



General Purposes Committee

Anderson Room, City Hall
6911 No. 3 Road

Monday, April 20, 2026
4:00 p.m.

Pg. # ITEM

MINUTES

GP-5 *Motion to adopt the **minutes** of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on April 7, 2026.*



FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY: PROPOSED GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK**
(File Ref. No. 08-4150-13-001) (REDMS No. 8355682)

GP-11

See Page GP-11 for full report

Designated Speaker: Jill Shirey

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Guiding Principles, as detailed in the report titled “Economic Development Strategy: Proposed Guiding Principles and Public Engagement Feedback”, dated April 7, 2026, from the Director, Business Services, be approved.



Pg. # ITEM

2. **AWARD OF CONTRACT - GRANICUS AMANDA 5-YEAR SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE RENEWAL**

(File Ref. No. 03-1000-20-8551) (REDMS No. 8364842)

GP-47

See Page GP-47 for full report

Designated Speaker: Grant Fengstad

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) *That Granicus AMANDA Support and Maintenance Renewal, be awarded to Granicus for a five-year term for an estimated value of \$713,467 excluding taxes, as described in the report titled “Award of Contract – Granicus AMANDA Software, Support and Maintenance Renewal”, dated March 23, 2026, from the Director, Information Technology; and*
- (2) *That the Chief Administrative Officer and the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services be authorized to execute the contract and all related documentation with Granicus.*



LAW AND COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION

3. **APPLICATION TO AMEND LIQUOR PRIMARY LIQUOR LICENCE # 170766 - CHANGE OF HOURS OF LIQUOR SERVICE (OUTSIDE SERVICE HOURS) - VINO VOLO - 3211 GRANT MCCONACHIE WAY (POST SECURITY)**

(File Ref. No. 2-8375-03) (REDMS No. 8356916)

GP-50

See Page GP-50 for full report

Designated Speaker: Mark Corrado

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) *That the application from LS Travel Retail North America Inc., doing business as, Vino Volo, seeking a permanent amendment to Liquor Primary Liquor Licence #170766, increasing their hours of liquor service from 6:00 AM to 11:00 PM, Monday to Sunday, to 24 hours service, (Outside Service Hours) be supported; and*

Pg. # ITEM

- (2) *That a letter be sent to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch, which includes the information as set out in Attachment 1 to this report, advising that Council recommends the approval of the amendment to the Liquor Primary Liquor Licence as described in Recommendation 1 of this report.*



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

4. **COMMUNITY FOOD ACTION PLAN GUIDING PRINCIPLES**
(File Ref. No. 08-4055-08) (REDMS No. 8331434)

GP-61

See Page GP-61 for full report

Designated Speaker: Melanie Burner

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the guiding principles detailed in the report titled “Community Food Action Plan Guiding Principles”, dated April 2, 2026, from the Director, Community Social Development, be approved.



5. **2021–2031 COLLABORATIVE ACTION PLAN TO REDUCE AND PREVENT POVERTY IN RICHMOND: 2024–2025 HIGHLIGHTS**
(File Ref. No. 08-4055-08) (REDMS No. 8312792)

GP-66

See Page GP-66 for full report

Designated Speaker: Melanie Burner

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond: 2024–2025 Highlights as outlined in the report titled “2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond: 2024–2025 Highlights”, dated April 7, 2026, from the Director, Community Social Development, be posted on the City’s website and distributed to community partners, local Members of Parliament and local Members of the Legislative Assembly, and federal and provincial ministries related to poverty reduction.



Pg. #

ITEM

ADJOURNMENT





General Purposes Committee

- Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2026
- Place: Anderson Room
Richmond City Hall
- Present: Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie, Chair
Councillor Carol Day
Councillor Laura Gillanders
Councillor Kash Heed
Councillor Andy Hobbs
Councillor Alexa Loo
Councillor Bill McNulty
Councillor Michael Wolfe
- Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

It was moved and seconded
*That the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on
March 16, 2026, be adopted as circulated.*

CARRIED

DEPUTY CAO'S OFFICE

1. **PROPOSED INTERIM ENERGY CENTRE LOCATION AT 3760, 3780
SEXSMITH ROAD, AND 8651 CAMBIE ROAD**
(File Ref. No. 01-0060-20-LIEC1) (REDMS No. 8320669)

General Purposes Committee
Tuesday, April 7, 2026

In response to queries from Committee, staff advised that (i) construction of the proposed Sewage Heat Recovery Energy Plant has been postponed to better align with future residential development timelines, (ii) five energy plants are planned across the City Centre area, (iii) the Interim Energy Centre (IEC) to service the Capstan and Aberdeen areas is expected to operate for 10-20 years, (iv) IEC is estimated to cost \$33.5M which would be funded by the Lulu Island Energy Company Ltd. (LIEC), (v) the IEC offers a number of benefits for the City and for developments in the area connecting to district energy, such as reduction in building design and construction costs to developers by eliminating the need to build their own heating/cooling energy plant, and (vi) LIEC rates are competitive with other Metro Vancouver district energy utilities.

It was moved and seconded

That Council approve the interim use of City-owned properties at 3760, 3780 Sexsmith Road, and 8651 Cambie Road for a district energy Interim Energy Centre (IEC) to service the Capstan and Aberdeen areas.

CARRIED

ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION

2. **RICHMOND'S 2025 MATERIAL FLOW ANALYSIS RESULTS**

(File Ref. No. 10-6125-07-04) (REDMS No. 8346103)

In response to queries from Committee, staff advised that (i) submission of Richmond's 2025 Material Flow Analysis Results report will secure final Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) funding and enable eligibility for future funding opportunities, and (ii) with future grant funding, the next step would be to implement the recommendations included in the report.

Discussion ensued with respect to (i) examples of the City's manufacturing and public administration footprints, (ii) supporting future Richmond farmers, (iii) the potential of inground agriculture and taking steps to sustain farming, and (v) encouraging low carbon efficient buildings through the BC Energy Step Code requirements.

It was moved and seconded

That the Material Flow Analysis and opportunities to support the City's transition to a circular economy, as outlined in the report titled "Richmond's 2025 Material Flow Analysis Results", dated March 17, 2026, from the Director, Climate and Environment, be received for information.

CARRIED

General Purposes Committee
Tuesday, April 7, 2026

PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE DIVISION

3. **2026 RICHMOND COMMUNITY CELEBRATION GRANT PROGRAM AND RICHMOND CELEBRATES SOCCER COMMUNITY CELEBRATION GRANT PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS**
(File Ref. No. 11-7400-01) (REDMS No. 8333076)

In response to queries from Committee, staff advised that (i) of the 56 applications received for the Richmond Community Celebration Grant Program, 42 met the eligibility criteria and are recommended for funding, (ii) an adjudication panel reviewed the applications and evaluated each project based on five key areas: alignment with program objectives, inclusiveness/accessibility and diversity, capacity, budget, and sustainability, (iii) each application's adjudicated score was applied to its eligible funding request and adjusted to accommodate the existing Council approved budget, totaling \$58,000 in recommended funding, (iv) Council approved \$35,000 for the Richmond Celebrates Soccer Community Celebration Grant Program, five of the nine applications were eligible, requesting a total of \$10,000. The remaining \$25,000 funding will be allocated to the Richmond Celebrates Soccer Neighborhood Block Party Program, (v) a funding requirement is that the event be listed on the City's Community Event board for public awareness, and (vi) the City and Tourism Richmond offer resources to help local businesses leverage game audiences, including a business playbook on the City's website to guide local businesses, various Tourism Richmond produced resources and a complimentary grant program by Tourism Richmond offering up to \$1000.

Discussion ensued with respect to the \$90,000 Soccer Grant received by the City allocated for budget relief. Staff were directed to recirculate the Richmond Celebrates Soccer – Schedule and Funding Allocations report, dated November 24, 2025, prior to Council consideration.

It was moved and seconded

- (1) *That the 2026 Richmond Community Celebration Grant Program be awarded for the recommended amount of \$58,000 as identified in Attachment 2 of the report titled, "2026 Richmond Community Celebration Grant Program and Richmond Celebrates Soccer Community Celebration Grant Program Allocations", dated March 16, 2026, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services;*

General Purposes Committee
Tuesday, April 7, 2026

- (2) *That the 2026 Richmond Celebrates Soccer Community Celebration Grant Program be awarded for the recommended amount of \$10,000 as identified in Attachment 3 of the report titled, “2026 Richmond Community Celebration Grant Program and Richmond Celebrates Soccer Community Celebration Grant Program Allocations”, dated March 16, 2026, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services; and*
- (3) *That the grant funds be distributed accordingly following Council approval.*

CARRIED

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

4. **HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2019–2029: 2025 UPDATE**
(File Ref. No. 08-4057-11-03) (REDMS No. 8277484)

In response to queries from Committee, staff advised that (i) the City’s Homelessness Outreach Team delivered services to individuals experiencing homelessness, including engaging in over 1,200 service interactions, supporting 80 transitions into shelter, housing, treatment or recovery services and over 700 referrals, (ii) a single individual may receive multiple referrals as they engage with different service providers over time and (iii) of the 25 percent senior respondents to the homeless count, the majority of them were between the ages of 55 and 65.

It was moved and seconded

That the Homelessness Strategy 2019–2029: 2025 Update, as outlined in the report titled “Homelessness Strategy 2019–2029: 2025 Update”, dated March 16, 2026, from the Director, Community Social Development, be posted on the City’s website and distributed to key partners, local Members of Parliament and the Legislative Assembly, and federal and provincial ministries related to housing and homelessness, social development and poverty reduction, and health.

The question on the motion was not called as discussion ensued with respect to the need for more affordable housing.

The question on the motion was then called and it was **CARRIED**.

5. **2025 HOMELESSNESS-RELATED CITY INVESTMENT**
(File Ref. No. 08-4057-11-01) (REDMS No. 8348538)

It was moved and seconded

4.

General Purposes Committee
Tuesday, April 7, 2026

- (1) *That the report titled “2025 Homelessness-Related City Investment”, dated March 19, 2026 from the Director, Community Social Development and the Director, Community Bylaws and Licencing, be distributed to local Members of Parliament and local Members of the Legislative Assembly, including the Premier, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, and the Minister of Transportation and Transit; and*
- (2) *That the City request that the Province of British Columbia measurably increase coordination and operational collaboration with the City of Richmond in addressing issues occurring on Crown lands and transportation corridors within the city.*

Discussion ensued with respect to (i) the ongoing City investment related to homelessness prevention, service delivery, enforcement, clean up and repairs, (ii) reviewing the grant program and budget, (iii) adequately funding services that are working, (iv) comparable data from previous years related to the City’s homelessness investment, (v) current dedicated resources to homelessness, and (vi) prioritizing housing stability and connections to services for individuals experiencing homelessness.

The question on the motion was not called as in response to queries from Committee, staff advised that (i) the Homelessness Table made up of a number of entities meet on a regular basis to discuss challenges that the community is facing, (ii) staff are working to advance the guiding framework engagement which is related to the Homelessness Strategy and anticipate bringing back a report later in 2026 which will outline findings and list other priorities to move forward with.

Staff will provide Committee with previous years data regarding homelessness related City investment.

The question the motion was then called and it was **CARRIED**.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded
That the meeting adjourn (4:58 p.m.).

CARRIED

General Purposes Committee
Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026.

Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie
Chair

Raman Grewal
Legislative Services Associate



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** April 7, 2026
From: Katie Ferland, Director Business Services **File:** 08-4150-13-001/Vol 01
Re: Economic Development Strategy: Proposed Guiding Principles and Public Engagement Feedback

Staff Recommendation

That the Guiding Principles, as detailed in the report titled “Economic Development Strategy: Proposed Guiding Principles and Public Engagement Feedback”, dated April 7, 2026, from the Director, Business Services, be approved.

Katie Ferland
 Director, Business Services
 (604-247-4923)

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Arts, Culture & Heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Community Social Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
PRC Planning and Strategic Initiatives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Climate and Environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Building Approvals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Development Applications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Policy Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

On March 25, 2024, Council endorsed the development of a new Economic Development Strategy to guide Richmond's long-term economic direction. As global dynamics and local conditions continue to evolve, the new Strategy will build on the success of the current Resilient Economy Strategy to provide a refreshed vision, strategic goals, and key actions to support a robust, resilient, and diversified economy in Richmond.

Public and sector engagement was conducted from September to November 2025 to inform the direction for the development of the new Strategy. The purpose of this report is to share the findings from the engagement process and to seek Council's endorsement of the proposed Guiding Principles that have emerged from this work.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #1 Proactive in Stakeholder and Civic Engagement:

Proactive stakeholder and civic engagement to foster understanding and involvement and advance Richmond's interests.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #2 Strategic and Sustainable Community Growth:

Strategic and sustainable growth that supports long-term community needs and a well-planned and prosperous city.

Analysis

Engagement Activities

To inform the development of the Economic Development Strategy, a broad group of residents, businesses, and other key organizations were engaged between September 22 and November 30, 2025. There was the opportunity to provide input through multiple channels:

- Public survey on Let's Talk Richmond
- Interviews with business and community leaders from a wide range of sectors and organization sizes
- Pop-up engagements at Steveston Village, Lansdowne Centre and Aberdeen Centre
- Participation at local business events, including the Richmond Chamber of Commerce Mid-Autumn Festival and the City's Business and Partner Appreciation Event
- Four topic-specific roundtables on Technology and Manufacturing, Transportation and Logistics, Mitchell Island, and Economic Inclusion
- Economic Advisory Committee workshop on Richmond's innovation ecosystem
- Presentations and discussions with six City Advisory Committees

In total, more than 400 Richmond residents, business owners, community organizations, employees, students, and visitors participated. Outreach included direct emails to more than 700 businesses and community organizations, newsletter distribution to all licensed businesses in Richmond, the Let's Talk Richmond platform, social media, a news release, and digital signage at transit stations and community centres.

Summary of Engagement Findings

Feedback focused on the following areas, reflecting a range of perspectives on Richmond's economic strengths, challenges, and opportunities:

- **Local Business Support.** Supporting existing local businesses was noted as a top economic priority. Businesses identified access to suitable space, workforce availability, and reducing barriers to doing business as key to their ability to grow.
- **Transportation.** Richmond's proximity to YVR, Port facilities, and major highway and rail corridors was noted as a recognized strength, but congestion and limited transit access to some employment areas were seen as affecting business costs, workforce attraction, and quality of life. Businesses in industrial areas including Mitchell Island, the South Fraser Lands, and River Road raised location-specific access concerns.
- **Economic Inclusion.** Barriers to economic participation were identified for youth, newcomers, and people with disabilities. Key challenges—such as high living costs (i.e. housing and childcare), limited transportation options, and language barriers—can reduce people's ability to find better employment, build skills, and participate fully in the economy. Some businesses sought clearer guidance and support for adopting inclusive hiring practices.
- **Industrial Area Planning.** The importance of Richmond's industrial areas to the regional and national economy was underscored. Input focused on the need for coordinated planning that considers distinct area-specific constraints and risks, infrastructure investment, and efficient transportation systems for goods movement and workforce access.
- **Sustainability, Innovation, and Resilience.** Participants called for sustainability and resilience to be central to the Strategy, with innovation focused on practical challenges such as the energy transition, climate adaptation, and food security.
- **Zoning.** Engagement highlighted the importance of land use planning and zoning in facilitating the types of development needed to support business activities in Richmond.
- **Permitting.** Businesses called for greater predictability and clarity in permitting, citing the impact on investment decisions.
- **Placemaking.** Placemaking, through events, markets, and public space activation, was seen as an opportunity to support local businesses and strengthen community identity.

Detailed findings from the public and sector engagement are provided in Attachment 1. It is anticipated that the above engagement findings will help inform the next steps in the development of the strategy, including the vision and key goals. As that next stage of work proceeds, Guiding Principles have also been identified as lenses that would be considered as each goal area is developed, and throughout strategy development.

Guiding Principles

Rooted in what we heard through public engagement, early research and analysis, and in alignment with Council's Strategic Plan and other City strategies, four Guiding Principles are proposed to inform the way in which the Strategy's vision, goals, and key initiatives would be developed:

1. Forward-Looking and Resilient

- Build on Richmond's strengths and assets to create the conditions for strategically ambitious, long-term economic prosperity, while also designing for resilience as challenges and opportunities evolve.

2. Inclusive Prosperity and Shared Opportunity

- Facilitate economic growth that is equitable, accessible, and broadly shared across sectors and diverse communities, considering both people and the environment at the centre of growth.

3. Collaborative and Partnership-Oriented

- Foster strong partnerships with businesses, institutions, community organizations, and other levels of government to leverage shared opportunities and build a high-functioning, connected ecosystem.

4. Leveraging the City's Role

- Support and facilitate the conditions for innovation, investment, and growth through the deliberate and strategic use of the City's tools, resources, and expertise.

Next Steps

Pending Council's approval of the proposed Guiding Principles, work would proceed on the development of the draft Economic Development Strategy. The strategy will include strategic directions and key initiatives that position Richmond to respond to the challenges and opportunities identified through community engagement, research and analysis.

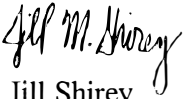
Staff anticipate bringing the draft Strategy to Council for consideration in Summer 2026 prior to a second phase of public engagement to invite community feedback on the draft.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

If endorsed, the Guiding Principles would provide a strong foundation for the development of the draft Economic Development Strategy. It is anticipated that the Strategy will guide Richmond's approach to economic development, supporting a resilient and diversified economy and reflecting the values and priorities of the community.



Jill Shirey
Manager, Economic Development
(604-247-4682)

Att. 1: Economic Development Strategy: What We Heard Report

**Richmond Economic
Development Strategy**

**What We Heard
Report**

MARCH 2026



Introduction

Context

The City of Richmond is developing a new Economic Development Strategy to guide how the city will support future economic activity. It will focus on leveraging Richmond's assets and strengths—including its people, infrastructure, and land base—to shape a resilient and sustainable future economy. The City is taking a balanced approach that considers economic prosperity and business growth alongside environmental sustainability, social equity, and community wellbeing.

The strategy will help ensure that Richmond is competitive, equitable, and adaptable as our global and regional economic environment evolves. It will help guide investment, inform land use and infrastructure planning, and drive collaboration between the City, businesses, and community organizations.

This **What We Heard Report** summarizes input gathered through public engagement conducted between September and November 2025. The purpose of this report is to document key themes, priorities, and perspectives shared by Richmond residents, businesses, institutions, and community organizations. These insights have informed the development of draft guiding principles for the Economic Development Strategy, and they will continue inform the development of the Strategy, including the priorities and actions that will be explored in subsequent phases of the work.

