



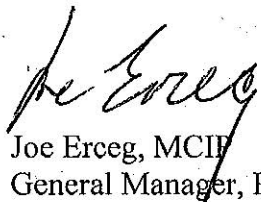
City of Richmond

Report to Committee

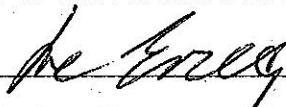
To: Planning Committee **Date:** December 15, 2008
From: Joe Erceg, MCIP **File:**
General Manager, Planning and
Development
Re: 2008 Annual Report and 2009 Work Program Richmond Intercultural Advisory
Committee

Staff Recommendation

That, as per the General Manager, Planning and Development report dated December 15, 2008, entitled "2008 Annual Report and 2009 Work Program/Budget: Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee", the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee 2009 Work Program (**Attachment 1**) be approved.


Joe Erceg, MCIP
General Manager, Planning and Development

Att. 1

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

This report presents the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC) 2008 Annual Report to Council, describing RIAC activities and accomplishments for the year 2008, and the proposed RIAC 2009 Work Program and Budget.

Findings Of Fact

1. RIAC 2008 Annual Report: The highlights of RIAC's 2008 activities are described in **Attachment 1**.
2. Proposed RIAC 2009 Work Program/Budget: The proposed RIAC 2008 Work Program and Budget are described in **Attachment 1**.

Analysis

1. 2008 Annual Report

Highlights of the 2008 Annual Report include:

- Preparation of the Draft Richmond Newcomers Guide: RIAC will be seeking Council's endorsement of the Draft Newcomers' Guide in a separate report to Planning Committee in 2009.
- Community Forum, "Bridges to Community – Meet the Imam and the Pastor", held January 18, 2008 in Council Chambers, in partnership with Initiatives of Change (Canada); the Imam and the Pastor presented to and discussed their experiences with over 100 guests.

2. Proposed 2009 Work Program

RIAC has identified seven strategic directions from the 2004 – 2010 Richmond Intercultural Strategic Plan and Work Program, and specific initiatives pertaining to each, as priorities for 2009. Initiatives planned include presenting the Draft Richmond Newcomers' Guide to Council; hosting two Youth Roundtables, as follow-up to suggestions emerging from the "Bridges to Community – Meet the Imam and the Pastor" Forum; and co-hosting a Citizenship Ceremony with the Institute for Canadian Citizenship.

3. Proposed 2009 Budget

RIAC is requesting a continuation of their annual operating budget of \$5,000, with the option of requesting an additional \$1,000 from the Planning and Development Department should needs arise that cannot be met within this budget.

Financial Impact

RIAC receives an annual operating grant of \$5,000 as part of the approved 2009 base budget. Any additional 2009 budget requests will be considered within the existing overall 2009 Policy Planning Advisory Committee budget.

Conclusion

RIAC's 2009 Work Program presents steps to further achieve the Council approved 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 2009 Work Program.



Lesley Sherlock
Social Planner
(604-276-4220)

LS:cas



Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning
(604-276-4139)

Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee

2008 Annual Report 2009 Work Program and Budget

1. RIAC 2008 Annual Report

RIAC continued to work to fulfill its goals this year as laid out in the 2004 - 2010 Richmond Intercultural Strategic Plan and Work Program. The Committee invited guest speakers who brought current issues related to our city, with the aim of developing ways to integrate diverse cultures in Richmond, and have them participate in activities undertaken by the City of Richmond and its staff.

Newly appointed members who replaced the outgoing members were welcomed and the collaboration between the new and the continuing members made 2008 a successful year.

In keeping with the committee's rotational system, Chairs and Vice-Chairs were elected in January for three-month terms in 2008.

The following activities were undertaken by RIAC in 2008:

(A) ISSUES DISCUSSED AND SUPPORT GIVEN TO GUEST SPEAKERS:

(1) Emergency Programs

Deborah Procter, Manager of Emergency Programs, discussed potential hazards in the community as well as the City's emergency plans and available resources. She discussed the need to explore ways to broaden its language translation services. Committee members came up with various suggestions including that RIAC help Emergency Programs connect and partner with multicultural social service groups in Richmond to ensure emergency preparedness and response.

(2) Richmond's Involvement in the Winter Games

Ann Phelps, Events Development Manager of the Olympic Business Office, spoke to RIAC regarding inclusion of ethnic minorities in Richmond's involvement in the Winter Games. Discussion ensued on Native participation, cultural integration, project sustainability and long-term benefits to the Richmond community. RIAC members' meaningful suggestions were well received by our guest speaker.

