



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Planning Committee **Date:** January 8, 2013
From: Cathryn Volkering Carlile **File:**
 General Manager - Community Services
Re: 2012 Annual Report and 2013 Work Program:
 Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee

Staff Recommendation

That the "2012 Annual Report and 2013 Work Program: Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee", the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee 2012 Annual Report and 2013 Work Program (**Attachment 1**) be approved.

Cathryn Volkering Carlile
 General Manager - Community Services
 (604-276-4068)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
REVIEWED BY SMT SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS:
REVIEWED BY CAO	INITIALS:

Staff Report

Origin

This report presents the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC) 2012 Annual Report to Council, describing RIAC activities and accomplishments for the year 2012, and the proposed RIAC 2013 Work Program and Budget. (**Attachment 1**)

Findings of Fact

1. RIAC 2012 Annual Report: The highlights of RIAC's 2012 activities are described in **Attachment 1**.
2. Proposed RIAC 2013 Work Program/Budget: The proposed RIAC 2012 Work Program and Budget are also described in **Attachment 1**.

Analysis

1. 2012 Annual Report

Highlights of RIAC's activities for 2012, as summarised in the Annual Report, include:

- The development and launch of the second edition of the Richmond Newcomers Guide with the development for the first time of a Tagalog version.
- The co-organising and hosting of a National Aboriginal Day event which brought different communities together to celebrate Aboriginal culture.
- The implementation of a community questionnaire on attitudes towards diversity and the organising of follow up workshops.
- The conducting of a sign audit to address issues around language specific signage in the Richmond City Centre area.

2. Proposed 2013 Work Program

RIAC has identified four strategic directions from the "2012 – 2015 Richmond Intercultural Strategic Plan and Work Program", and specific initiatives pertaining to each, to implement in 2013. Planned initiatives include:

- Contributing to City Planning Processes, with an initial priority being to provide comments on the draft Richmond Social Development Strategy.
- The production and launching of a Punjabi version of the Newcomers' Guide, and the ongoing search for sources of corporate sponsorship to develop future versions in other community languages.

- The ongoing organisation and facilitation of community forums and events in relation to the exploration and promotion of Richmond's intercultural vision and values. Examples of these events for 2013 include a) an interfaith bridging event in partnership with Richmond Museum and the Multi-faith Action Group b) a National Aboriginal Day event c) community dialogues exploring intercultural community relations in Richmond.

City staff will support the RIAC 2013 Work Program as City policies, work programs, staff time and resources permit.

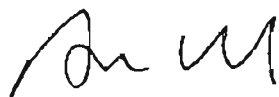
Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

RIAC's 2013 Work Program presents steps to further achieve the Council approved vision for intercultural life in the City, "for Richmond to be the most welcoming, inclusive and harmonious community in Canada".

Staff recommends support for RIAC's 2012 Annual Report and proposed 2013 Work Program.



Alan Hill
Cultural Diversity Coordinator
(604-276-4391)

Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee

2012 Annual Report 2013 Work Program and Budget

1. INTRODUCTION

Richmond City Council established the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC) in February 2002 to assist the City in working toward its Corporate Vision of making Richmond the "most appealing, liveable, and well-managed city in Canada". The mandate of RIAC, as outlined in its terms of reference, is to "enhance intercultural harmony and strengthen intercultural co-operation in Richmond". In 2012 the RIAC continued to work to achieve its goals as laid out in the 2012 - 2015 Richmond Intercultural Strategic Plan and Work Program.

Throughout the year the Committee invited guest speakers who presented on current intercultural issues in our city and organized events and activities with the aim of assisting diverse cultures in integrating and assisting communication between communities and City of Richmond staff and elected officials. The Committee also engaged in a major strategic planning exercise to revisit its mandate and vision and review and update the 2004-2010 Strategic Plan to cover the 2012-2015 period.

Newly appointed members who replaced the outgoing members were welcomed and the collaboration between the new and the continuing members made 2012 a successful year.

In keeping with the committee's rotational system, Chairs and Vice-Chairs were elected in January 2012 for six-month terms.

2. RIAC's 2012 ACTIVITIES

2.1 Guest Speakers

2.1.1 January Guest Speaker

Sarah Chung- Translink

Sarah belongs to Translink's "Access Transit Group". This group makes presentations to seniors, those living with disabilities and new immigrant groups. Sarah particularly came to the group to discuss the '*Travel Smart for New Immigrants*' program.

2.1.2 February Guest Speakers

Arzeena Hamir- Richmond Food Security Society

Arzeena reported that she is aware of a lack of engagement in food security issues by the new immigrant communities and is hoping RIAC can pass on information about Richmond Food Security Society to the widest possible audience.