Engagement Objectives

The objectives of this engagement were to:

- Build a stronger understanding of what's working well in Richmond's economy, what challenges businesses and workers are facing, and what economic opportunities Richmond should prioritize;
- Ensure the strategy reflects lived experience and expert insights across a range of demographic groups, business sectors, and business sizes;
- Gather input on how Richmond can build an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient economy and business community; and
- Understand expectations for the City's role in supporting economic development and addressing economic challenges.

Public Engagement Approach

There were six key ways for the community to provide input:

1. **A public survey** designed to gather input from Richmond residents, workers, and visitors on the vision for economic development in Richmond, key issues and opportunities, and the role of the City.
2. **Business and community leader interviews** with representatives from a wide range of businesses and organizations to understand sector and demographic specific economic challenges and opportunities.
3. **On-Site pop-ups at public events and venues** to promote survey participation and secure real-time input on economic issues and opportunities.
4. **Topic-specific roundtable discussions** to validate interview insights, and uncover opportunities to address specific business challenges, risks, or trends.
5. **An Economic Advisory Committee (EAC) workshop** to dive into opportunities to develop Richmond's innovation ecosystem.
6. **City of Richmond advisory committee presentations and discussions** to identify the intersection of economic development with other City objectives and initiatives.

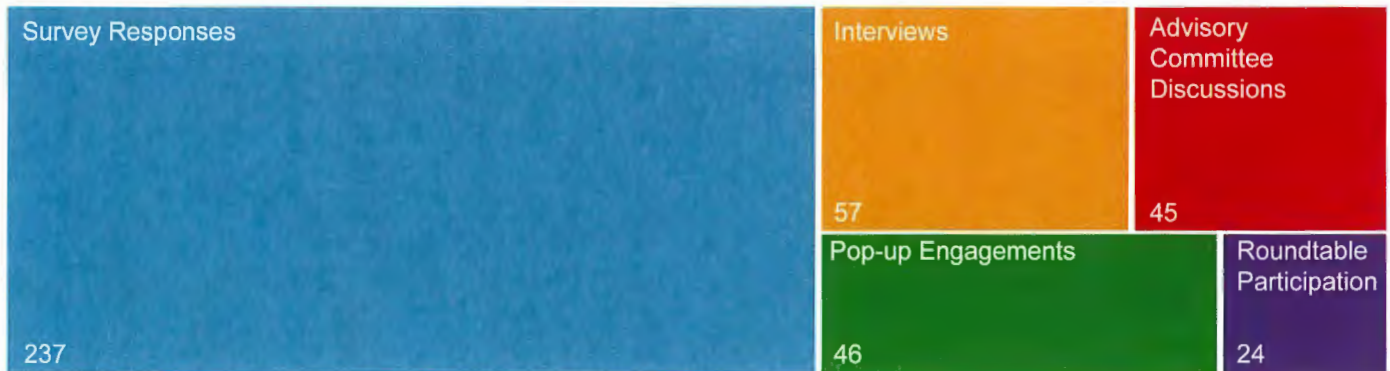
Awareness Building

The City used several channels to promote opportunities to participate in the public engagement process. These included social media, direct emailing to businesses (more than 700 direct emails sent to businesses and community organizations), use of the 'Let's Talk Richmond' platform, newsletters (about 12,000 sent), and signage in public places. See **Appendix A** for details.

Engagement Profile

In total, more than 400 Richmond residents, business owners, community organizations, employees, students, and visitors were engaged through the survey, several dozen interviews, five pop-up engagements at high-traffic locations and events, four topic-specific roundtables, and six advisory committee discussions (See Figure 1.1). Participants spanned a wide range of ages, employment positions, and industry sectors. See **Appendix B** for a detailed breakdown of engagement participants.

Figure 1.1 | Individuals Engaged by Engagement Format



Key Findings

Public engagement resulted in extensive feedback in the following areas:

- Local Business Support** | Participants emphasized the importance of supporting existing local businesses to grow, adapt, and remain competitive. This included interest in reducing barriers to doing business, improving access to space and infrastructure, and supporting workforce participation.
- Transportation** | Transportation and congestion were widely identified as key challenges affecting businesses, workers, and residents. Participants highlighted the impact of commuting, goods movement, and access to employment areas on economic productivity and quality of life.
- Economic Inclusion** | Engagement highlighted ongoing barriers to economic participation for some groups, including youth, newcomers, and people with disabilities. Participants emphasized the importance of workforce supports, accessible employment pathways, and collaboration between employers, service providers, and institutions.
- Industrial Area Planning** | Engagement underscored the importance of Richmond’s industrial areas to the regional and national economy. Input focused on the need for coordinated planning, infrastructure investment, and clarity around the long term role of industrial lands.
- Sustainability, Innovation, and Resilience** | Engagement emphasized the importance of aligning economic development and innovation agendas with environmental sustainability and resilience. Participants highlighted interest in developing innovative business solutions to shared challenges

such as climate adaptation, earthquake and natural disaster risk management, the energy transition, and efficient goods movement.

- Permitting** | Several opportunities were raised by the community to improve the predictability, clarity, and efficiency of permitting and licensing processes.
- Zoning and Placemaking** | Engagement identified opportunities to review zoning to address gaps in the market and to engage in placemaking activities, such as activation of public spaces, to support economic activity and community vibrancy.

Engagement participants also shared input on sector specific challenges and trends, as well as potential economic development roles of the City.

KEY FINDINGS	04
Local Business Support	05
Transportation	07
Economic Inclusion	09
Industrial Area Planning	11
Sustainability, Innovation, and Resilience	12
Zoning, Permitting, and Placemaking	14
THEMES & INSIGHTS	15
City Roles and Responsibilities	16
Sector-Specific Insights	17
Cross-Cutting Observations	20
Guiding Principles	21
APPENDICES	22

Key Findings

Local Business Support

What We Heard

Supporting existing local businesses to grow and adapt emerged as a top priority in the engagement process. Participants consistently emphasized the importance of helping businesses remain viable and competitive amid rising costs, changing market conditions, and broader economic uncertainty.

Businesses described several interconnected factors that influence their ability to grow and adapt, including:

- Access to suitable commercial and industrial space,
- Availability of a reliable workforce,
- Predictability and clarity of regulatory and permitting processes.

Where We Heard This

This theme emerged across multiple engagement activities. Supporting local businesses ranked as the top economic priority in the public survey (Figure 2.1)

and was reinforced through interviews, roundtable discussions, and advisory committee discussions. While different sectors and business sizes emphasized different challenges, participants broadly aligned on the importance of focusing economic development efforts on retaining and strengthening existing businesses.

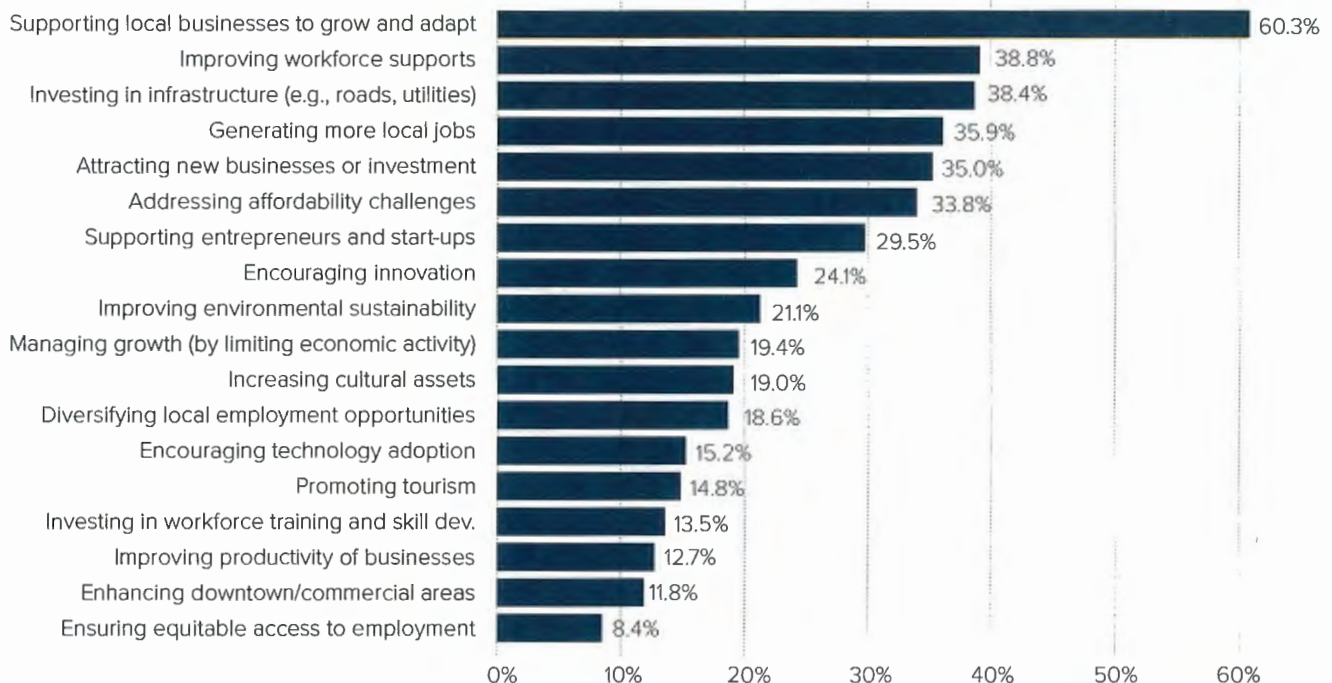
Considerations

Business needs vary by industry sector, business scale, and physical space requirements. For instance:

- Businesses requiring larger footprints, such as industrial transportation and warehousing businesses, larger manufacturers or recyclers, and some retail operations, emphasized the importance of affordability and availability of suitable space.
- Professional services and technology firms more often raised concerns related to workforce attraction, including the need for commuting options and access to amenities near their workplaces.

Figure 2.1 | Public Survey Response

I think the top priorities of the local economy should be:



- Smaller businesses described having limited internal capacity to navigate regulatory processes, access information, and manage rising costs. These constraints were framed as affecting their ability to expand, reinvest, or adapt in response to changing economic conditions.

Participants emphasized that their business success is shaped by interconnected factors. Access to space, workforce availability, and permitting predictability collectively influence investment and location decisions, rather than any single factor in isolation.

Transportation

What We Heard

Richmond's location and transportation links were identified as one of its biggest economic strengths (Figure 2.2). Businesses noted that transportation infrastructure drives:

- Business location decisions, with many transportation and logistics firms valuing rail access, proximity to the airport, a central location for serving the region's four deep-sea port terminals, and proximity to related transportation, warehousing, and logistics businesses.
- Richmond's role in regional and national supply chains, including its roles in supporting goods import and export (through the airport and port), as well as regional distribution and last-mile delivery.

At the same time, traffic and congestion, along with transit connectivity, were raised as major challenges for Richmond (Figure 2.3). Participants emphasized that transportation and transit issues influence:

- Cost of doing business, as congestion can lead to escalating costs of moving goods through and within the city.
- Workforce attraction and retention, as it can be challenging to navigate long commute times and limited transit options to some employment areas.
- Overall quality of life for residents and workers as

high transportation costs (affiliated with the need for a personal vehicle) and long commute times (affiliated with traffic and congestion) can contribute to a lower quality of life.

Where We Heard This

This theme emerged across multiple engagement activities. Access and connectivity was identified as the top economic challenge in the public survey and was reinforced through interviews with businesses and topic-specific roundtables. Engagement with transportation, logistics, and industrial businesses surfaced more specific input related to goods movement, access to employment lands, and last mile connectivity for workers. Advisory Committee discussions also highlighted the broader impacts of transportation challenges on workforce participation, economic inclusion, and access to services.

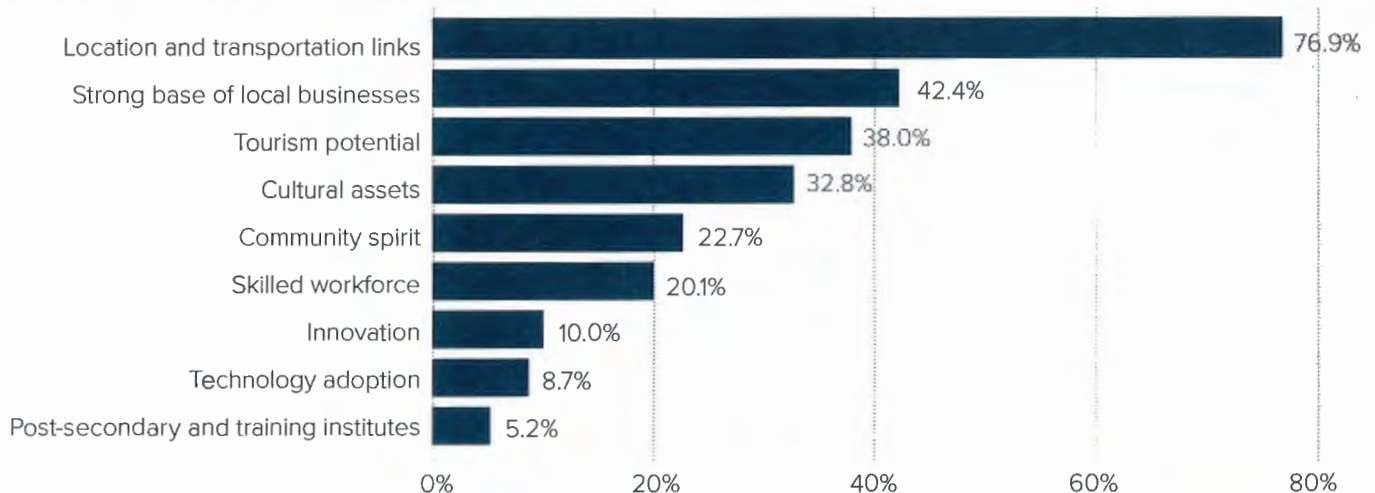
Considerations

Transportation challenges differed by location and business type.

- Businesses operating in industrial areas, including Mitchell Island, the River Road industrial area east of Knight Street, and the South Fraser Lands,

Figure 2.2 | Public Survey Response

I see the following as Richmond's biggest economic strengths:



emphasized limited transit service as a barrier to employee attraction and retention. These businesses also expressed efficiency and safety concerns affiliated with the design of the road network both within these districts and connecting these districts to regional trucking routes.

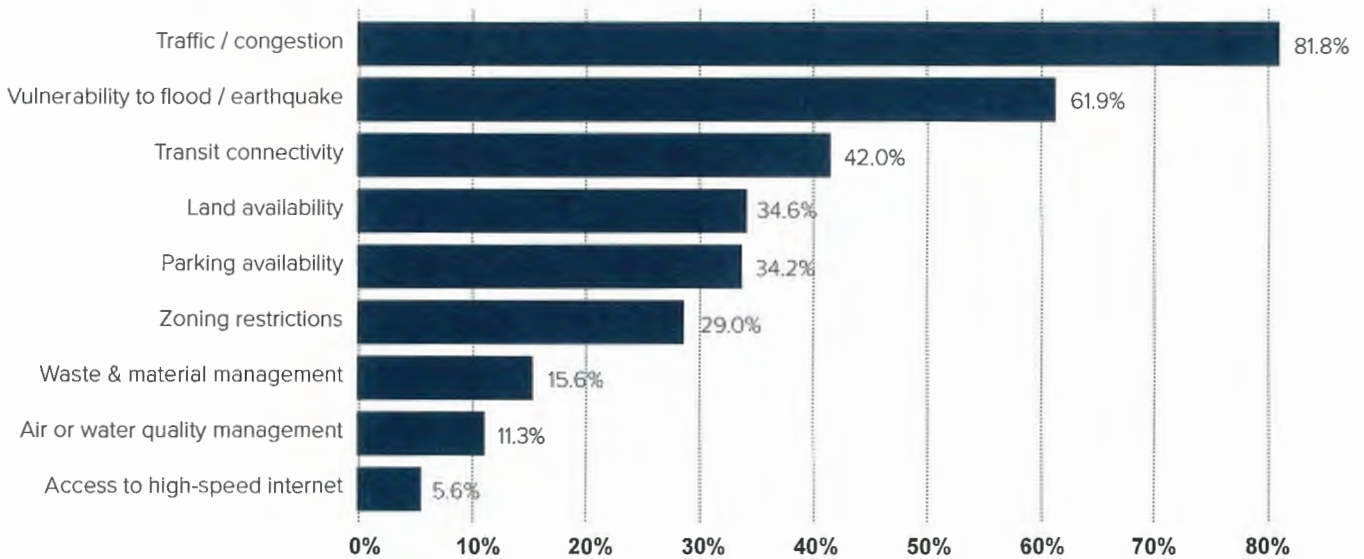
- Businesses in more central or mixed use areas more commonly raised concerns related to congestion, parking availability, and commute reliability.
- Workforce impacts were a recurring concern. Participants described long or unreliable commutes as

compounding labour shortages, particularly for lower wage, shift-based, or entry level roles. Transportation challenges were framed as influencing who can realistically access employment opportunities in Richmond.

Transportation issues intersected with other economic pressures. Engagement highlighted strong links between transit access, affordability, and workforce availability, reinforcing the importance of extensive and efficient transit options to Richmond's economy.

Figure 2.3 | Public Survey Response

I believe Richmond's biggest economic challenges are:



Economic Inclusion

What We Heard

Community organizations stressed that economic inclusion hinges on access to stable employment. Participants noted that barriers to employment cannot be separated from challenges related to affordability, transportation access, child care, language and communication, and navigating complex regulatory systems and social supports.

Participants noted that information gaps, bias, and stigma continue to hinder access to employment for newcomers, youth, and people with disabilities. In addition, businesses and job-seekers are often unaware of funding programs and operational supports available to them. This can limit individuals' ability to enter and remain in the workforce even where job opportunities are available.

Employer capacity can have a significant influence on inclusive hiring practices. Larger organizations described having greater internal capacity to adopt inclusive employment practices. Small and mid sized businesses expressed limited capacity for adopting more inclusive hiring practices without clear guidance and support.

Where We Heard This

This theme emerged most strongly through targeted engagement. Specifically, economic inclusion was raised through interviews with community-serving organizations, as well as in a targeted economic inclusion roundtable and in discussions with City advisory committees.

Related issues also surfaced through roundtables on transportation and warehousing and Mitchell Island. In these roundtables, participants raised workforce participation barriers stemming from limited transit access to industrial districts.