(3) Invisibility of Aboriginal Cultures in Richmond

Rain Daniels, Richmond Youth Services Agency, described the intercultural learning sessions hosted by RYSA for Aboriginal cultures. She recommended intercultural exchanges, establishing an interpretive centre, involvement in seniors programming and neighbourhood level activities. RIAC members expressed interest in partnering in future initiatives. RIAC has missed Aboriginal participation and is eagerly seeking to have an Aboriginal member on RIAC to represent the missing link.

(4) Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS)

Inas Elmenbbawi and Bill Chow, SWIS representatives, presented to RIAC details of a federally funded school district initiative. Richmond School District has benefited tremendously through this initiative as it facilitates the transition and learning of newcomer families into Richmond by making resources available and providing support in overcoming cultural barriers and the generation gap. RIAC members suggested that it would undertake efforts to translate the Newcomers Guide (see below) into multiple languages.

(B) BRIDGES TO COMMUNITY - THE IMAM AND THE PASTOR

The success of the 2007 community forum, the screening of the film "The Imam And the Pastor" and the follow up discussion held in the City Council Chambers, lead RIAC, in partnership with "Initiatives of Change", to invite the Imam and the Pastor from Nigeria to visit Canada and present their dialogue in person to the audiences in Richmond, Surrey and Vancouver. The Richmond session was held on January 8, 2008 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers. The presentations by the Imam and the Pastor and the dialogue that followed was an exemplary way of enlightening the large crowd that attended the event in regards to race relations as we were able to, especially, focus on Richmond and its diversity.

(C) NEWCOMER'S GUIDE

As part of the RIAC Strategic Work Plan Program we undertook the development of a Newcomer's Guide. This project was the collaboration of a RIAC subcommittee and City of Richmond staff Alan Hill. After many drafts which were circulated to RIAC members, City Staff, RCSAC and various other advisory committees, this Guide is undergoing final revisions. The result is excellent. It will be presented to the Planning Committee as soon as possible. We are exploring the possibility of producing it in different languages to make it more useful for those who do not read English. We are also looking at corporate sponsorships for translation and wider distribution.

(D) MEMBERSHIPS WITH OTHER AFFILIATIONS

We are continuing to be an associate member of Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of B.C. (AMSSA) and their Collaborative Committee on Multiculturalism.

(E) PARTICIPATION IN OTHER COMMUNITY FORUMS

RIAC participated in the Attorney General's Forum/Provincial Conference on June 26th, 2008. The Forum "Welcoming and Inclusive Communities" was attended by six RIAC members. Counsellor Linda Barnes also attended the forum. The forum was organized by the B.C. Ministry of Attorney General, Settlement and Multiculturalism Division and its Multicultural Advisory Committee. All Municipalities throughout the Metropolitan Vancouver attended the forum and exchanged ideas and discussed the challenges. Two RIAC members were also on the Steering Committee of the Organizing Committee.

(F) RIAC SUB-COMMITTEES

RIAC's following sub-committees are actively working on the issues pertaining to their areas (please see sub-committee reports in **Appendix 1**):

- Newcomers Guide
- Media Watch
- Civic Engagement
- Youth Integration

2. RIAC 2009 Work Program

RIAC will continue to implement the "2004 - 2010 Richmond Intercultural Strategic Plan and Work Program" to support the City in working toward its corporate vision of making Richmond the "most appealing, livable and well-managed city in Canada" by undertaking activities that will strengthen this vision (**Appendix 2**).

3. RIAC 2009 Proposed Budget

As requested in our last report, RIAC would like to receive an operating budget of \$5000 for 2009, with the option of pursuing an additional \$1,000, if the need arises. This will cover costs associated with meetings, forums, interpretation/translation of materials and consultant fees (should these be required) associated with implementation of the 2009 Work Program.

4. Acknowledgements

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all RIAC members who have worked so diligently with great enthusiasm throughout the year, Mayor and Council for their ongoing support and Councillor Cynthia Chen (RIAC Council Liaison) for attending the meeting and guiding us. I would also like to extend our greatest appreciation to the City Social Planner, Lesley Sherlock for undertaking extensive work to ensure that committee needs are met and its goals reached and City Staff Alan Hill for enhancing the work of the Committee.

