiatives.	Short term
6.	Explore participation in networks that work towards building inclusive societies.	Medium term

Strategic Direction 5: Programs and Services

The City believes that a culturally harmonious society is a welcoming and inclusive society. It is characterized by a widely shared social experience and the active participation of its residents. Promoting cultural competence at the staff level through training and professional development contributes to cultural competence at the level of program design and implementation.

Programs and services that reflect the needs and priorities of Richmond’s diverse population facilitate a sense of belonging and well-being. Offering culturally sensitive activities and services is one way of reducing barriers and promoting social interaction within Richmond’s diverse communities.

Recommended Actions		Timeline
1.	Undertake a comprehensive review of City and Community Associations and Societies programs and services from a diversity and inclusion perspective, identifying gaps and improvements, and implementing any actions that have been identified.	Ongoing
2.	Review and update the New Canadian Tour program to reflect the needs of the newcomer communities in Richmond.	Short term
3.	Develop and implement City and Community Associations and Societies programs and services that enhance positive social and intercultural connections, as appropriate, within and among Richmond’s diverse cultural, ethnic and religious populations.	Short term
4.	Strengthen relationships with various cultural and ethnic communities in order to integrate their arts, cultural and heritage practices into the City’s programs and events.	Short term
5.	Work with immigrant-serving agencies and Community Associations and Societies to reduce barriers for new immigrants to participate in programs and services at City facilities.	Short term
6.	Consult and seek opportunities for collaboration with the diverse cultural, ethnic and faith organizations in Richmond to gain a better understanding of the needs of Richmond’s population and ensure there are a variety of services available in the community.	Medium term