Survey participants did not rank "equitable access to employment" as a priority for the Richmond economy (See Figure 2.1). This discrepancy between survey respondents and interviewees highlights the value of engaging through multiple channels as different community members may participate in different ways.

Considerations

Engagement revealed key differences in how employment barriers are experienced.

- Youth employment challenges were described as related to limited entry level opportunities, gaps in job readiness supports, and uncertainty about long-term job prospects affecting the motivation of youth to seek employment.
- Barriers faced by people with disabilities included needing workplace accommodations (which can take the form of physical workplace accommodations or role modifications) and stigma or misperceptions affecting hiring and retention. Neuro-divergent individuals were noted as a growing group who could benefit from workplace accommodations.
- Newcomers and refugees experience many systemic barriers to economic inclusion. Participants described challenges related to language proficiency, cultural and workplace norms, recognition of international experience, and navigating credentialing or licensing systems.

Across all groups, barriers to employment can be compounded by limited awareness of available financial and operational supports by various government and non-profit organizations. In addition, several organizations providing support to youth, newcomers, and people with disabilities noted challenges with service capacity and continuity. Specifically, funding uncertainty and limited program capacity affect their ability to deliver sufficient service to the community.

About 15% of survey participants felt negatively about their employment prospects in Richmond (See Figure 2.4). Among this group, survey participants most commonly cited two factors impacting their employment prospects (See Figure 2.5):

- Lack of available jobs at the appropriate level of seniority for my experience (most commonly cited among middle managers and professionals), and
- Lack of available jobs in my field (most commonly cited among respondents in the film, technology, and professional services sectors).

Figure 2.4 | Public Survey Response

I feel the following about my employment prospects in Richmond:

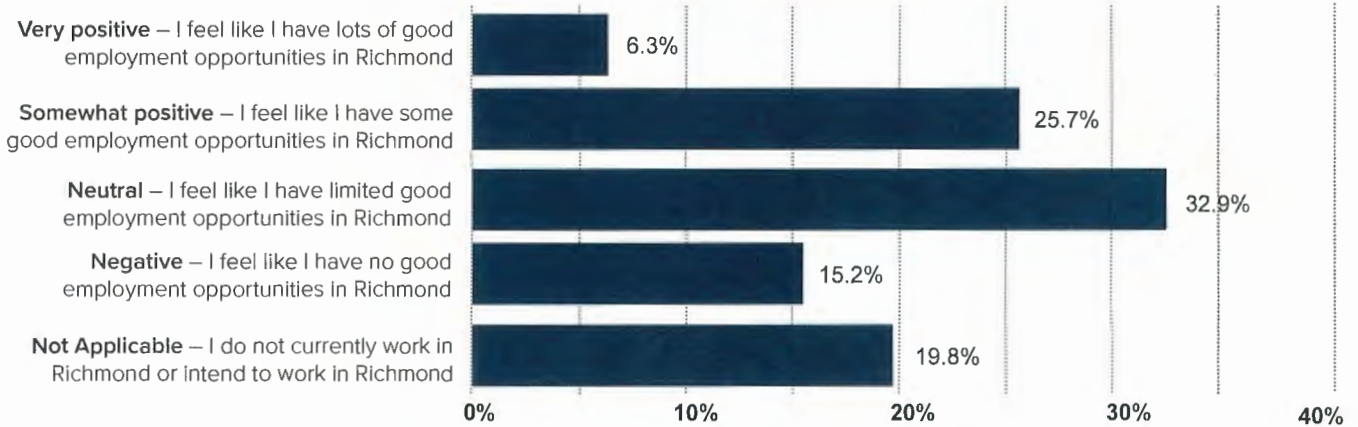
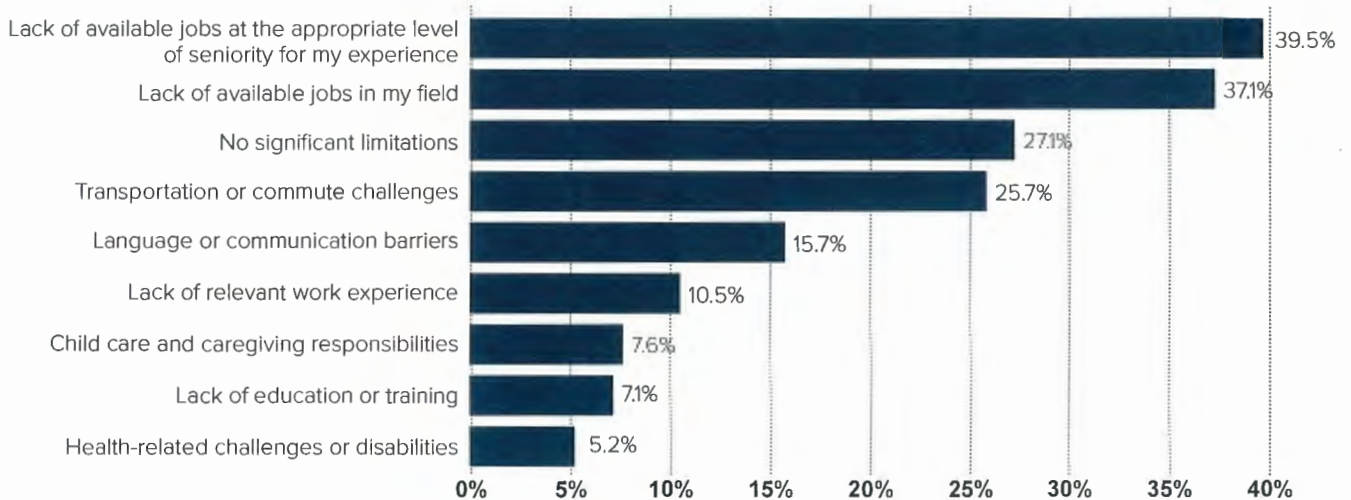


Figure 2.5 | Public Survey Response

I feel the following factors are currently limiting my employment opportunities:



Industrial Area Planning

What We Heard

Richmond's industrial areas and trade supporting lands were described as critical to the regional economy. Participants emphasized that these areas support regional distribution, national goods movement connected to the port and airport, and the supply chain for construction, waste management, retail, and other population-serving sectors.

Input highlighted that reliable transit access, supportive land use planning, and safe and efficient transportation infrastructure for goods movement are key to ensuring businesses in Richmond's industrial districts can continue to grow and remain competitive.

Industrial areas were not viewed as uniform. Participants emphasized that different locations and types of industrial activity face distinct constraints and risks.

Where We Heard This

This theme emerged most strongly through targeted business engagement. Industrial areas and goods movement issues were raised through interviews and roundtables. Discussion of goods movement and industrial land priorities featured prominently in the Transportation & Logistics and Manufacturing & Technology roundtables, as well as engagement focused on Mitchell Island.

Considerations

Industrial areas functioned differently across the city. Engagement highlighted differences among locations such as the South Fraser Lands, the River Road industrial area east of Knight Street, Sea Island, and Mitchell Island. Each experiences distinct access, infrastructure, and operational constraints.

- Businesses in the South Fraser Lands expressed concerns about congestion on Knight Street and at the Blundell Road and No. 8 Street intersection impacting the efficiency of their operations. In addition, they noted that limited transit hours to the area can impact their ability to staff (and therefore operate) night shifts. Finally, they noted that uncertainty around the impact of the Cowichan Tribes land rights claims in the area is making businesses hesitant to invest in new facilities and infrastructure.
- Businesses east of Knight Street along River Road expressed concerns about safe commuting for staff

as transit stops short of many industrial sites and there is limited separated pedestrian infrastructure for those commuting the 'last-mile' on foot. They also expressed concerns related to driving speed and driveway access on River Road, noting that the narrow street, commercial driveways, and high volumes of passenger and commercial traffic can result in road conflicts, congestion, and safety concerns.

- Mitchell Island businesses expressed similar concerns around transit access, active transportation infrastructure, and congestion. Specifically, Mitchell Island businesses are looking for improved active transportation infrastructure connecting mainland transit nodes with businesses on the island and on/off ramp solutions for improving fluidity of traffic to/from the island. In addition, Mitchell Island businesses expressed concerns about flooding, noting interest in participating in detailed long-term planning processes for improving water management and flood protection on the island.

Across all industrial areas, participants emphasized the importance of

- Well-designed, reliable, and safe road corridors within industrial areas,
- Efficient access routes connecting industrial areas with the regional transportation network for both goods movement and workforce access.

Sustainability, Innovation, and Resilience

What We Heard

Participants in the engagement process emphasized the importance of integrating sustainability, innovation, and resilience into the City's Economic Development Strategy. Participants noted that Richmond's economy should support long term environmental sustainability and community well-being alongside economic growth.

Participants described preparedness for disruptions—including adverse climate-related events—as critical for business continuity. Innovation was described as an enabler of economic resilience rather than an end in itself. Rather than focusing on specific industries, engagement emphasized developing an innovation ecosystem that addresses practical challenges, such as transportation efficiency, food security, or the energy transition.

Participants raised several tools for promoting innovation and increasing community resilience, such as:

- Establishing coordinated approaches to climate risk management in areas where businesses are vulnerable to flood risk,
- Expanding on climate and circular economy policies and promoting businesses that can aid with their implementation,
- Establishing collaborative green infrastructure planning processes with the private sector, such as for supporting electrification, clean fuels, and on-site flood management.

Where We Heard This

This theme emerged across several engagement channels. Sustainability, innovation, and resilience were raised through topic specific discussions with businesses and institutions, advisory committee input, and the innovation ecosystem workshop held with the City's Economic Advisory Committee (EAC).

Survey respondents highlighted vulnerability to flood and earthquake as a major challenge (See Figure 2.3). In addition, more than 50% of survey respondents highlighted climate change impacts as a major risk to Richmond's economy. In a ranking exercise, survey participants ranked cost of living, transportation constraints, and an aging population as Richmond's top risks (See Figure 2.6).

Considerations

Interviews and roundtables revealed that businesses see resilience as closely tied to natural hazard preparedness. Participants raised flooding, earthquake risk, and extreme weather as concerns with implications for residents, businesses, and industrial facilities, equipment, and infrastructure. Mitchell Island roundtable participants expressed interest in taking a coordinated approach to flood management.

Environmental priorities and related opportunities to support innovation varied by engagement group and context.

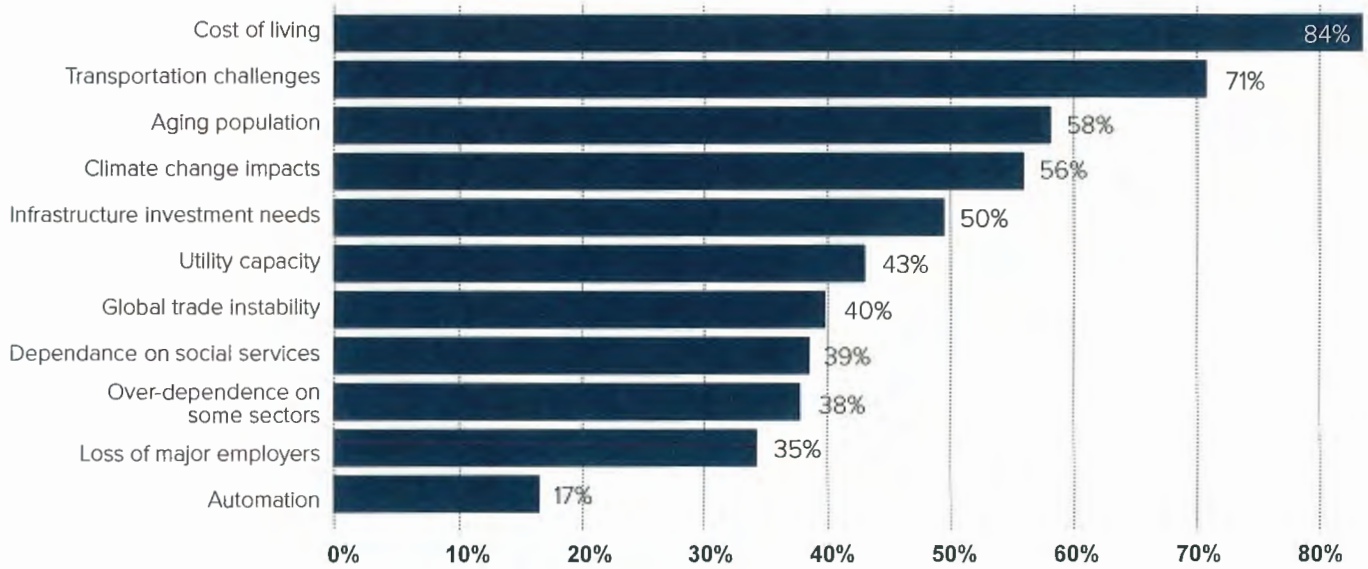
- Interviews and roundtables with businesses in construction and manufacturing highlighted interest in further pursuing circular economy opportunities.
- Interviews with utilities, transportation businesses, and major employers highlighted interest in the energy transition, including adopting clean fuels and electrifying operations.
- Advisory committees identified opportunities to leverage Richmond's extensive agricultural lands, airport proximity, engineering talent, and robust food processing sector to address food security and improve agricultural viability.

Engagement emphasized the City's role in reducing barriers and creating conditions for innovation through planning, permitting, partnerships, and supportive spaces, rather than direct support to individual firms.

In addition, infrastructure reliability was linked to long term resilience. Participants raised concerns related to energy reliability and future capacity as factors affecting operational resilience and planning certainty for trade-oriented businesses.

Figure 2.6 | Public Survey Response

I think the following factors pose significant risks to Richmond's economy:



Zoning, Permitting, and Placemaking

What We Heard

Engagement highlighted the roles of land use zoning, permitting, and placemaking in strengthening existing commercial areas, supporting local business expansion, and fostering new economic activity.

Zoning | Engagement highlighted the importance of land use planning and zoning in facilitating the types of development needed to support business activities in Richmond. It was noted that prior planning efforts geared toward intensifying industrial lands and stimulating office development have been successful; however, commercial development has lagged for other market-driven reasons. Future land use planning efforts might consider how to fill gaps in the market for mid-scale mixed industrial and office spaces.

Permitting | Predictability, clarity, and efficiency throughout permitting processes were described as important to business decision making. Participants noted that navigating permitting, licensing, and land use requirements can create uncertainty and delays, particularly during business expansions, relocations, and tenant improvements. Participants described the value of understanding requirements, receiving consistent direction, and having better visibility into process steps and timelines when working through City processes.

Placemaking | Participants described placemaking as encompassing a range of activities, including cultural events, festivals, and temporary activation of public spaces (such as public markets). These activities were framed as ways to support local businesses, attract visitors, and strengthen community identity. Businesses also noted opportunities to strengthen existing mixed employment areas through increased access to amenities, such as retail and services.

Where We Heard This

Planning and permitting challenges and opportunities were raised through interviews and roundtables, where participants shared experiences related to permitting timelines, communication, and navigating regulatory processes. Placemaking was raised through interviews and advisory committee discussions, particularly in conversations focused on community wellbeing, culture, and local economic activity. These themes were less prominent in broad survey feedback. Participants who

raised placemaking opportunities often did so in relation to specific neighbourhoods or commercial areas.

Considerations

Permitting timelines and predictability were central concerns for businesses.

- Participants emphasized that uncertainty around permitting timelines can complicate coordination of tenant improvements, contractor schedules, and move in dates, particularly during expansions or relocations.
- Clear guidance and communication were seen as highly valuable throughout the permitting process.
- Businesses described the importance of transparent requirements, consistent feedback, and better visibility into process steps.
- Participants noted that permitting complexity can be particularly high for specialized or non-standard uses.
- In industrial contexts, participants linked predictability in planning and permitting to long term decisions about reinvestment and expansion.

Placemaking efforts were seen as a great opportunity for Richmond to continue to grow its economic role in the region.

- Some participants highlighted the role of short-term activities, such as events and pop-up markets, for creating opportunities for local vendors, artists, and small businesses. Ease of navigating City processes was described as a factor that can influence the feasibility of such activities.
- Local context was seen as critical to effective placemaking. Engagement suggested that placemaking initiatives are most effective when they respond to neighbourhood character, scale, and existing conditions rather than applying uniform approaches across the city. Participants emphasized that placemaking should build on local strengths and complement other neighbourhood uses.

Themes and Insights

Potential City Roles and Responsibilities

What We Heard

Engagement revealed strong support for municipal economic development leadership. Several potential roles were identified for the City in supporting economic development. These include:

- Attracting new economic activity to Richmond,
- Helping navigate business licensing and permitting processes,
- Planning for future industrial and commercial space, as well as commercial 'activations' of public spaces, such as events and markets,
- Facilitating access to supports, such as child care, affordable housing, and transit, that enable workforce participation, and
- Establishing partnerships and business network

development in support of workforce development and innovation.

Where We Heard This

The City's role in economic development was raised in all forms of engagement. The public survey confirmed that economic development is an important mandate for the City and identified several areas of focus.

In addition, business owners, community organization representatives, advisory committee members, and community members provided feedback on the City's economic development roles and opportunities through interviews, advisory committee discussions, topic-specific roundtables, and pop-up events.