Alvin Lau- Department of Citizenship and Immigration (CIC)

Alvin briefed RIAC on CIC's providing funding through a grant program called 'Inter-Action' in order to support CIC's mandate and the *Canadian Multiculturalism Act* by assisting the socio-economic integration of individuals and communities and their contributions to building an integrated and socially cohesive society.

2.1.3 March Guest Speaker

Philip Hse - Greater Vancouver Society for Accelerated Integration (GVSSAI)

The Greater Vancouver Society of students for Accelerated Integration (GVSSAI) was founded in December 2011 and incorporated on January 13th, 2011. The goals and purposes of the GVSSAI, in compliance with the BC Society Act, are:

- To raise awareness concerning the importance of integration among immigrants
- To assist immigrants in integration through various programs and functions
- To ease racial tensions between immigrant communities and the mainstream society

2.1.4 May Guest Speakers

Lynn Moran and Lindsay March- Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies (AMSSA)

A presentation by AMSSA (Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies) on their mission, membership and programs across a range of areas including, multicultural health, and settlement and integration.

2.1.5 June Guest Speakers

British Columbia Model United Nations (BCMUN)

The BCMUN (British Columbia Model United Nations) explained the concept behind their program and asked for endorsement of their project and upcoming conference from the committee. They plan to hold a model United Nations youth conference at Richmond City Hall in October 2012 and are looking for sponsorship.

RIAC moved to offer its full endorsement to the work of the BCMUN and fully supported the idea of subsidised meeting space being made available at City hall to allow the 2012 BCMUN conference to take place.

2.1.6 November Guest Speaker

Liesl Jauk- Manager, City of Richmond Cultural Development

Liesl briefed RIAC on the process for choosing participants for Arts-based cultural events supported by the City.

2.2 Major projects for 2012

2.2.1 Sign Audit

Members of RIAC walked the length and breadth of Richmond's downtown core to investigate the extent of Chinese-only signs, to address an issue that has been raised repeatedly by a small number of concerned citizens, by actually counting them. A total of 9 Chinese-only signs were found – less than 1% - indicating that the problem is more one of perception than fact.

2.2.2 National Aboriginal Day

The event was organised by the RIAC Youth Sub Committee in partnership with SD38, VCH, Pathways Aboriginal Project and the City of Richmond. More detail can be found in the subcommittee report below.

Goals/RIAC objectives:

- platform for promoting and laying the groundwork for youth involvement in RIAC's cross-community dialogue re: racism and inclusion
- dispelling cultural stereotypes
- programs focusing on commonality
- organization of cultural events
- more intercultural events at community centers and schools

General partner objectives:

- giving Aboriginal youth a public voice
- raising awareness regarding Aboriginal history in Richmond and SD38
- potential federal funding through Inter-Action, proposal deadline may have passed already
- cultural center booked for June 21
- targeting local SD38 elementary schools

2.2.3 Community Dialogue

The Civic Engagement Committee embarked on a process to engage citizens who normally don't participate in intercultural dialogues or other such events by providing them with an opportunity to air their concerns about how changes to Richmond's cultural dynamic are affecting them.

The process included a questionnaire intended to 'take the pulse' of Richmond's citizens with respect to diversity and Richmond's evolving cultural composition to be followed by a day of dialogue on January 19th 2013, with sessions in English, Punjabi, Cantonese and Mandarin, culminating in a major community event in the spring to be organised around input received both from the questionnaires and the dialogues.

2.2.4 Newcomers' Guide

A revised, version two, of Richmond's Newcomers' Guide has been published.

In December 2012 funding was secured for a Punjabi language version of the Newcomers Guide. It is planned that this version the Guide will be launched in the spring of 2013.

3. RIAC SUB-COMMITTEES

The following sub-committees are actively working on issues pertaining to their areas (please see sub-committee reports below):

- Newcomers Guide
- Civic Engagement/Intercultural Vision and Outreach
- Youth Integration

4. RIAC 2013 WORK PROGRAM

The 2013 work program is based on an extensive evaluation and review of the 2012-2015 RIAC Intercultural Plan, adopted by Council in February 2012. The main focus areas of this new plan are civic engagement and fulfilment of the RIAC intercultural vision and these priorities are reflected in the 2013 Work program.

5. RIAC 2013 Proposed Budget

RIAC is requesting an operating budget of \$2500 for 2013. This will cover costs incurred by meetings, forums, interpretation/translation of materials and consultant fees (should these be required) associated with the implementation of the 2013 Work Program.

6. 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 Derek Dang (RIAC Council Liaison) for attending the meetings and supporting us. I would also like to extend our greatest appreciation to Alan Hill, Staff Liaison, for undertaking extensive work to ensure that committee needs are met and its goals reached.