Prepared by:
Shashi Assanand
Chair, Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee
December 2008

RIAC 2008 Membership

Citizen Appointees

Rod Belleza
Joe Greenholtz
Shawkat Hasan
Lawrence Lim
Jake Pogason
Bhavraj Singh Ghtaura (Youth)

Organizational Representatives

Shashi Assanand, Ministry of Children & Family Development
Belinda Boyd, Richmond Health Services
Daphne McMillan, School District #38
Mohinder Grewal, Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee
Nycki Basra, RCMP Richmond Detachment
Tak Nam Foo, Richmond Community Services Advisory Council
Nick Chopra, Richmond Community Services Advisory Council
Parm Grewal, Richmond Community Services Advisory Council
Jocelyn Wong, Richmond Community Services Advisory Council

RIAC 2008 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

NEWCOMER'S GUIDE

A draft copy of the Newcomer's Guide was approved by RIAC for presentation to the Planning Committee in the fall of 2008. However, presentation was delayed due to further staff revisions and production schedules. It is anticipated that the newly revised Draft will be ready in the beginning of 2009 and will be presented to the Planning Committee for adoption.

After approval by the Planning Committee, RIAC will have the mandate to solicit corporate sponsorship for translations, production and distribution. The sub-committee will meet to discuss the sponsorship strategy. When the sponsors are committed, the Newcomer's Guide will be published and distributed in accordance with an approved distribution plan. The sub-committee will make the recommendation and the printing contract will be awarded with dollars from corporate sponsors. We expect that the Newcomer's Guide will be available by the Spring of 2009.

MEDIA WATCH (WORK APPROACH DEVELOPED)

1. Given that RIAC is not mandated to make public statements, the Media Watch subcommittee's responsibility should be (a) keep an eye on incidents and events of intercultural relations in Richmond, BC or Canada as whole; (b) make a summary of the incidents or events; (c) make recommendations to RIAC as to whether and what advice we should submit to Council.
2. Media Watch Subcommittee members will divide up the task of weekly review of the community papers, the Sun, etc.
3. Subcommittee members circulate the review findings among themselves.
4. Subcommittee Chair will combine a monthly report and recommendation of what position the City shall take (including a do-nothing position).
5. Submit the report and recommendation to the full committee meeting; get it discussed and adopted (amend if necessary).
6. If deemed appropriate by RIAC to advise the City, the report and recommendations will be forwarded to City Hall.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

RIAC initiated discussions with the Institute for Canadian Citizenship to co-host a Citizenship Ceremony at the Richmond Cultural Centre.

INTERCULTURAL VISION OUTREACH

A successful community forum was held on January 18th, 2008, with the Pastor and the Imam from Nigeria in attendance (see Annual Report for further information). Recommendations for follow-up included increasing youth involvement in intercultural issues (see below).

YOUTH INTEGRATION

The sub-committee's initiative is to identify and promote programs and partnerships that support a greater understanding of intercultural issues and a sense of belonging in Richmond's immigrant youth population.

The sub-committee proposed to lead roundtable discussions with youth representatives from stakeholder groups to explore the question of "how to make Richmond the most welcoming, inclusive and harmonious community in Canada". Sub-committee members would foster and facilitate dialogue during the sessions. RIAC members expressed support for the project.

In the 2009, the sub-committee will continue to design and plan the discussions and consult with RIAC on an ongoing basis. Further, the sub-committee will continue to explore ways to promote access to information that addresses intercultural issues in the community.

RIAC 2008 SUBCOMMITTEES

Committee/RIAC Actions	Members
<p>Media Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monthly monitoring of Richmond News/Review, Vancouver Sun, others - Summary report at each RIAC meeting - Recommend RIAC position (no public statements will be made) - Recommend if advice to City Council is necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joe Greenholtz - Jake Pogason - Shashi Assanand
<p>Civic Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation in governance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise RIAC re: research and information - Advise RIAC re: research initiatives - Advise Council as appropriate - Information re: rights and responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise RIAC and community partners re: existing awareness materials and information campaigns - Advise Council as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shawkat Hasan - Jake Pogason - Rod Belleza - Alan Hill (Staff)
<p>Intercultural Vision Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With community partners, organize up to 2 community forums in the year - Advise community based committees and organizations re: hosting intercultural events - Direct community feedback to Council with recommendations as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shawkat Hasan - Shashi Assanand - Nick Chopra - Belinda Boyd - Lawrence Lim - Lesley Sherlock (Staff)
<p>Newcomer's Guide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incorporate staff and advisory committee changes to draft Newcomers Guide - Present draft to Council for approval - Seek corporate sponsorship and governmental support for translation and publication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lawrence Lim - Rod Belleza - Nick Chopra - Alan Hill (Staff) - Mohinder Grewal - Jocelyn Wong - Daphne McMillan
<p>Youth Integration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with School District and other educational institutions to advise re: fostering a sense of belonging among Richmond youth - Encourage the development of videos addressing youth intercultural issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Daphne McMillan - Belinda Boyd - Lawrence Lim - Jocelyn Wong - Parm Grewal