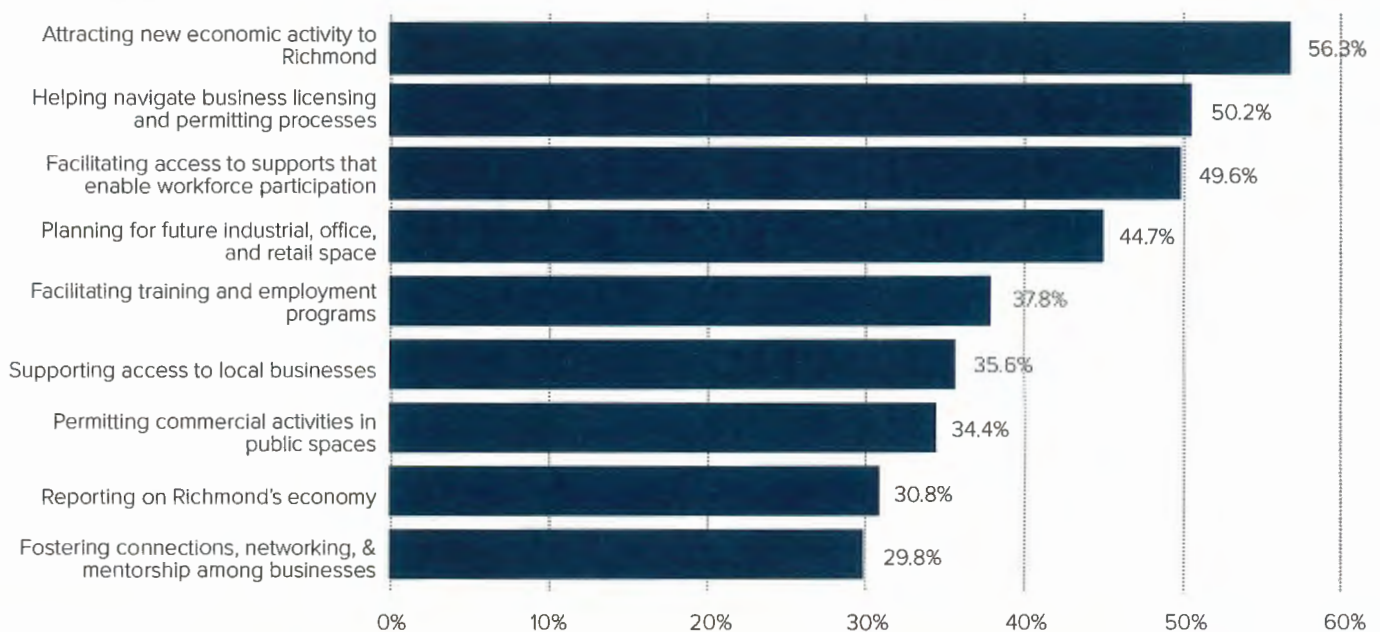
Figure 2.7 | Public Survey Response

I believe economic development is an important mandate for the City of Richmond:



Figure 2.8 | Public Survey Response

I believe the City should be focusing its economic development efforts in the following areas:



Sector-Specific Outlooks and Insights

What We Heard

Engagement revealed interest in seeing many sectors of Richmond's economy grow (See Figure 2.9), including:

- Social service sectors, such as healthcare, education, child care, and non-profit organizations
- Transportation and logistics
- Technology sectors, such as cleantech and biotech
- Hospitality, tourism, film, and cultural industries
- Agrifood

In addition, engagement participants provided views on the role of various sectors in Richmond's economy today and in the future.

Technology Manufacturing | Richmond businesses in the technology and device manufacturing sector noted that they excel in the product and process development part of technology manufacturing. Specifically, they specialize in the design and prototyping of custom solutions where engineering talent is most important. That said, Richmond lacks competitiveness in mass production for technology manufacturing, with businesses preferring to outsource that part of the manufacturing process to companies in Asia or America.

While participants identified an ongoing role for Richmond technology manufacturers as a prototyping and design hub, they did not anticipate this sector to grow in the coming decade as the sector is being impacted by:

- A decline in the resource industries (several niche manufacturers were established to support BC's resource industries),
- Lower costs of production overseas (where many manufacturers are outsourcing mass production),
- Changing trade dynamics (specifically uncertainty around U.S. political directions are impacting investor confidence), and
- Limited community support (with public pressure to shift industrial activities further east in the region).

Food Processing and Manufacturing | Richmond businesses identified a continued strong role for food production and processing in Richmond. The ecosystem of major food retailers, processors, producers (e.g. farmers and fishers), and food processing experts lends, along with availability of industrial space, lends itself to continued growth of this sector. Niche processed or packaged food expertise, such as allergen-free foods, and

vegan or vegetarian alternatives to meat products were noted as an interesting area of growth for Richmond.

Transportation, Warehousing, and Logistics | Richmond's industrial lands play a crucial role in the national supply chain and in regional distribution. Participants stressed that transportation and warehousing businesses in Richmond are major regional employers, attracting a workforce from Surrey, Delta, Vancouver, and elsewhere from across the region.

Engagement participants expressed an optimistic outlook for the transportation, warehousing, and logistics sector, noting that changes in the global trade landscape are likely to result in increased international trade through Vancouver. Participants emphasized the importance of improving land use and infrastructure efficiency to support growth in trade, transportation, and logistics in the region.

Several participants have been exploring opportunities to use barging to move bulk, breakbulk, and containerized freight throughout the region. Although significant investment in, and adoption of, short sea shipping (i.e. containerized barging) is not yet seen as a competitive prospect in the region, participants emphasized the importance of connectivity between rail, road, water, and air modes of transportation as critical to maintaining supply chain fluidity and resilience.

Healthcare | Richmond's healthcare sector is strained and is anticipated to require substantial growth to meet the needs of the growing and aging population. Richmond requires more healthcare professionals (including family physicians, clinic staff, and specialists), multilingual and culturally safe care, and increased home or community care capacity to aid with care for chronic diseases affiliated with aging.

The healthcare sector is evolving to consider more "whole person" care that includes social health, physical activity, and access to healthy food and living spaces. Civic programming, recreation and greenspaces, food security, and affordable, stable housing are all therefore considered essential infrastructure for supporting community health.

Trades | Business owners spanning the trades, construction, manufacturing, aviation, and recycling noted challenges in securing skilled tradespeople. Participants noted that several factors contribute to workforce gaps, including:

- Difficulty attracting young people to the trades,
- Wage competitiveness, or
- Limited transit access or long commute times to Richmond's industrial areas where roles are available.

Where We Heard This

Sector-specific insights, challenges, and opportunities were primarily raised in interviews and roundtables by both business owners and industry associations. In addition, the public survey asked participants which sectors they thought should grow, shrink, or stay the same in Richmond's economy (see Figure 2.9). Key sector-specific assets were also flagged as important strengths in Richmond's economy through the survey (see Figure 2.10).

Figure 2.9 | Public Survey Response

I would like to see the following sectors grow, shrink, or remain the same in Richmond:

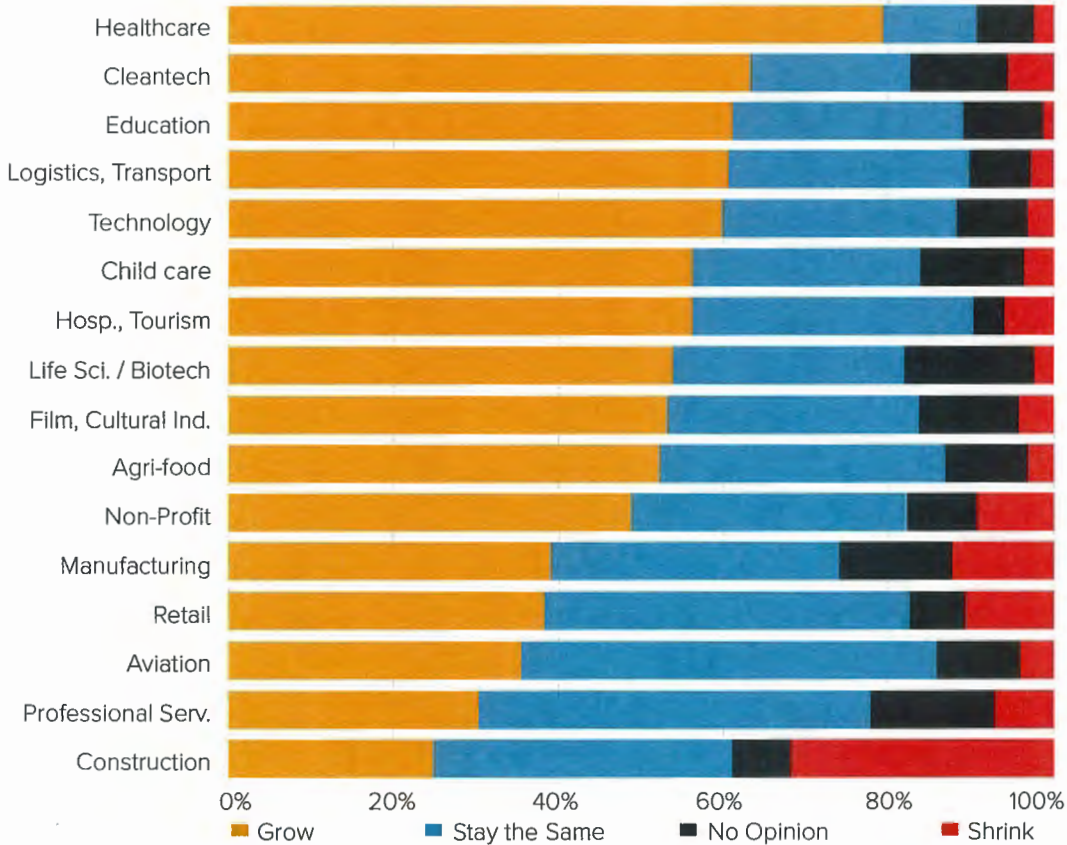
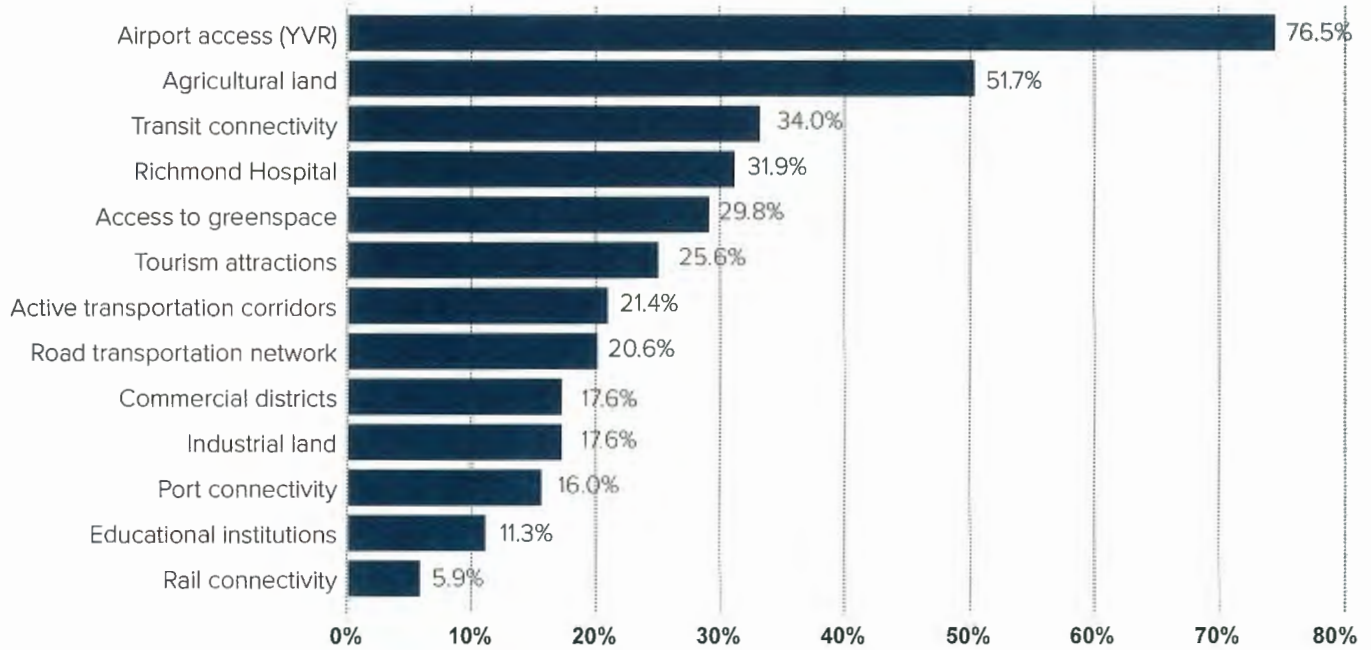


Figure 2.10 | Public Survey Response

I believe Richmond's most important economic assets are:



Cross-cutting Observations

While the thematic findings highlight distinct issues and opportunities raised by the community, engagement revealed patterns that cut across multiple topics and engagement activities

1. Participants consistently described economic issues as interconnected rather than isolated.

Transportation, workforce participation, land use, permitting, affordability, and resilience were frequently discussed together, with participants emphasizing that challenges in one area often influence outcomes in others. This interconnection was evident across themes related to business support, economic inclusion, industrial lands, and infrastructure.

2. Access and predictability were emphasized alongside growth and attraction.

Across engagement, participants highlighted the importance of access—to employment, transportation, space, services, and amenities—as well as predictability in planning, permitting, and infrastructure performance. These factors were repeatedly described as shaping business decisions, workforce participation, and investment confidence.

3. Place based conditions matter to how issues were experienced.

Engagement highlighted meaningful differences across locations within Richmond. Industrial areas, commercial districts, mixed-use neighbourhoods, and public spaces were described as having distinct characteristics and constraints that influence business operations, workforce access, community experience, and resilience. For instance:

- Businesses in specific industrial areas identified gaps in active transportation infrastructure and transit as critical constraints.
- Businesses in office districts identified lack of access to amenities for employees as constraints,

Participants emphasized that challenges and opportunities often depend on local context rather than applying uniformly across the city.

4. Workforce participation is influenced by enabling conditions beyond job availability.

Across multiple themes, participants described factors such as transportation access, child care availability, affordability, scheduling, and system navigation as shaping whether people can enter and stay in the workforce. These enabling conditions were discussed in connection with both economic inclusion and broader business and employment challenges.

5. Resilience was framed as practical and operational.

Participants tended to discuss resilience in terms of preparedness for disruption and continuity of day-to-day operations. Natural hazards, infrastructure reliability, energy systems, and supply chain continuity were described as having direct implications for businesses, workers, and long-term economic stability.

6. The City's role in economic development was often described as enabling and coordinating.

Across engagement activities, participants frequently framed the City's role in economic development as one focused on clarity, coordination, and enabling conditions—such as planning, permitting, infrastructure, convening, and communication—rather than direct intervention in business activity.

Guiding Principles

Proposed Guiding Principles

Rooted in what we heard through public engagement, early research, and in alignment with Council's Strategic Plan and other City strategies, the following Guiding Principles are proposed as lenses to inform the development of Richmond's new Economic Development Strategy.

1. Forward-Looking and Resilient:

Build on Richmond's strengths and assets to create the conditions for strategically ambitious, long-term economic prosperity, while also designing for resilience as challenges and opportunities evolve.

2. Inclusive Prosperity and Shared Opportunity:

Facilitate economic growth that is equitable, accessible, and broadly shared across sectors and diverse communities, considering both people and the environment at the centre of growth.

3. Collaborative and Partnership-Oriented:

Foster strong partnerships with businesses, institutions, community organizations, and other levels of government to leverage shared opportunities and build a high-functioning, connected ecosystem.

4. Leveraging the City's Role:

Support and facilitate the conditions for innovation, investment, and growth through the deliberate and strategic use of the City's tools, resources, and expertise.

Appendices

Appendix A | Outreach & Engagement Materials

Outreach Process

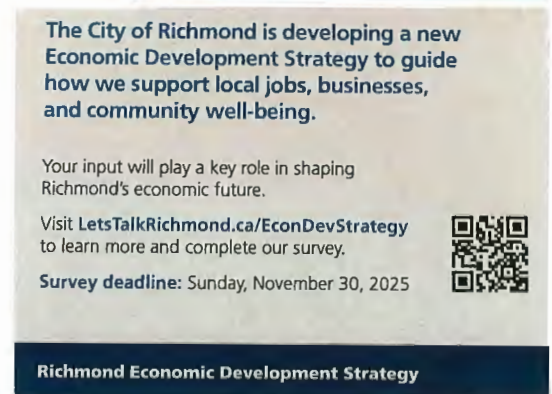
Engagement took place from September 23rd to November 30th, 2025 using a multi-channel approach to capture broad representation across sectors in the local community. Outreach included:

- Direct outreach (emails) to over 700 businesses
- Newsletter circulation to all licensed businesses in Richmond (~10k businesses)
- Pop-up engagements at the Steveston waterfront, Aberdeen Centre, and Lansdowne Centre
- Participation in local business events, including the Business Appreciation Event and the Chamber Mid-Autumn Festival
- Facilitation of discussions with 6 standing City advisory committees

Additionally, the City promoted participation in the consultation process through a number of channels, including:

- The Let's Talk Richmond platform and newsletter
- Social media posts
- A news release
- Digital signage on transit stations and in community centres

Images on this page include examples of postcards, posters, and social media posts used to support outreach.



Interview Questions:

1. What does your business do? What are your goals or objectives over the coming years?
2. Why are you located in Richmond? What do you see as Richmond's key economic assets or strengths?
3. What are the top operational challenges your business is facing? Are these common challenges across other businesses in your sector?
4. What opportunities do you see for the City to support business resilience and growth within your industry? Consider land use, infrastructure, workforce development, and social and environmental actions
5. What trends and risks are impacting your business? Consider political and legal, environmental, social, technological, and economic trends / risks?
6. What do you see as the top economic development priorities for Richmond? What do you see as the role of the City in delivering on them?

Interview questions were adjusted to reflect the role and sector of the interviewee.

Roundtable Topics & Discussion Questions

In total, four targeted roundtable discussions were held about:

- Technology & Manufacturing
- Transportation & Logistics
- Mitchell Island
- Economic Inclusion

Topics were informed by preliminary research and interviews. Individuals from 20 organizations participated in these roundtables.

Manufacturing and Technology

1. What is Richmond's role in the regional manufacturing, tech, and innovation landscape? Why?
2. How do you anticipate the local manufacturing and technology sector to evolve in the next decade?
3. What are your key business challenges and which are unique to Richmond?
4. How might the City help address your business challenges and support growth and resilience of the manufacturing and technology sector?

Transportation and Logistics

1. How do you anticipate Richmond's transportation and logistics cluster will change in the next decade?
2. What do you see as the primary barriers to growth and resilience in the transportation and logistics sector in Richmond?
3. What role would you see the City playing in supporting the evolution the regional transportation and logistics sector?

Mitchell Island

1. What role does Mitchell Island play in the regional economy?
2. What challenges does your business face? Which are unique to your location on Mitchell Island? What role can the City play in helping address them?
3. Are there policies or programs you have seen in other jurisdictions that promote circular practices in your industry?

Economic Inclusion

1. What current programs and supports are available to aid youth, newcomers, and individuals with disabilities in securing employment?
2. What gaps exist between job seekers and employers? What could help bridge those gaps?
3. What opportunities do you see for collaboration between employers, service providers, post-secondary institutions, and the City to improve employment prospects for under-represented groups in the local economy?