Prepared by:
Joe Greenholtz
Chair, Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee
December 2012

RIAC 2012 Membership

Citizen Appointees

Joe Greenholtz
Shawkat Hasan
Diane Jubinville
Lawrence Lim
Jake Pogoson
Jamie Makutra
Christopher Chan
Mohinder Grewal

Organizational Representatives

Shashi Assanand, Ministry of Children & Family Development
David Purgart, RCMP Richmond Detachment
Juliana Leung, Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee
Shams Jilani, Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee
Diane Tijmam, School District #38
Nick Chopra, Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee
Parm Grewal, Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee
Diane Bissenden, Richmond Health Services
Jocelyn Wong, Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee
Viet Vu, Richmond Centre for Disability

RIAC 2012 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

RIAC - Newcomer's Guide Sub-Committee

During 2012, we published the second edition of both the English and Mandarin editions of the Richmond Newcomer's Guide. We are also able to produce the first Tagalog edition of the Richmond Newcomer's Guide.

The second editions of the English and Mandarin Guide were finalized after updating and editing the original edition. We would like to thank City Staff for their effort in the revision of the draft. The membership of RIAC also reviewed the draft before the final copy was printed. Besides print editions all editions of the Richmond Newcomer's Guide have been made available on the City website.

We were pleased to collaborate with the City of Richmond in locating our new corporate sponsor, Western Union, which sponsored both the English and Tagalog publications. ASPAC Development continues their support of the Mandarin Edition.

The launch of the Newcomer's Guide was held at the City Hall, with media participation. The Mayor and some members of Council were there during the launch. Representatives from the corporate sponsors were also present.

Work Plan for 2013

We will continue to work towards keeping the 2nd edition up-to-date, in preparation for the 3rd edition in the future.

Our goal for 2013 is to launch a Punjabi Edition of the Richmond Newcomer's Guide and a launch event is planned for the spring.

Lawrence Lim
Chair, Newcomer's Guide Subcommittee

Youth Integration

The Youth Integration Committee resumed functioning in 2012 as Subcommittee members completed their contribution to the planning work for the 2012-2015 RIAC Strategic Plan. This year's major project was National Aboriginal Day, undertaken in conjunction with Richmond School District, Pathways Aboriginal Centre and Vancouver Coastal Health.

Diane Jubinville
Chair, Youth Integration Subcommittee

Civic Engagement/Intercultural Vision and Outreach

Community Dialogue

The Civic Engagement Committee worked on a process of engaging Richmond residents who normally don't participate in intercultural dialogues or other such events by providing them with an opportunity to air their concerns about how changes to Richmond's cultural dynamic are affecting them. This process will culminate in a series of dialogue events in 2013.

Shawkat Hasan

Chair, Civic Engagement/Intercultural Vision & Outreach Subcommittee

RIAC 2012 SUBCOMMITTEES

Committee/RIAC Actions	Members
<p>Civic Engagement <i>Participation in governance:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise RIAC re: research and information - Advise RIAC re: research initiatives - Advise Council as appropriate <p><i>Information re: rights and responsibilities:</i></p> <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 Pogson - Shashi Assanand - Nick Chopra - Lawrence Lim - Jamie Makutra - Joe Greenholtz - Stella Au (Community Volunteer)
<p>Intercultural Vision and Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand on civic engagement exercise in partnership with community civic groups - Annual meeting with Richmond newcomers - Annual meeting with help providers for newcomers in need in Richmond. Better statistical and evaluation processes will be encouraged. - Promote a more “open door” policy among community religious and ethnic groups - Direct community feedback to Council, recommendations as appropriate 	
<p>Newcomer's Guide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue updating the Newcomers' Guide - Seek corporate sponsorship and governmental support for translation (e.g., Punjabi, Tagalog) - Seek corporate sponsorship and governmental support for 2nd edition of English and Chinese versions - Explore possible role for Volunteer Richmond Information Services (VRIS) and advise Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lawrence Lim* - Nick Chopra - Mohinder Grewal - Jocelyn Wong
<p>Youth Integration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to explore opportunities for youth to participate in open and respectful dialogue in a variety of venues - Support and promote access to information that addresses the understanding of intercultural issues in the community - Encourage access to cultural events for youth and their families - Advise Council as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diane Jubinville* - Jocelyn Wong* - Parm Grewal - Lawrence Lim