Proposed RIAC 2009 Work Program

Strategy/Initiative	RIAC Actions/Steps	Expected Outcome of RIAC Actions	Indicator of RIAC Success	RIAC Lead/Sub-ctte	Partners	Status
<p>1. 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>Establish media watch mechanisms to monitor media reports that present misconceptions and stereotypes and that foster prejudice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monthly monitoring of Richmond News/Review, Vancouver Sun, others - Summary report at each RIAC meeting - Recommend RIAC position (no public statements will be made) - Recommend if advice to City Council is necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary of media reporting of intercultural matters at each meeting - Standing item of discussion by RIAC - Occasional written advice to Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RIAC members will be well informed about media reporting - Council will be provided with advice regarding intercultural matters in the press 	Joe, Jake, Shashi	Media	Ongoing
<p>2. Ensure that City & 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>3. Develop Opportunities for Intercultural Experiences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With community partners, organize up to 2 community forums in the year - Youth Roundtables planned for 2009 (see #6 below) - Advise community based committees and organizations re: hosting intercultural events - Direct community feedback to Council, recommendations as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community forums held with community partners - Collaboration with community partners - Council advised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RIAC advising community partners and Council re: building bridges and promoting social integration among Richmond residents 	Shawkat, Shashi, Nick, Belinda, Lawrence	All Stakeholders	See Youth Roundtables (#6 below)

Proposed RIAC 2009 Work Program

Strategy/Initiative	RIAC Actions/Steps	Expected Outcome of RIAC Actions	Indicator of RIAC Success	RIAC Lead/Sub-cte	Partners	Status
<p>4. Continue support for newcomers through current City and stakeholder programs and partnerships</p> <p>- Welcome newcomers to Richmond through stakeholder partnerships (e.g. hosting an annual event, brochure, letter of welcome)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Present draft to Council for approval - Seek corporate sponsorship and governmental support for translation and publication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft approved for translation, publication and distribution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Booklet distributed and found useful 	<p>Lawrence, Rod, Nick, Mohinder, Jocelyn, Daphne</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School Board - Other levels of Gov't - RCMP - Business - Media - NGO's - Religious/ethnic-cultural groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newcomers' Guide to be presented to Council in 2009 - January 27, 2009 Citizenship Ceremony at City Hall with Institute for Canadian Citizenship
<p>5. Address Participation Gaps in Events & Electoral Processes</p> <p>- Analyze available research & information about barriers to participation in governance, etc. and make recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor research and information, as necessary - Invite speakers re: research initiatives - Review 2008 City election participation - Invite speakers re: election reform to RIAC Meeting - Hold public meetings to address the importance of electoral participation - Advise Council as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RIAC informed about participation gaps - Council advised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommendations made to remove barriers to participation 	<p>Shawkat, Jake, Rod</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NGO's - Religious/ethnic-cultural groups - Institute for Canadian Citizenship - others 	<p>Ongoing</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop awareness materials and information campaign for different populations re: their rights and responsibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise community partners re: existing awareness materials and information campaigns - Advise Council as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Materials and information campaigns prepared or enhanced by partners - Council advised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved materials and information campaigns prepared 	<p>as above</p>	<p>as above</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Proposed RIAC 2009 Work Program

Strategy/Initiative	RIAC Actions/Steps	Expected Outcome of RIAC Actions	Indicator of RIAC Success	RIAC Lead/Sub-cte	Partners	Status
<p>6. Programs for Integrating Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify programs and partnerships that support an understanding of intercultural issues and a sense of belonging in Richmond's youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support and promote access to information that addresses intercultural issues in the community - Encourage the development of and access to cultural and recreational facilities for newcomer youth and families - Roundtable discussions with youth re: making Richmond the most welcoming & inclusive community - Advise Council as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RIAC informed about youth programs, services, gaps - Partnerships encouraged - Greater involvement and a sense of belonging in Richmond's youth - Council advised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth participate in two RIAC Forums - Youth perspectives and suggestions incorporated into RIAC Work Programs 	<p>Daphne, Belinda, Lawrence, Jocelyn, Parm</p>	<p>All Stakeholders</p>	<p>Youth Roundtable discussions planned for February and April 2009</p>