Advisory Committee Discussions

Six advisory committee meetings consisted of a short discussion on:

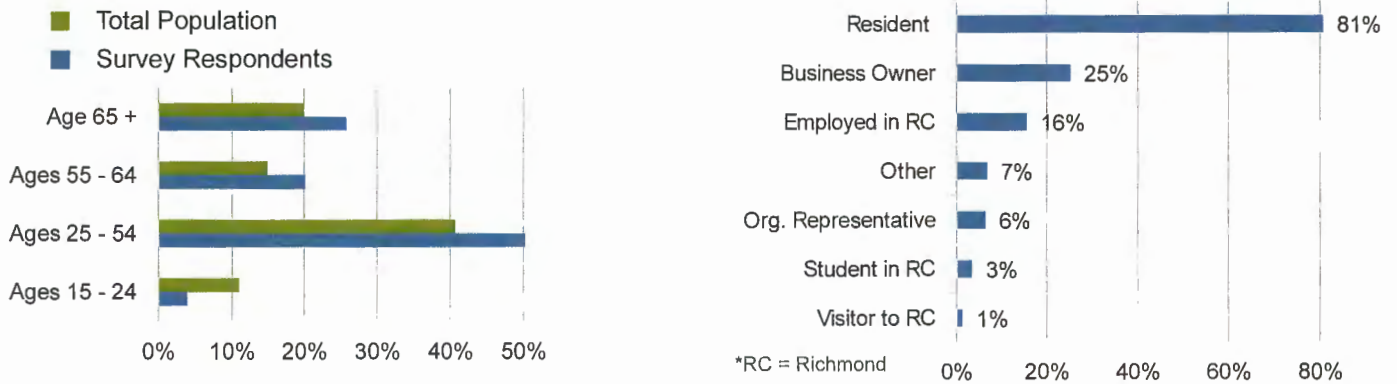
- Related work that is already underway in Richmond,
- Economic challenges the advisory committees would like to see addressed, and
- Opportunities for the economic development strategy to support related City priorities and portfolios of work.

A 90-minute workshop with the Richmond Economic Advisory Committee (EAC) was also hosted as part of the economic development strategy engagement, building off prior discussions on Richmond's innovation ecosystem.

Appendix B | Detailed Engagement Profile

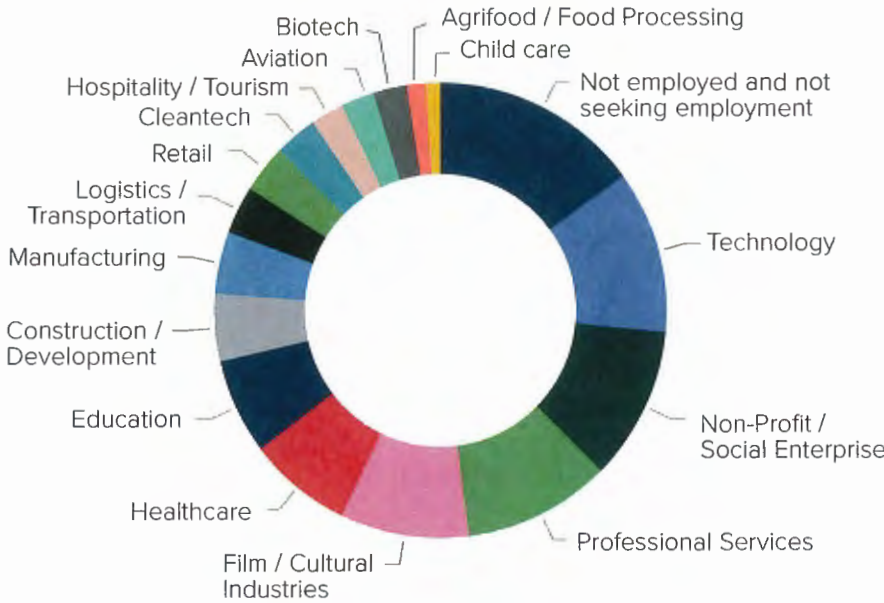
Survey Respondents

Survey respondents spanned age brackets, with about half representing mid-career ages (25 through 54). Survey respondents identified as Richmond residents, business owners, employees, community organization representatives, students, and visitors.



Survey respondents spanned executives, business owners, managers, professionals, and front-line workers, such as tradespeople, salespeople, and administrative staff. In addition, there was representation from a wide range of industry sectors.

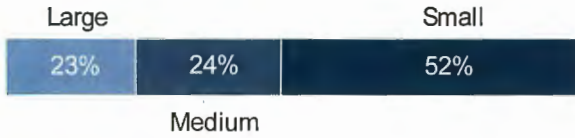
Survey Respondent Sectors



Interviewees

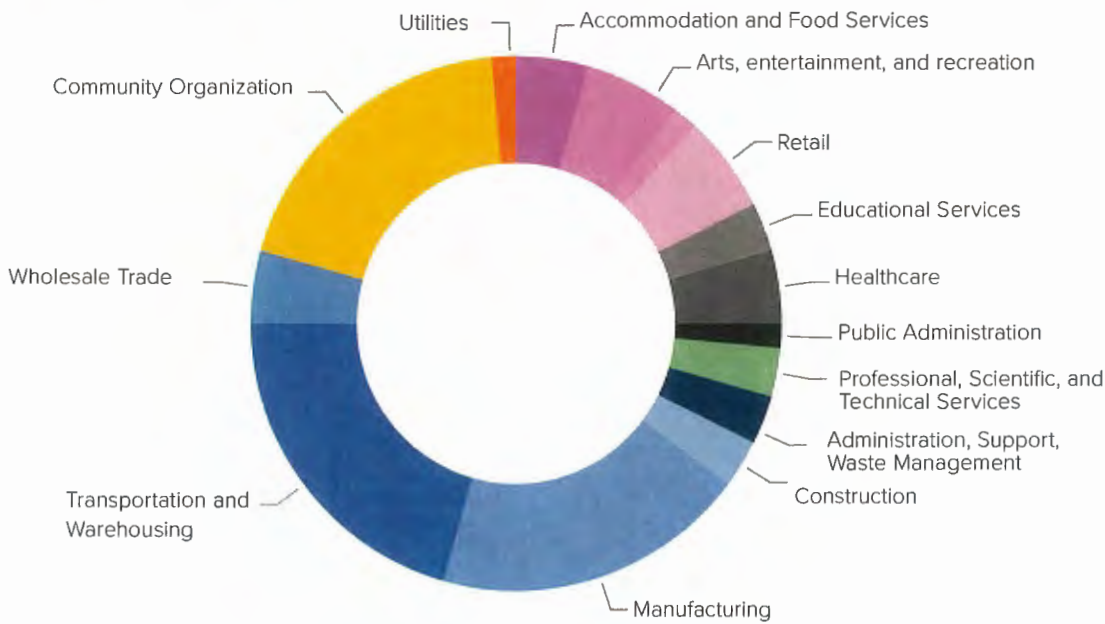
Interviewees spanned sectors and business sizes.

Interviewee Organization Size



In addition to businesses, interviewees included several community organizations that work with and represent equity-seeking groups, such as newcomers, people with disabilities, and youth.

Interviewee Industry Sectors



Advisory Committees

Six City Advisory Committees were consulted for input on opportunities to meet multiple public goals through the economic development strategy. Committees included:

- The Economic Advisory Committee
- The Food Security and Agricultural Advisory Committee,
- The Youth Advisory Committee,
- The Employment Resource Network,
- The Child Care Development Advisory Committee,
- The Council of Communities.

Pop-Up Engagement

Five on-site pop-up events were held at:

- Steveston Village
- Lansdowne Centre
- Aberdeen Centre
- The Chamber of Commerce Mid-Autumn Festival
- The City of Richmond Business Appreciation Event

Appendix C | Survey Questions

Help Shape Richmond's Economic Future

The City of Richmond is developing a new Economic Development Strategy to guide how we support local jobs, businesses, and community well-being over the next 10 years.

This strategy will aim to grow our economy in a way that also supports environmental sustainability, social equity, and a high quality of life for everyone.

We want to hear from residents, visitors, workers, employers, and community groups to help shape the vision, priorities, and actions of this plan.

The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete. Survey responses will be compiled and reported in summary form only. Individual responses will not be attributed to anyone. The information collected will help inform the priorities and decisions in the new Economic Development Strategy.

Thank you for taking the time to participate. Your input is critical to shaping Richmond's economic future.

Q1: I am responding to this survey as a:

- Business owner or entrepreneur in Richmond
- Resident of Richmond
- Someone employed in Richmond
- Visitor to Richmond
- Representative of an institution, organization, or community group in Richmond
- Other

*Please check all that apply.

Section 1: Richmond's Economic Outlook

Q2: I think the top priorities for our local economy should be: Select up to 5.

Business Supports

- Attracting new business or investment to Richmond
- Supporting existing local businesses to grow and adapt
- Supporting entrepreneurs and start-ups
- Encouraging innovation and technology adoption

Employment

- Generating more local jobs
- Diversifying local employment opportunities
- Ensuring equitable access to employment opportunities
- Investing in workforce training and skill development
- Improving workforce supports (e.g. child care, transportation, housing)

Place-making

- Enhancing downtown/commercial areas
- Investing in infrastructure (e.g., roads, broadband, utilities)

- Promoting tourism
- Increasing cultural assets (e.g. theatres, festivals)
- Improving productivity of industrial districts

Livability

- Addressing affordability challenges
- Improving the environmental sustainability of the economy (e.g., reducing pollution, renewable energy)
- Managing growth (e.g. limiting economic activity in congested areas)
- Other (please specify) _____

Q3: Which sectors would I like to see grow or shrink in our community?

Likert scale: 1 - Grow 2 – Stay the Same 3 – Shrink 4 – No Opinion

- Logistics / Transportation
- Aviation
- Agri-food / Food Processing / Seafood
- Cleantech / Green Economy
- Retail
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Professional Services (e.g. Legal, accounting, finance, consulting)
- Manufacturing
- Life Sciences / Biotech
- Film / Cultural Industries
- Construction / Development
- Technology
- Non-Profit / Social Enterprise
- Education or child care
- Health care
- Other (please specify): _____

Q4: I would rate the following economic risks for Richmond over the next decade as follows:

Likert scale: 1- Not a Risk 2- Minor Risk 3- Major Risk 4 – No Opinion

Demographic Risks

- Cost of living
- Strain on social services
- Aging population

Urban Development Risks

- Infrastructure investment needs (e.g. road, sewer, greenspace)
- Utility capacity (e.g. water, power, internet)
- Climate change impacts (e.g. flooding, extreme weather)
- Transportation challenges (e.g. congestion, transit capacity)

Business Risks

- Loss of major employers or industries
- Automation
- Overdependence on a few economic sectors

- Global trade instability
- Other (please specify): _____

Section 2: Land Use and Infrastructure

Q6: I believe Richmond's most important assets are: Select up to 4.

Transportation Assets

- Road transportation network
- Airport access (YVR)
- Port and/or rail connectivity
- Transit connectivity
- Active transportation corridors

Land and Real Estate Assets

- Commercial / downtown districts
- Tourism assets, such as the Richmond Oval and Steveston Harbour
- Industrial land base
- Agricultural land base
- Access to greenspace

Public Institutions

- Educational institutions (BCIT, KPU)
- Richmond Hospital
- Other (please specify): _____

Q7: I believe Richmond's biggest physical economic challenges are:

Select up to 4.

Infrastructure Constraints

- Traffic / congestion
- Access to highspeed internet / broadband
- Transit connectivity

Land Use Constraints

- Zoning restrictions
- Land availability
- Parking availability

Environmental Constraints

- Vulnerability to flood / earthquake
- Waste & material management
- Air or water quality management

Financial Constraints

- Access to capital for businesses
- Local consumer purchasing power
- Other (please specify) _____

Section 3: Skills and Employment

Q8: I feel the following about the employment prospects in Richmond:

- Very positive – I feel like I have lots of good employment opportunities in Richmond
- Somewhat positive – I feel like I have some good employment opportunities in Richmond
- Neutral – I feel like I have limited good employment opportunities in Richmond
- Negative – I feel like I have no good employment opportunities in Richmond
- Not Applicable – I do not currently work in Richmond or intend to work in Richmond in the future

Q9: I feel the following are limiting my employment prospects: Select all that apply.

- Lack of available jobs in my field
- Lack of available jobs at the appropriate level of seniority for my experience
- Lack of relevant work experience
- Lack of education or training
- Transportation or commute challenges
- Language or communication barriers
- Childcare and caregiving responsibilities
- Health issues or disability
- No significant limitations
- Other (please specify): _____

Section 4: Civic Supports

Q10: I believe economic development is an important mandate for the City of Richmond:

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Q11: I believe the City should be focusing its economic development efforts in the following areas:

Likert Scale: 1 – No Effort 2 – Some Effort 3 – Significant Effort

- Planning for future industrial, office, and retail space
- Permitting commercial activities in public spaces (e.g. mobile vending)
- Helping navigate business licensing and permitting processes
- Fostering connections, networking, and mentorship relationships among businesses
- Delivering training and employment programs (e.g. skills training, job fairs, mentorship programs)
- Reporting on Richmond's economy (e.g. employment levels, key sector activities)
- Supporting access to local businesses (e.g. bike valet programs, local food map)
- Attracting new economic activity to Richmond (e.g. Sport Hosting, Filming, delegation hosting)
- Providing amenities, such as child care, to enable workforce participation
- Other - Please specify: _____



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** March 23, 2026
From: Grant Fengstad **File:** 03-1000-20-8551/Vol
 Director, Information Technology 01
Re: **Award of Contract - Granicus AMANDA 5-Year Support and Maintenance Renewal**

Staff Recommendations

1. That Granicus AMANDA Support and Maintenance Renewal, be awarded to Granicus for a five-year term for an estimated value of \$713,467 excluding taxes, as described in the report titled "Award of Contract – Granicus AMANDA Software, Support and Maintenance Renewal", dated March 23, 2026 from the Director, Information Technology; and
2. That the Chief Administrative Officer and the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services be authorized to execute the contract and all related documentation with Granicus.

Grant Fengstad
 Director, Information Technology
 (604-276-4096)

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Purchasing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Financial Planning and Analysis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

The City implemented the AMANDA software system in 1997 to support various City services, including property records management, permitting, business licensing, inspections, analytics and reporting, audit functions. Subsequently, with the introduction of online permitting through the MyRichmond customer portal, MyPermits was introduced and fully integrated to AMANDA.

This report summarizes the procurement process for NOITC 8551 and provides a recommendation regarding the award of the AMANDA Software Support and Maintenance Renewal.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #4 Responsible Financial Management and Governance:

Responsible financial management and efficient use of public resources to meet the needs of the community.

Analysis

Procurement Process

The City posted a Notice of Intent to Contract (NOITC) 8551 to BC Bid on February 19, 2026 which closed on March 4, 2026 without challenge.

The Sole Source NOITC process was undertaken since Granicus is the proprietary owner of AMANDA software and is the only known supplier delivering the required support and maintenance, for which no other alternative or substitute exists. Additionally, the cost to introduce a new product or supplier would far exceed the total renewal contract value due to the following factors:

- The AMANDA software continues to meet the City's requirements for property records, permitting, business licensing, inspections, analytics and reporting, and audit functions. Amanda also underpins the City's digital service delivery through MyRichmond, including MyBusiness, and is foundational to the Permit Optimization Program, enabling online permit processing through MyPermit.
- A new solution would not provide any benefit and would require duplication of cost and effort to source and replace the existing solution to fulfill business requirements, causing business disruption and delays in issuing permits and business licences.
- Transitioning away from AMANDA would require uninstalling the existing solution and conducting extensive knowledge transfer to a new supplier, resulting in significant economic impact and business risk. Additional significant funding would be required.

- Introducing a new system would require substantial change management, including new toolsets, integration work, staff training, and internal knowledge transfer.

The support and maintenance agreement will be for a five-year term, allowing the City to take advantage of a multi-year discounted rate.

Table 1 summarizes the costs.

Table 1 - Estimated Total Cost for Support and Maintenance (5-Year Term)

Description	Costs
Year 1	\$134,385
Year 2	\$138,416
Year 3	\$142,569
Year 4	\$146,846
Year 5	\$151,251
Total Estimated Costs	\$713,467

Financial Impact

The City has negotiated the best available terms for the subscription, limiting the annual increase to 3%. Council has approved the budget for this expenditure, which will be funded within the department’s existing operating budget. Subsequent annual increases will be incorporated into future operating budgets as a non-discretionary increase as part of the annual budget process.

Conclusion

This report presents the results of the procurement process for NOITC 8551 – Granicus AMANDA Software, Support and Maintenance Renewal. It is recommended that the contract be awarded to Granicus for a five-year (5-year) term in the amount of \$713,467, excluding taxes.



Desmond Wong
 Business Analyst, Business & Enterprise
 Systems
 Information Technology
 (604-276-4273)



To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** March 16, 2026
From: Mark Corrado **File:** 12-8375-03/2025-Vol
 Director, Community Bylaws and Licencing 01
Re: **Application to Amend Liquor Primary Liquor Licence # 170766 - Change of Hours of Liquor Service (Outside Service Hours) - Vino Volo - 3211 Grant McConachie Way (Post Security)**

Staff Recommendations

1. That the application from LS Travel Retail North America Inc., doing business as, Vino Volo, seeking a permanent amendment to Liquor Primary Liquor Licence # 170766, increasing their hours of liquor service from 6:00 AM to 11:00 PM, Monday to Sunday, to 24 hours service, (Outside Service Hours) be supported; and
2. That a letter be sent to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch, which includes the information as set out in Attachment 1 to this report, advising that Council recommends the approval of the amendment to the Liquor Primary Liquor Licence as described in Recommendation 1 of this report.

Mark Corrado
 Director, Community Bylaws and Licencing
 (604-204-8673)

Att. 3

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:
APPROVED BY CAO	

Staff Report

Origin

The Provincial Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) issues licences in accordance with the Liquor Control and Licensing Act (Act) and the Regulations made pursuant to the Act.

This Report pertains to an application to the LCRB and the City of Richmond by LS Travel Retail North America Inc., doing business as and hereinafter referred to as, Vino Volo, for an amendment to the Liquor Primary Liquor Licence # 170766, proposing a change to liquor service hours currently in effect as 6:00 AM to 11:00 PM, Monday to Sunday, to 24 hours service (Outside Service Hours) Monday to Sunday. The total person capacity will remain the same at 95 persons.

The City of Richmond is given the opportunity to provide written comments by way of a resolution to the LCRB with respect to the liquor licence amendment application for an amendment to the Liquor Primary Liquor Licence. The process requires the local government to provide comments with respect to the following criteria:

- the location of the establishment;
- the proximity of the establishment to other social or recreational facilities and public buildings;
- the person capacity and hours of liquor service of the establishment;
- the impact of noise on the community in the immediate vicinity of the establishment; and
- the impact on the community if the application is approved.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #3 A Safe and Prepared Community:

Community safety and preparedness through effective planning, strategic partnerships and proactive programs.