*Sub Committee Chairs

Proposed RIAC 2013 Work Program

Strategy/Initiative	RIAC Actions/Steps	Expected Outcome of RIAC Actions	Indicator of RIAC Success	RIAC Lead/Sub-cte	Partners	Status
1. Address language and information and cultural barriers.						
The provision of training in public participation for all groups.	RIAC host a skills forum/workshop on public participation	Public participation enhanced	Number of Richmond residents who have a greater ability to participate in public life	Civic Engagement	Richmond Civic Engagement Network/City Community services	Ongoing
The continuing development, printing distribution translation and updating of the Richmond Newcomers Guide	Guide printed in Punjabi and a launch event held.	Immigrants informed and empowered	Number of newcomers to Richmond who know where to go to get information and assistance	Newcomers	City/VCH/SD38 SUCCESS/RMCS	Punjabi version of the Guide produced and distributed.
The encouragement of dialogue and discussion with immigrants and longer term residents on involvement in civic life.	RIAC to devise and implement community dialogues on Interculturalism in Richmond	Intercultural perspective and vision explored and understood	Dialogue series devised and greater diversity of Richmond residents involved in civic life	Civic Engagement	City/VCH/SD38 SUCCESS/RMCS Richmond Civic Engagement Network	Ongoing - with the first dialogues to be held in January 2013.
The identification of barriers faced by newcomers- articulation of barriers and needs.	RIAC to work with partners to identify opportunities for an annual inter-agency new immigrants clinic	Barriers identified and delivery of City services enhanced	Barriers faced by newcomers identified and articulated	Civic Engagement	City/VCH/SD38 SUCCESS/RMCS Richmond Civic Engagement Network	Ongoing
2. Address racism and misconceptions.						
A dialogue on racism implemented with Richmond residents	RIAC to facilitate a dialogue on racism	Racism explored and perspectives incorporated into RIAC work plans	Dialogue report written with recommendations made	Civic Engagement	City/VCH/SD38 SUCCESS/RMCS RCMP	Ongoing - to be incorporated into general dialogues on interculturalism

Proposed RIAC 2013 Work Program

Strategy/Initiative	RIAC Actions/Steps	Expected Outcome of RIAC Actions	Indicator of RIAC Success	RIAC Lead/Sub-cte	Partners	Status
The development of programs that focus on commonality rather than difference and the organizing of cultural events to eliminate silos between communities	RIAC to meet with City Parks and City Recreation programmers to discuss intercultural programming opportunities	Parks and Recreation programming reflecting RIAC intercultural Vision and values.	Number of intercultural programming opportunities identified	Civic Engagement	City/Arts Community/SD38	Ongoing
The support and implementation of interfaith dialogues	RIAC to dialogue with partners to identify opportunities for creating interfaith dialogue or supporting existing programs	Outcomes of interfaith dialogues incorporated into RIAC work plans	Workshop report produced and opportunities for inter faith dialogue identified	Civic Engagement	RMCS/SUCCESS/ RCSAC/CH/SD38 /Richmond Museum/ Multi-faith Action Group	Dialogue and Interfaith networking event to be held during 'World Interfaith Harmony Week 2013'
P More intercultural events at community centers and schools	Liaison with SD38 and non-profit partners to hold an annual National Aboriginal Day event	Stronger partnerships and understanding between RIAC/City /SD38 and immigrant groups around Aboriginal issues.	Number of youth participants Greater understanding between Aboriginal and new immigrant communities	Youth	City/SD38/Non Profit Partners.	Event held on National Aboriginal Day June 21 st 2013
3. Ensure that City & other governmental and stakeholder systems, policies and planning processes are aligned with the Intercultural Vision						
Review key City policies and procedures to ascertain if they are reflective of the Intercultural Vision.	RIAC review undertaken of key City policies and procedures.	Intercultural values influencing the development of City policies and procedures	Number of policies reviewed and incorporating intercultural vision and values.	Civic Engagement	City	Ongoing

Proposed RIAC 2013 Work Program

Strategy/Initiative	RIAC Actions/Steps	Expected Outcome of RIAC Actions	Indicator of RIAC Success	RIAC Lead/Sub-cte	Partners	Status
Review and provide input on the draft Social Development Strategy	RIAC review and promote formal submission on the Social Development Strategy	Intercultural values and vision reflected in the Social Development Strategy.	Formal written submission provided by RIAC.	Civic Engagement	City	This work to be completed in the Spring of 2013.
4. To support the development and integration of Richmond's immigrants while doing this in a way that respects family and cultural traditions.						
The encouragement of cross-generational and intercultural programming (e.g.: the role of empathy	Explore the creation of a 'Richmond Day', an annual day event to celebrate diversity in the whole of Richmond.	Intercultural value and vision incorporated in City and partners major intercultural event planning.	Report written and submitted to Council	Youth	City/ SD38	Ongoing