Analysis

Location of the Establishment

Vino Volo is situated at Vancouver International Airport (YVR) post-security. The location map is appended as Attachment 2. Situated at unit C3695, Level 3 near Gate E83. Only passengers moving through the post-security area or airport personnel can attend this location.

Proximity of the Establishment to Other Social, Recreational and Public Building

There are no schools, parks or other public buildings near Vino Volo. Richmond residents are not affected by this business as it is situated in the USA & International Departures Terminal at YVR and only travelers or airport personnel that have gone through post-security can access this establishment.

Person capacity and Hours of Liquor Service of the Establishment

The applicant is not amending the person capacity currently set at 95 persons. The applicant's operating hours are currently set at, Monday to Sunday, 6:00 AM to 11:00 PM. Vino Volo consultant, Anita Moore-Nikoras, from MJB Lawyers provided a letter of intent appended as Attachment 3. This outlines the unique nature of the location as a post-security area which gets travellers at all hours of the day and many on different time zones. There are also seven other locations in YVR post-security with 24 hour service hours and this would provide a level playing field if permitted.

The Impact of noise on the Community in the Immediate Vicinity of the Establishment

The establishment is located on Level 3 of the USA & International Terminal Building of YVR, in an area already impacted by aircraft noise. This business has been in operation since September of 2006 and no noted issues have been raised. It is staff's belief that no noticeable increase in noise would be present, if the increase in hours of liquor service is supported. Being that the business is situated post security at YVR, Richmond residents will not be permitted to attend this establishment unless they are travelling.

The Impact on the Community if the Application is Approved

The community consultation process for reviewing applications for liquor related licences is prescribed by the Development Application Fees Bylaw 8951 which under Section 1.8.1 calls for:

1.8.1 Every **applicant** seeking approval from the **City** in connection with:

- (a) a licence to serve liquor under the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act and Regulations*;

must proceed in accordance with subsection 1.8.2.

1.8.2 Pursuant to an application under subsection 1.8.1, every **applicant** must:

- (b) post and maintain on the subject property a clearly visible sign which indicates:
 - (i) type of licence or amendment application;
 - (ii) proposed person capacity;
 - (iii) type of entertainment (if application is for patron participation entertainment); and
 - (iv) proposed hours of liquor service; and
- (c) publish a notice in at least three consecutive editions of a newspaper that is distributed at least weekly in the area affected by the application, providing the same information required in subsection 1.8.2(b) above.

The required signage was posted on February 9, 2026, and three advertisements were published in the Vancouver Province newspaper on February 5, 2026, February 12, 2026 and February 19, 2026.

In addition to the advertised signage and public notice requirements, staff sent a letter to John Hadley, Manager, Commercial Services, of Vancouver International Authority, for distribution to businesses located at Vancouver International Airport. The letter provided information on the proposed liquor licence application and contained instructions on commenting on the application. The period for commenting for all public notifications ended March 10, 2026. From the community consultative process described, the City has not received any responses opposed to this application.

Other Agency Comments

As part of the review process, staff generally request comments from other agencies and departments such as Vancouver Coastal Health, Richmond RCMP, Richmond Fire-Rescue and Building Approvals. These agencies and departments generally provide comments on the compliance history of the applicant's operations and premises.

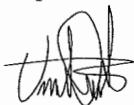
Richmond Fire Rescue and Building Approvals have no jurisdiction at YVR and no comment was provided. Vancouver Coastal Health Indicated that they have no concerns with this business. Richmond RCMP deferred this to YVR RCMP, and no concerns were brought forward.

Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

The results of the community consultation process of Vino Volo proposed amendment application to its Liquor Primary Liquor Licence were reviewed based on the LCRB criteria. The analysis concluded there should be no noticeable potential impact from noise, no significant impact to the community and no comments were received from the public. There were no concerns raised by City departments or other agencies. It is therefore, recommended that the application from Vino Volo to operate a Liquor Primary Licence with an increase in their hours of liquor service as described in this report be supported.



Victor M. Duarte
Program Manager, Business Licencing
(604-276-4389)

VMD:vmd

- Att. 1: Particulars of Application and City Comments
- 2: Map of YVR
- 3: Letter of Intent

Re: Application to Amend Liquor Primary Liquor Licence # 170766 - Change to Hours of Liquor Service (Outside Service Hours) – Vino Volo – 3211 Grant McConachie Way. Unit C3695, Richmond, BC

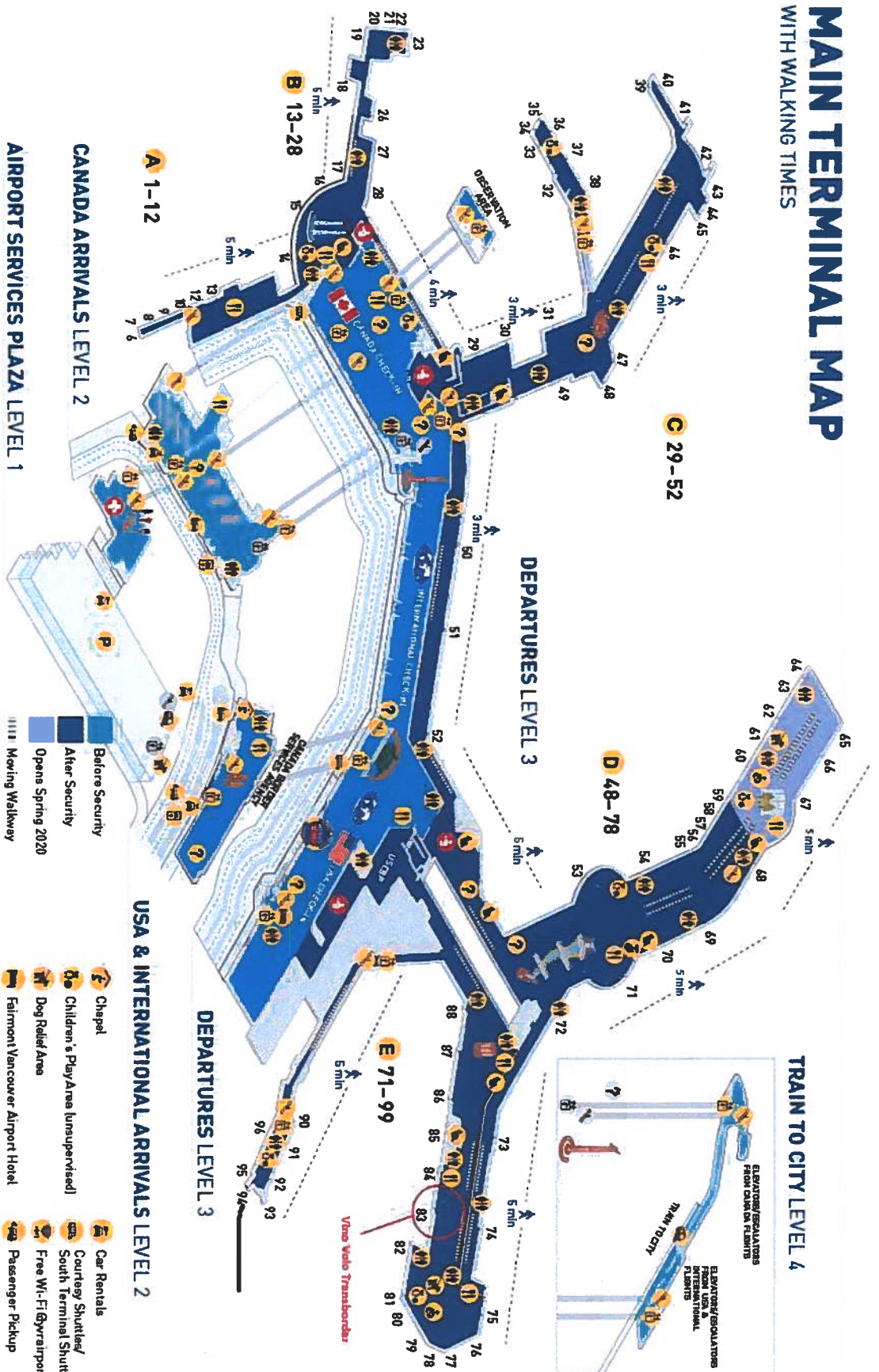
1. That the application from LS Travel Retail North America Inc. doing business as: Vino Volo, operating at, 3211 Grant McConachie Way Unit C3695, requesting a change to hours of liquor service (Outside Service Hours) to Liquor Licence # 170766 , be supported for:
 - a) A permanent change to hours of liquor service;
 - i. **From**, Monday to Sunday, 6:00 AM to 11:00 PM;
 - ii. **To**, Monday to Sunday, 24 hours Service.
 - b) Total person capacity will remain the same at 95 persons.
2. That a letter be sent to Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch advising that Council supports the amendment for a permanent change to hours of liquor service (Outside Service Hours) to Liquor Primary Liquor Licence # 170766, with the hours as listed above; and
3. Council's comments on the prescribed criteria (Section 71 of the Liquor Control and Licencing Regulations) are as follows:
 - a) The impact of additional noise and traffic in the area of the establishment was considered;
 - b) The potential impact on the community was assessed through a community consultation process;
 - c) There is no history of non-compliance with this establishment;
 - d) As the operation of a licenced establishment may affect nearby residents, businesses and property owners, the City gathered the views of the community through a community consultation process as follows:
 - i) A letter was forwarded to Vancouver International Authority, Manager, Community Services, John Hadley, for distribution to businesses at Vancouver International Airport. The letter provided information on the application with instructions on how to submit comments or concerns; and
 - ii) Signage was posted at the subject property, and three public notices were published in a local newspaper. The signage and public notice provided

information on the application with instructions on how to submit comments and concerns.

- e) Council's comments on the general impact of the views of residents, businesses and property owners are as follows:
 - i) The community consultation process was completed within 90 days of the application process; and
 - ii) The community consultation process did not generate any comments and views of residents, businesses and property owners.
- f) Council recommends the approval of the application for the reasons that this application has not been objected to by the majority of the residents, businesses and property owners in the area and community.

MAIN TERMINAL MAP

WITH WALKING TIMES



- CANADA ARRIVALS LEVEL 2**
- Before Security
 - After Security
 - Opens Spring 2020
 - Moving Walkway
 - Elevators
 - Escalators
 - Information
 - To Level 4 Train to City
 - uscg USA Customs & Border Protection
 - NEXUS
- AIRPORT SERVICES PLAZA LEVEL 1**
- Chapel
 - Children's Play Area (unsupervised)
 - Dog Relief Area
 - Fairmont Vancouver Airport Hotel
 - Food Court
 - Health Care Services
 - Nursing Room
 - Passenger Lounge
 - Quiet Area
 - Security Checkpoint
 - Washrooms*
- USA & INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS LEVEL 2**
- Car Rentals
 - Courtesy Shuttle/ South Terminal Shuttle
 - Free Wi-Fi @ Airport
 - Passenger Pickup
 - Ride App Pick-up
 - Sedans
 - Short Term Parking
 - Taxis
 - Train to City

*All washroom facilities are accessible to people with disabilities.



REPLY TO: Mr. Dennis Coates
DIRECT LINE: (250) 372-4923
email: dpc@mjblaw.com
LEGAL ASSISTANT: Anita Moore-Nikoras
DIRECT LINE: (604) 559-9114
email: anita@mjblaw.com

Our File: 37463-03

January 21, 2026

VIA EMAIL: VDuarte@richmond.ca

AND VIA COURIER

City of Richmond
Community Safety
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

Attention: Victor Duarte, Program Manager, Business Licence

Dear Victor:

RE: Request to Change Liquor Service Hours to 24 Hours, 7 Days/Week
Applicant/Licensee: LS Travel Retail North America Inc.
Liquor Primary ("LP") Licence #170766 (Vino Volo)
Location: 3211 Grant McConachie Way, Richmond, BC (YVR – ITB)

Our firm has been retained by LS Travel Retail North America Inc. to submit an hours change application seeking 24-hour liquor service, 7 days a week. Please accept this letter as the "Letter of Intent" required by the City of Richmond.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The above-noted LP Liquor Licence has been operating a YVR for over 12 years without any compliance and enforcement issues. This establishment provides a relaxing, social environment where guests/travellers are invited to enjoy a variety of beverages and food menu items. In addition, this LP Licence is located within the departures area (post security) of the YVR Airport. The licensee's goal is always to run a friendly operation to accommodate YVR's vast variety of visitors. Travellers at YVR are coming and going at all hours of the day and night and there has been a demand/desire by customers for liquor service earlier than 9:00 am, as many are on different time zones. This application is being made in order to accommodate the growing number of requests by customers for liquor service both later in the night and earlier in the morning hours.

- 2 -

CUSTOMER BASE

The target market is the vast array of people at YVR awaiting a flight. These could be business travellers or leisure travellers.

The licensee appeals to a large age range (25 –75 years) and welcomes this large and often eclectic mix of people on a daily basis.

COMPOSITION OF THE “NEIGHBOURHOOD”

As we have mentioned above, this LP Licence is located in Richmond within YVR Airport – in the departures area, post security. The City of Richmond’s zoning for the site is Airport (AIR) Zone. The land and its uses, however, are under Federal jurisdiction / Airport Authority.

The surrounding neighbourhood is comprised of the airport terminal, airport and airline related businesses and buildings, including hangers, large parking lots and other terminals. There are car rental businesses, cargo business and a few hotels.

The reasonable distance most suitable for determining the neighbourhood composition is about 500 to 750 metres, given that this establishment is within a large airport terminal and is distinctly different from a regular stand-alone establishment located outside an airport terminal.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The current liquor service hours for this LP Licence are 6:00 am to 11:00 pm daily. The goal for the licensee/applicant is to be able to offer liquor service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to more appropriately meet the express demands of its customers. The vast majority of customers are travellers, along with a few YVR employees. Due to the location being post-security, the “community” is simply the travellers awaiting flights and the some YVR management and staff.

NOISE IN THE COMMUNITY

There may be some recorded background music playing for the patrons to enjoy. Other than this, the only sounds are the voices of the staff and customers. The airport building itself also minimizes noise, due to its high quality, dense construction, which serves to offer highly effective sound-proofing.

In addition, there are essentially no residential neighbours within close enough proximity to be affected by any noise coming from this establishment – no matter what time of day. The airport noise (airplanes taking off and landing) will far exceed any noise that could possibly emanate from this establishment. The applicant will also ensure compliance with all local municipal noise bylaws.

Given all of the above factors, it is not expected that there will be any measurable increase in noise coming from this establishment as a result of the change in liquor service hours.

ADDITIONAL RATIONALE

We are cognizant that Section 10(1)(b) of the Liquor Control and Licensing Regulations (“Regulation”) states that hours of liquor service must start no earlier than 9:00 am and end no later than 4:00 am the next day. However, Section 138 of the Regulation provides the General Manager with the authority to extend liquor service hours beyond these hours in exceptional circumstances. The circumstances must be unique, the change must have no likely adverse impact on the community and other licensees, and there must be compelling reasons to extend the hours beyond the licensee’s interest in increasing sales.

This application is unique and compelling, as this establishment is located within the post-security area of the Vancouver International Airport (YVR) and being in the international terminal, it caters to travellers from all around the world. The proposed hours would allow the licensee to be more responsive to travellers needs, many of whom are travelling from different time zones and are, therefore, not in synch with the time zone at YVR. In addition, the layout of the establishment enables staff to closely monitor liquor consumption and ensure that liquor is not removed from the service area.

Establishments located post-security are only available to individuals with an airline ticket who have cleared security, and airport employees with access to the secured area. There are no residential homes within a 2 km radius of the main airport building, therefore the proposed change would primarily impact patrons and employees inside the secured area of the airport and not the neighbourhood outside of the airport terminal building.

We are aware that there are other licensed establishments located post-security at YVR that have received the blessing of the LCRB and the Vancouver Airport Authority (“VAA”) to have 24-hour liquor service, 7 days a week. Our understanding is that there have been no issues related to having 24-hour liquor service. We anticipate that VAA will have no concerns with this application.

OTHER FACTORS

LS Travel Retail North America Inc. is a well established, reputable corporation with over 20 airport licensed establishments located in most major cities in the United States. Their team is skilled at selecting and training staff to provide the highest standard of service while complying with all bylaws. The staff are not only highly trained in their knowledge of the food and alcohol that they are providing, but also in customer service and moderating consumption and, specifically, not over-serving any customer.

We do not anticipate any issues related to this change to liquor service hours. In fact, we are confident that it will be welcomed by the travelling customers being served.

Thank you for your review of our application. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours very truly,

MAIR JENSEN BLAIR LLP



ANITA MOORE-NIKORAS,
Legal Assistant to Dennis P. Coates, K.C.

/amn

cc: LS Travel Retail North America Inc.



City of Richmond




Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** April 2, 2026
From: Kim Somerville **File:** 08-4055-08/2025-Vol 01
 Director, Community Social Development
Re: **Community Food Action Plan Guiding Principles**

Staff Recommendation

That the guiding principles detailed in the report titled "Community Food Action Plan Guiding Principles", dated April 2, 2026 from the Director, Community Social Development, be approved.

Kim Somerville
 Director, Community Social Development
 (604-247-4671)

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO: Parks Services	CONCURRENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO 

Staff Report

Origin

On December 17, 2025, City Council adopted *Building Our Future Together: Social Development Strategy (2025–2035)* to guide the City and its partners in responding to the current and future social needs of the community over the next 10 years. The Strategy outlines a number of actions aimed at reducing food insecurity in Richmond, including the development of a community food action plan.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval of the draft guiding principles that will shape the development of a draft Community Food Action Plan (2027–2032).

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022–2026 Focus Area #6 A Vibrant, Resilient and Active Community:

Vibrant, resilient and active communities supported by a wide variety of opportunities to get involved, build relationships and access resources.

6.4 Support vulnerable populations through collaborative and sustainable programs and services.

This report responds to Building Our Future Together: Social Development Strategy (2025–2035) Strategic Direction 1: Improve Access to Basic Needs:

1.1 Develop and implement a Community Food Action Plan to address food insecurity and foster a coordinated approach to meeting current and future community food access needs.

This report also supports the 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond Strategic Direction 2: Support Residents at Risk of or Living in Poverty:

2.4 Implement initiatives to increase food security in the community or residents at risk of or living in poverty.

Analysis

Like many communities across Canada, food insecurity in Richmond has significantly increased in recent years as a result of the high cost of living, which is placing financial strain on households. As a result, more households are relying on community and government supports to meet their basic needs. This includes the various community food programs offered by community and faith-based groups and non-profit organizations in Richmond.

The purpose of the Community Food Action Plan is to strengthen the community's capacity to respond to the growing need for food assistance in Richmond. It is intended to guide the community to take collective action to address food insecurity in a coordinated manner that fosters enhanced collaboration, resource sharing and partnerships among the wide spectrum of community food program providers currently supporting the community.

The Community Food Action Plan will be guided by a project team, comprised of City staff and the Steering Committee. It will be informed by best practices, an environmental scan of current community food programs, local data and a thorough consultation process. It will also build on the overview of current community outreach services and community programs addressing food insecurity in Richmond that was presented to Council on March 9, 2026. Development of the Community Food Action Plan will be divided into four phases:

Phase One (in progress):

- Convene the Community Food Action Plan Steering Committee.
- Establish draft guiding principles.
- Present the draft guiding principles to Council for their consideration.
- Conduct background research.
- Collect and analyze a range of qualitative and quantitative data from community organizations and publicly available data on food insecurity in Richmond and the use of community food programs.
- Conduct an environmental scan.
- Develop a comprehensive community consultation plan.

Phase Two:

- Implement the community consultation plan.
- Develop and implement an additional data collection process to gather disaggregated data (i.e. population and geographical data) on community meal participation.
- Engage community food program providers to confirm and finalize the environmental scan findings.

Phase Three:

- Facilitate a full-day community food workshop with contributors to community food programs in Richmond to present and confirm findings from activities undertaken in Phase One and Two and identify opportunities and priorities for Richmond.
- Write the draft Community Food Action Plan based on the findings.
- Present the draft Community Food Action Plan to Council for consideration.

Phase Four: (Should Council approve the draft plan)

- Implement a public engagement process to gather feedback on the draft Community Food Action Plan.
- Revise and finalize the Community Food Action Plan (2027–2032) based on public feedback.
- Present the final Community Food Action Plan to Council to consider adoption.
- Develop an evaluation framework for the Community Food Action Plan.

The four phases will ensure work is carried out in a systematic fashion and will allow for input from a variety of interested parties. As outlined in the Phase One activities, a set of guiding principles will help to support this work.

Guiding Principles

The guiding principles are a set of values that are intended to guide decision-making and help inform all phases of the Community Food Action Plan's development. The proposed guiding principles are:

- **Equitable Food Access:** All community members have consistent and dependable access to nutritious and culturally appropriate food.
- **People-Centered:** Local knowledge and lived experience are central to the development and implementation of the Community Food Action Plan.
- **Inclusive and Accessible:** Engagement is inclusive, accessible and culturally responsive. Barriers to participation are removed in order to hear from a diversity of voices and equity-deserving groups. Privacy is maintained throughout the data collection and engagement processes.
- **Respect and Dignity:** Ideas and input from all contributors are valued and respected. Different perspectives are listened to with the intent to understand. Individuals with lived experience are treated with dignity, compassion and respect.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Connections and partnerships are fostered among the variety of community food program contributors to encourage collaborative problem-solving, collective action and shared outcomes that maximize efficiencies and use of community resources.
- **Strategic, Evidence-Based Responses:** The plan's actions are evidence-based, data-informed and aimed at addressing immediate needs while strengthening long-term community capacity. They align with and build upon leading municipal practices as well as City policies and strategies that respond to key drivers of food insecurity, such as poverty, homelessness, economic development and affordable housing, to address systemic barriers and offer practical, upstream solutions.

The guiding principles will guide both the City's project team and the Steering Committee when making decisions, planning engagement activities and developing actions for the draft Community Food Action Plan. Other members of the community, including individuals currently accessing community food programs and the broad cross-section of organizations that play a key role in the delivery of community food programs, will be involved in the development of the plan through the Community Food Action Plan's consultation process.

Next Steps

Should Council approve the guiding principles, the activities outlined in Phase One will be undertaken, including a period of focused consultation with community members and organizations who contribute to community food program delivery in Richmond. The consultation process will use a variety of engagement methods, including focus groups, surveys, community pop-ups, and/or other strategies to better understand the current and future food access needs of the community. Findings from the consultation process will be used to inform the development of a draft Community Food Action Plan which will be presented to Council for their consideration before seeking public input. Subsequently, the final Community Food Action Plan, including the results of the public engagement process, will be presented to Council for final adoption following public input being collected.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The guiding principles proposed in this report will set a strong foundation to help guide the City's project team and the Steering Committee in creating the draft Community Food Action Plan. The guiding principles will also support the development of draft strategic actions aimed at strengthening the capacity of the community to respond to increasing experiences of food insecurity in Richmond. Once complete, the Community Food Action Plan is intended to provide an action-oriented framework to support the community to take collective action in meeting the current and future food assistance needs of Richmond residents in a more coordinated and systematic manner.



Melanie Burner
Program Manager, Social Development
(604-276-4390)



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** April 7, 2026
From: Kim Somerville **File:** 08-4055-08/2025-Vol 01
 Director, Community Social Development
Re: **2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond:
 2024–2025 Highlights**

Staff Recommendation

That the 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond: 2024–2025 Highlights as outlined in the report titled “2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond: 2024–2025 Highlights”, dated April 7, 2026, from the Director, Community Social Development, be posted on the City’s website and distributed to community partners, local Members of Parliament and local Members of the Legislative Assembly, and federal and provincial ministries related to poverty reduction.

Kim Somerville
 Director, Community Social Development
 (604-247-4671)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Arts, Culture & Heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Community Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Economic Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Housing Office	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
PRC Planning & Strategic Initiatives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Recreation & Sport Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Richmond Public Library	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

Since its adoption on December 6, 2021, the 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond (the Poverty Action Plan) has guided the City’s approach to working with the community to reduce and prevent poverty in Richmond. The purpose of the Poverty Reduction Plan is to gain a deeper and shared understanding of the experiences of individuals and families at risk of or living in poverty in Richmond to identify actions to better meet their needs.

This report responds to the biennial reporting requirements to provide a high-level summary of accomplishments that the City, in partnership with the community, has achieved in 2024–2025 through implementation of the Poverty Action Plan.

This report supports Council’s Strategic Plan 2022–2026 Focus Area #6 A Vibrant, Resilient and Active Community:

6.1 Advance a variety of program, services, and community amenities to support diverse needs and interests and activate the community.

6.3 Foster intercultural harmony, community belonging, and social connections.

6.4 Support vulnerable populations through collaborative and sustainable programs and services.

This report supports the City of Richmond’s Building Our Future Together: Social Development Strategy (2025–2035) Strategic Direction #1 Improve Access to Basic Needs:

1.16 Introduce and participate in initiatives aimed at increasing public awareness of and access to social services that support community members.

1.17 Support health initiatives that facilitate increased physical, mental and emotional well-being of community members, including access to mental health and addiction services, complex care and crisis support services, counselling and health services.

This report also supports the City of Richmond’s 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond Strategic Direction 4: Research, Monitor and Evaluate:

4.5 Report out every two years on the progress of the Collaborative Action Plan.

Analysis

Poverty is a complex issue that is influenced by a range of social and economic factors, including access to resources and opportunities, issues of inequality and inequity, inadequate support systems and growing affordability pressures. In the Poverty Action Plan, poverty is defined as “the condition of a person who is deprived of the resources, means, choices and power necessary to acquire and

maintain a basic living standard needed to promote and facilitate integration and participation in society.”¹

To effectively respond to poverty, collective action is required by all three levels of government, community organizations, public sector agencies, the private sector and residents, including residents with lived experience. Recognizing this, the City takes a collaborative approach, working closely with community partners to understand, reduce and prevent poverty in Richmond.

Since the Poverty Action Plan was adopted in 2021, the rising cost of living and growing economic uncertainty have placed increased affordability pressures on households across the country, including in Richmond. This has led to a growing number of individuals and families accessing government and community-based supports to help meet their basic needs, even those with incomes above poverty thresholds. In 2024, 45 per cent of Canadians reported that rising costs are affecting their ability to cover day-to-day expenses, nearly 12 per cent higher than in 2022 (33 per cent).² Similarly, the impacts of growing affordability pressures are reflected in local data, which indicates continued high levels of use of community-based services and supports in Richmond. This includes, in 2025, 64,533 visits by community members to the Richmond Food Bank,³ 3,887 Richmond households receiving Disability and Income Assistance⁴ and 1,675 Richmond households enrolled on the BC Housing Applicant Registry.⁵

The City and its partners remain committed to addressing increasing community need by implementing initiatives that help reduce and prevent poverty in Richmond. The Poverty Reduction Plan outlines four strategic directions and 26 recommended actions that provide a comprehensive framework to strengthen these coordinated efforts through fostering enhanced partnerships, information sharing and collaboration.

2024–2025 Highlights

Noteworthy progress has been made by the City and its partners towards advancing the priority actions outlined in the Poverty Action Plan. At the end of 2025, almost halfway through the Plan’s time frame, all 26 recommended actions are either complete or have been initiated. Throughout 2024–2025, the City worked collaboratively with community partners to implement initiatives that reduce barriers to critical programs and services that promote economic resiliency, social inclusion and meeting basic needs. A summary of key highlights from 2024–2025 is outlined below:

- The City worked in partnership with the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation and BC Housing to open Harbour House, a 25-unit affordable housing development for women and women with children who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Completed in 2025, this development was made possible through investment from all three levels of government. (Action 1.2)
- In 2024, the Richmond Employment Resources Network in collaboration with the City and Richmond Public Library, launched Employment Connections: Programs and Supports for Jobseekers. Employment Connections is a free resource event designed to raise awareness of

¹ Employment and Social Development Canada (2018). [Opportunity for All – Canada’s First Poverty Reduction Strategy](#).

² Statistics Canada (2024). [The Daily — Nearly half of Canadians report that rising prices are greatly impacting their ability to meet day-to-day expenses](#).

³ Richmond Food Bank Society (2025). [Impact Report](#).

⁴ Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (2025).

⁵ BC Housing (2025). Applicant Registry in Richmond.

employment services and supports available to Richmond residents who may face barriers to work. (Action 1.4)

- As of spring 2025, 11 of the 13 City-owned child care facilities now operate as \$10 a day sites, charging a maximum fee to parents of \$200 per month. Funding to support these fee reductions is provided by the Province of BC. The other two facilities participate in a range of Provincial funding programs that also reduce fees. (Action 2.1)
- During the 2024–2025 program year (September 1–August 31), the Recreation Fee Subsidy Program supported 4,584 residents of all ages who faced financial barriers to participating in recreation, cultural and parks programs, an 18 per cent increase from the 2023–2024 program year, which supported 3,899 residents. (Action 2.2)
- In 2024, the City, in partnership with Richmond Public Library, launched the Community Services Connectors Pilot Program at Ironwood Library, to expand the reach of resource navigation supports in Richmond beyond the city centre and outside of traditional service hours (e.g. Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm). (Action 3.2)
- In April 2025, the City in partnership with Richmond Public Library, hosted a Community Services Networking Event to increase awareness of community-based services, foster collaboration between organizations and improve client referrals to reduce barriers to accessing services. (Action 3.3)
- In 2025, the City developed Community Profiles based on the results of the 2023 Community Needs Assessment and 2021 Census data to support data-informed planning for the Parks, Recreation and Culture Division. The profiles will inform the future development of approaches to meet the needs of community members in each planning area, including consideration for Richmond residents who face financial and social barriers to participation. (Action 4.3)

Further information on these highlights as well as additional achievements across the Poverty Action Plan’s four strategic directions are available in the 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond: 2024–2025 Highlights (Attachment 1). It also provides a complete list of the 26 actions outlined in the Poverty Action Plan as well as the status of each action.

Upon Council approval, the 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond: 2024–2025 Highlights will be posted on the City’s website and distributed to key community partners, local Members of Parliament, local Members of the Legislative Assembly, and federal and provincial ministries related to poverty reduction.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond reflects the City’s ongoing commitment to ensure that Richmond residents have the services and supports to meet their basic needs, support their well-being and foster social inclusion. The City continues to work collaboratively with community and government partners to implement poverty reduction and prevention initiatives that meet the evolving needs of Richmond’s diverse population.



Nesreen Ali
Planner 2 (Poverty Reduction)
(604-204-8691)

Att. 1: 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty: 2024–2025
Highlights

City of Richmond

**2021–2031
Collaborative
Action Plan to
Reduce and
Prevent Poverty
in Richmond**

**2024–2025
Highlights**

Community Social
Development
Department



Table of Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. About the Plan	2
Alignment with Other City Strategies	3
3. Poverty Amid Growing Economic Instability and Rising Cost of Living	4
Richmond Context	4
Food Bank Usage	6
BC Housing Applicant Registry	6
Point-in-Time Homeless Count	6
BC Income and Disability Assistance	6
4. Roles and Responsibilities in Poverty Reduction	7
Government of Canada.....	7
Province of BC.....	8
City of Richmond.....	8
Community Associations and Societies	9
Richmond Public Library.....	9
Richmond School District.....	9
Vancouver Coastal Health.....	9
Business Community	10
Residents and Community Members.....	10
Collaborations in the Community	10
5. Progress on the Poverty Action Plan	12
Strategic Direction 1: Reduce and Prevent Poverty	12
Strategic Direction 2: Support Residents at Risk of or Living in Poverty	16
Strategic Direction 3: Increase Awareness and Educate.....	21
Strategic Direction 4: Research, Monitor and Evaluate.....	24
6. Next Steps and Conclusion	25
Appendix: Summary of Poverty Action Plan Strategic Actions and Status	27
Strategic Direction 1: Reduce and Prevent Poverty	27
Strategic Direction 2: Support Residents at Risk of or Living in Poverty	28
Strategic Direction 3: Increase Awareness and Educate.....	29
Strategic Direction 4: Research, Monitor and Evaluate.....	29



1. Introduction

The factors contributing to poverty are complex and require coordinated action from all levels of government and sectors in order to respond effectively. Recognizing this, the City of Richmond has adopted a collaborative approach, working closely with community partners to understand, reduce and prevent poverty in Richmond.

Poverty can be defined as “the condition of a person who is deprived of the resources, means, choices and power necessary to acquire and maintain a basic living standard needed to promote and facilitate integration and participation in society.”¹ It affects each household in different ways and extends beyond the inability to meet basic needs to include issues of inequity and a corresponding lack of access to opportunities. It can also influence or limit the ability of individuals or families to participate in different aspects of community life (social, cultural, political, economic and recreational).

Over the last several years, persistent high cost of living, including food, housing and transportation costs, combined with global economic insecurity, have increased financial pressures on households across Canada. As a result, more households are struggling to meet their basic needs, and many are relying on community and government supports, including households with incomes above poverty thresholds.

The City recognizes that local governments have a role to play in reducing and preventing poverty and is committed to working closely with community organizations and senior levels of government. Since the 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty was adopted in 2021, the City in collaboration with its partners, has implemented numerous initiatives aimed at connecting households to vital community services that promote well-being, financial stability and inclusive participation in the community.

This document provides a progress update from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025, on the implementation of the 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond. In addition to reporting out on highlights, this document serves as a tool for the City, partner organizations, service providers and community members to identify future collaborative opportunities to reduce and prevent poverty in the community.

¹ Employment and Social Development Canada (2018). Opportunity for All – Canada’s First Poverty Reduction Strategy.

2. About the Plan

On December 6, 2021, City Council adopted the 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond (Poverty Action Plan) to guide the City’s approach to working with the community to reduce and prevent poverty in Richmond over the next 10 years.

The Poverty Action Plan identifies four strategic directions and 26 recommended actions that are to be implemented collaboratively with the community from 2021 to 2031. They are intended to bolster community capacity to prevent and reduce poverty in Richmond. The strategic directions are:

- **Strategic Direction 1:** Prevent and Reduce Poverty
- **Strategic Direction 2:** Support Residents at Risk of or Living in Poverty
- **Strategic Direction 3:** Increase Awareness and Educate
- **Strategic Direction 4:** Research, Monitor and Evaluate

The purpose of the Poverty Action Plan is to deepen the shared understanding of the experiences of individuals and families at risk of or living in poverty in Richmond and to identify actions to better meet their needs. The City-convened Community Poverty Reduction and Prevention Table, comprised of representatives from local non-profit organizations, community members with lived experience and public sector agencies, continues to play an important role in advancing the Poverty Action Plan. Through information sharing, ongoing dialogue and identifying collaborative initiatives to respond to poverty in Richmond, the Table fosters connections and helps to strengthen the capacity of the community to respond to the evolving needs of residents.



Alignment with Other City Strategies

The strategic directions and actions outlined in the Poverty Action Plan align with and build upon other City strategies and plans that address key areas related to poverty reduction and prevention to form a comprehensive approach. Key strategies that align with the Poverty Action Plan include the following:

- Richmond 2041 Official Community Plan (OCP)
- Building Our Future Together: The Social Development Strategy (2025–2035)
- City of Richmond Community Wellness Strategy (2018–2023)
- ArtWorks: Richmond Arts Strategy (2026–2031)
- City of Richmond Affordable Housing Strategy (2017–2027)
- City of Richmond Cultural Harmony Plan (2019–2029)
- City of Richmond Homelessness Strategy (2019–2029)
- City of Richmond Recreation and Sport Strategy (2019–2024)
- City of Richmond Seniors Strategy (2022–2032)
- City of Richmond Youth Strategy (2022–2032)
- Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) 2050
- Richmond Accessibility Plan (2023–2033)
- Richmond Child Care Action Plan (2021–2031)
- Richmond Child Care Strategy (2024–2034)

3. Poverty Amid Growing Economic Instability and Rising Cost of Living

Across Canada, the high cost of living combined with growing economic uncertainty has created affordability challenges for more Canadians. In 2024, the Canadian Social Survey found that 45% of Canadians reported that rising costs are affecting their ability to cover day-to-day expenses, nearly 12% higher than in 2022, which was 33%.² Additionally, data shows that these financial challenges are making it more difficult for a growing number of households at risk of or experiencing poverty to meet their basic needs.

The Government of Canada’s official measure of poverty is the Market Basket Measure (MBM).³ The MBM estimates the annual household income required to afford a ‘basket’ of services and goods to maintain a modest standard of living for a household. Households that earn an annual income that is less than the MBM are deemed to be experiencing poverty. In 2024, according to the MBM, a household comprised of a family of four with two children in Metro Vancouver needed to earn \$62,842 to cover the costs of rent, food, transportation and other basic necessities of life.⁴ Since 2021, the MBM has increased by 14%, reflecting a longer-term trend of growing financial barriers to meeting basic needs for low-income households across Metro Vancouver.

While market housing rental rates were reported to have declined nationwide in 2024–2025, the affordability of rental housing remains a significant financial barrier for households at risk of or living in poverty.⁵ Since 2021, the average rent for a two-bedroom unit in Metro Vancouver has increased nearly 30%.⁶ The high cost of housing paired with rising costs for basic needs has placed additional financial strain on low-income households. An affordable housing survey conducted by Habitat for Humanity Canada in 2024 revealed that 59% of respondents traded off expenses for basic needs such as food, clothing and education to pay rent or mortgage.⁷ Additionally, this financial strain is reflected in food prices across the country, which have increased by 24% between 2021 and 2025.⁸ According to Food Banks Canada, in March 2025, more than two million people accessed food banks across Canada to help meet their immediate food needs, with food bank usage across the country doubling since 2019.⁹

Overall, more Canadian households are relying on community and government supports to meet their basic needs. This trend underscores the increasing pressure on community and government organizations to provide support for Canadians at risk of or living in poverty.

Richmond Context

Community data reflects that an increasing number of Richmond residents are also accessing supports to meet their basic needs. In the trends highlighted below, the most recent data has been provided. Additionally, data from 2021 has been provided to illustrate longer term changes in community need since the adoption of the City’s Poverty Action Plan.

² Statistics Canada (2024). The Daily — Nearly half of Canadians report that rising prices are greatly impacting their ability to meet day-to-day expenses.

³ Statistics Canada (2022). Market Basket Measure.

⁴ Statistics Canada (2025). Market Basket Measure (MBM) thresholds for the reference family by Market Basket Measure region, component and base year.

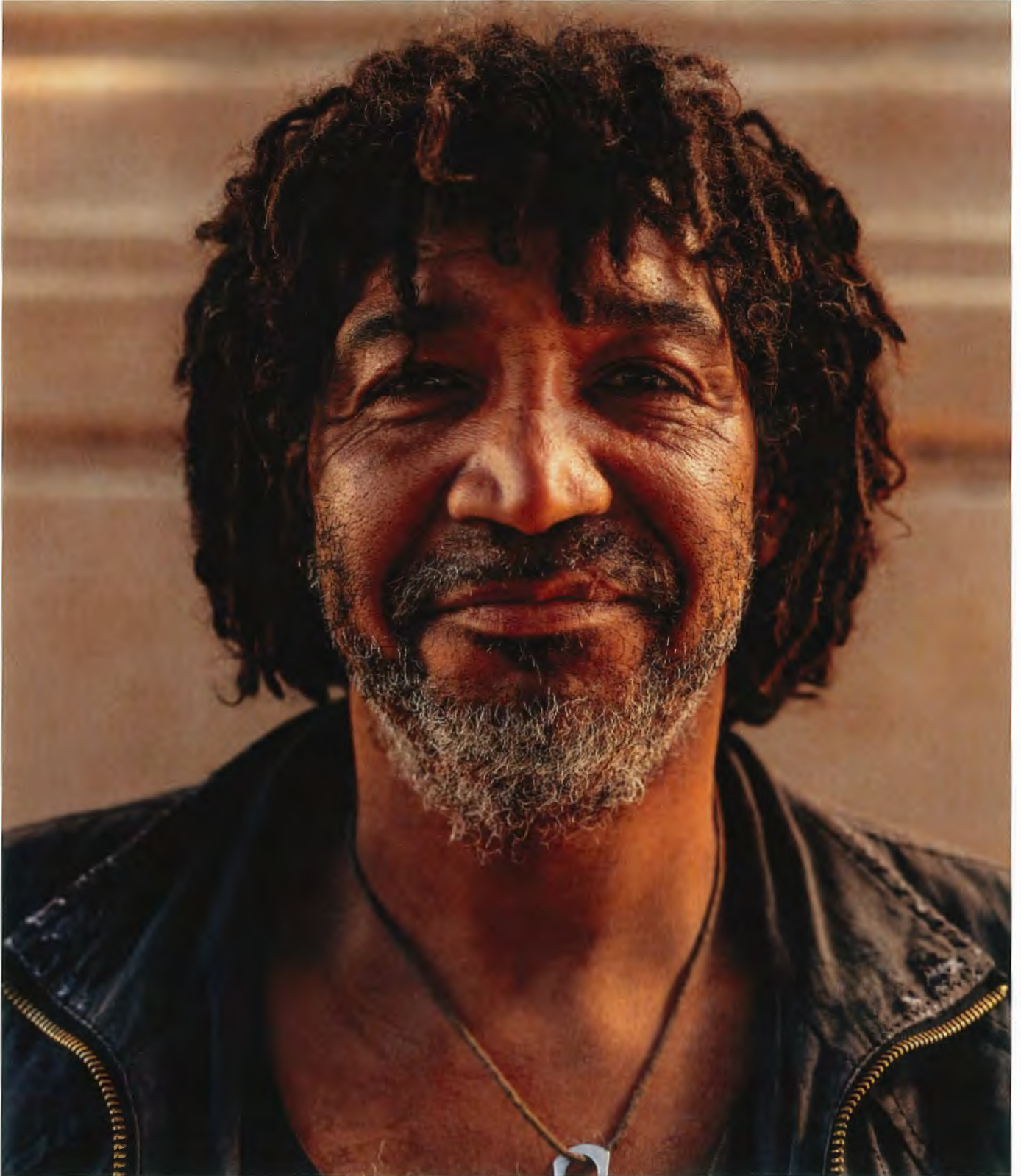
⁵ CMHC (2025). Rental Market Report.

⁶ CMHC (2025). Rental Market Survey Data Tables.

⁷ Habitat for Humanity (2024). Affordable Housing Survey.

⁸ Statistics Canada (2026). Consumer Price Index, annual average, not seasonally adjusted.

⁹ Food Banks Canada (2025). Hunger in Canada – Overall Findings.



Food Bank Usage

- Data collected by the Richmond Food Bank Society indicates that from 2024 to 2025 visits increased by 1,861 visits or 3%, from 62,672 visits in 2024 to 64,533 visits in 2025.^{10, 11} The growth in Food Bank visits is part of an ongoing trend in Richmond of increasing use of food assistance programs.
- Between 2021 and 2025, annual Food Bank visits increased by 27,901 visits or 76%, from 36,632 total visits in 2021 to 64,533 total visits in 2025.^{12, 13}

BC Housing Applicant Registry

- In 2025, the number of households in Richmond enrolled on the BC Housing Applicant Registry decreased by 85 households or 5%, from 1,760 households in 2024 to 1,675 households in 2025.^{14, 15} While there was a slight decrease, overall, there has been a continued trend of increasing demand for affordable housing in the community since 2021.
- Between 2021 and 2025, the number of Richmond households enrolled on the BC Housing Applicant Registry increased by 601 households or 56%, from 1,074 households in 2021 to 1,675 households in 2025.^{16, 17}

Point-in-Time Homeless Count

- Data collected through the 2025 Point-in-Time Homeless Count identified 175 individuals as experiencing homelessness at the time of the Count. This represents an 8% increase, a change of 13 individuals, from the data collected in 2023 when 162 people were counted.¹⁸
- The individuals identified in the 2025 Count, included 71 individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness and 104 individuals experiencing sheltered homelessness in the city. This represents a decline in unsheltered homelessness in the community of 9 individuals, from 80 individuals in 2023 to 71 individuals in 2025.¹⁹

BC Income and Disability Assistance

- Data from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction indicates that from 2024 to 2025, the number of Richmond households supported by BC Income and Disability Assistance grew by 205 households or 6%, from 3,682 households in 2024 to 3,887 households in 2025. This increase is part of a longer-term trend of a growing number of Richmond households requiring financial assistance to meet their basic needs.^{20, 21}
- Since 2021, the number of households supported by BC Income and Disability Assistance has increased by 974 households or 33%, growing from 2,913 households in 2021 to 3,887 households in 2025.^{22, 23}
- In 2025, single-person households continued to comprise the majority of BC Income and Disability Assistance cases in Richmond, representing 1,074 or 74% of Income Assistance cases and 2,143 or 88% of Disability Assistance cases.²⁴ The high proportion of single-person households accessing BC Income and Disability Assistance is consistent with caseload trends since 2021.²⁵

10 Richmond Food Bank Society (2025). Impact Report.

11 Richmond Food Bank Society (2024). Annual Report.

12 Richmond Food Bank Society (2021). Annual Report.

13 Richmond Food Bank Society (2025). Annual Report.

14 BC Housing (2024). Applicant Registry in Richmond.

15 BC Housing (2025). Applicant Registry in Richmond.

16 BC Housing (2021). Applicant Registry in Richmond.

17 BC Housing (2025). Applicant Registry in Richmond.

18 Homelessness Services Association of BC (2025). Point-in-Time Homeless Count in Greater Vancouver.

19 Homelessness Services Association of BC (2025). Point-in-Time Homeless Count in Greater Vancouver.

20 Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (2025).

21 Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (2024).

22 Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (2021).

23 Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (2025).

24 Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (2025).

25 Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (2021).

4. Roles and Responsibilities in Poverty Reduction

Experiences of poverty are the result of many social and economic factors at the community, regional and national levels. Reducing and preventing poverty requires all three levels of government, the non-profit, private and public sectors, as well as community members, including individuals with lived experience of poverty, to work together to make an impact.

Government of Canada

The Government of Canada plays a pivotal role in reducing and preventing poverty in Canada, as it is responsible for economic policies and social programs that affect the well-being and household income of Canadians. This includes programs such as the Canada child benefit, Disability tax credit, Canada workers benefit and employment-related policies and programs, such as Canada's Employment Insurance program. The federal government also provides funding transfers to provincial governments in key areas such as health care and child care and provides funding to municipalities and community service organizations for projects, programs and services that align with federal priorities. Additionally, various federal agencies work closely with municipalities on areas of mutual concern, such as affordable housing via the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. In 2018, the Government of Canada launched Canada's first poverty reduction strategy, Opportunity for All, which recognizes the role of the federal government in working with other levels of government to urgently reduce poverty.

New Government of Canada policies and programs that were introduced to support households at risk of or living in poverty in 2024–2025 included the Canadian Dental Care Plan, which reduces financial barriers to oral health for low-income Canadians without a dental plan; the Canada Disability Benefit for low-income working Canadians with disabilities; the National School Food Program, which aims to ensure school-aged children across Canada can access healthy meals and snacks; and a 1% middle-income tax rate reduction, which will return up to \$420 per person annually.



Province of BC

The Province of BC is responsible for a broad range of social policy areas that contribute to poverty reduction and prevention, including health care, education, child care, affordable housing and income assistance. The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction delivers a system of supports to help British Columbians achieve their social and economic potential. This includes the BC Income and Disability Assistance programs and WorkBC centres that provide free employment services for individuals who are unemployed. In addition, the Province delivers a variety of social services and supports through partnerships with all levels of government, non-profit organizations and Indigenous governments.

New policies and programs introduced by the Province in 2024–2025 to support households at risk of or living in poverty included updates to the BC Income and Disability Assistance programs that allow recipients to keep more of their benefits; and enhancements to the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) and Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) that increase monthly rental assistance provided to recipients and raise the income threshold for assistance eligibility. Additionally, in 2024, the Province implemented the \$25 million Community Prosperity Fund, which distributed funding to charities and non-profit organizations across BC to implement poverty reduction and social inclusion initiatives.

City of Richmond

As a local government, the City of Richmond has a unique ability to understand and respond to the evolving needs of Richmond residents. In collaboration with the provincial and federal governments and community partners, the City enhances access to poverty reduction and prevention services at the local level. The legislative powers available to the City enable it to advance actions that contribute to affordability, livability and social inclusion, such as the development of affordable housing, child care amenities and programs that promote social connection. In response to specific needs within the community, the City takes a variety of approaches, such as:

- Developing and implementing policies and strategies that guide its approach to poverty reduction and prevention to meet the needs of Richmond’s diverse population;
- Working with community-based organizations to advocate for policy change, funding and program recommendations to federal and provincial governments;
- Highlighting promising practices for fostering belonging that increase awareness and education of the specific needs and barriers for residents experiencing poverty;
- Making data-informed recommendations to ensure programs, policy and funding are reflective of community needs;
- Delivering poverty reduction initiatives in the form of programs and services that are within the City’s mandate;
- Acting as a convenor and connector to enable cross-community collaboration efforts with the City and community organizations that prevent and reduce poverty; and
- Collaborating with community partners to deliver programming that prevents and reduces poverty through providing financial assistance and access to space for programming.

Community Associations and Societies

The City works closely with Community Associations and Societies to provide recreation, sport, arts, culture and heritage opportunities to all Richmond residents. The City provides the facilities and core staffing at a number of City-owned facilities and the Community Associations and Societies are responsible for the delivery of programs, services and events. The City and Community Associations and Societies aim to provide a range of free and low-cost programs that are inclusive and remove barriers to participation so all residents can participate. The Community Associations and Societies also partner with the City to offer the Recreation Fee Subsidy Program for those who experience financial barriers. The program provides unlimited drop-in admission for all ages to a wide range of activities, including drop-in swimming, skating and fitness programs, as well as a 90% discount on eligible registered parks, recreation and cultural programs, up to \$300 per year for children and youth and \$100 per year for adults and seniors.

Richmond Public Library

Public libraries promote literacy and lifelong learning and provide a range of resources, programs and services that are accessible to everyone in the community, including individuals at risk of or living in poverty. Richmond Public Library provides barrier-free services with no late fines for borrowed items and responds to the community's evolving needs to learn and connect by providing a variety of options. In addition to print materials, the Library's collection includes a variety of activity kits that are free to borrow and dedicated spaces are available to access and learn about digital technology. The Library acts as a resource hub, working in partnership with community-based organizations to better connect residents with skill-building opportunities and community resources. Through its four Richmond locations, the Library leverages its welcoming and familiar environment to foster new and stronger relationships with community and non-profit organizations through cross-referrals and collaborative programming.

Richmond School District

The Richmond School District plays a significant role in supporting children and families experiencing poverty that goes beyond their fundamental purpose of providing education. Richmond schools act as community hubs that help families build support systems and create connections in the community. They provide access to social and recreational opportunities that contribute to healthy child development and help connect children and families to resources in the broader community. The Richmond School District also operates programs that ensure all children and youth have access to supplies, nutritious snacks and other basic necessities.

Vancouver Coastal Health

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) provides health care services through a network of hospitals, primary care centres, community health centres and residential care. VCH is one of five regional health authorities that governs, plans and coordinates health services in BC. VCH aims to improve the health and well-being of all residents. This is accomplished by building collaborative partnerships with municipalities and community service organizations to address conditions that create health inequities, consider the needs of vulnerable groups, including those at risk of or living in poverty and foster supportive environments for everyone.

Business Community

A resilient and inclusive economy is important to both preventing and reducing poverty. The business community plays an integral role in fostering a robust labour market, providing income to workers and contributing to the overall quality of life of Richmond residents. Businesses partner with community organizations to remove barriers to employment, offer mentoring opportunities and assist with sponsorship of programs and events that help foster the full participation of all Richmond residents in the social, cultural, economic and political life of the city.

Residents and Community Members

Richmond residents and community members play an integral role in preventing and reducing poverty in the city. Through volunteering and raising awareness, many residents and community members make a positive impact on the lives of people at risk of or living in poverty. In addition, residents who have lived experience of poverty share their insights and knowledge to guide poverty reduction initiatives.

Collaborations in the Community

Poverty prevention and reduction requires a community effort and is not the sole responsibility of one organization, sector or level of government. Richmond-based community organizations and public sector agencies, including the City, are committed to working together on initiatives that contribute to preventing and reducing poverty in the community. The overview below provides a summary of some of the important work led by community partners in 2024–2025.

- **Social Services:** Richmond is home to over 50 non-profits, charities and faith-based organizations that have dedicated resources to social services that prevent or reduce the impacts of poverty on Richmond residents. In 2024–2025, key supports offered by community organizations included affordable housing navigation, mental health and wellness programs, addictions and recovery supports, employment resources and social programs that promote connections among community members. Community organizations also continuously adapted services to meet community needs. For example, in 2024, Richmond Family Place launched “Pre-Natal Circles of Support” a group-based learning series that fills the gap in services for new parents who face financial barriers, and are seeking to build community and connect with prenatal professional guidance.
- **Food Access:** In 2024–2025, Richmond faith-based and community groups along with non-profit organizations continued to respond to the growing need for food assistance by offering a wide range of programs. These included daily community and outreach meals, food hampers and specialized food programs designed to support specific populations, such as people with disabilities, newcomers and seniors. To further improve access to food services, the Food Bank launched a new online registration system in 2024 to streamline intake and better serve residents. In addition, Richmond Family Place received a City of Richmond Neighbourhood Celebration Grant to support its Roots and Relationships event in 2024. This event helped to strengthen food security in the community by bringing community members together through gardening-based activities.
- **Employment:** Employment readiness and skills development are key services that contribute to preventing and reducing poverty. In 2024–2025, approximately 20 community organizations, government agencies and post-secondary institutions supported Richmond residents at risk of or living in poverty to find work and gain new skills. This included the Richmond WorkBC Centre, operated by S.U.C.C.E.S.S., that served over 2,500 diverse job seekers with inclusive, personalized job search services. These job search services led to a 17% increase in job seekers securing and sustaining employment in 2024–2025.

- **Mental Health and Wellness:** Experiencing poverty can lead to additional challenges with managing overall mental health, stress and well-being. In recognition of the need for access to quality mental health services available to Richmond residents, Vancouver Coastal Health delivered multiple initiatives in partnership with faith-based and community organizations, aimed at raising awareness and improving access to mental health and substance use services. These included hosting an information table at the monthly Community Services Pop Ups and providing educational sessions about mental health and substance use recovery with community partners including the Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition, Peace Mennonite Church and St. Alban's Church.
- **Awareness and Advocacy:** Effective poverty reduction and prevention initiatives must be developed with the active participation of people with lived experience to ensure they are responsive and relevant. In 2024–2025, the Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition (RPRC) led several community-based initiatives to raise awareness on topics such as challenges with the new Canada Disability Benefit, funding cuts to Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada, and low-end market rental housing. Additionally, RPRC completed the Keeping Seniors Housed Project in 2025, which aimed to identify solutions to help address the growing number of seniors who are at risk of homelessness.
- **Financial Assistance:** Direct financial assistance to community organizations and Richmond residents provided important access to supports and programs for residents at risk of or living in poverty. In 2024–2025, Vancouver Coastal Health disbursed over \$900,000 in grants to community groups for initiatives that support Richmond newcomers, refugees, seniors, people living with lower incomes, families with young children, persons with disabilities or chronic illness, persons with lived or living experience of substance use and people with mental health disabilities and their families. Additionally, a total of 34 unique community organizations were supported through the City's Health, Social and Safety Grant Program during the 2024 and 2025 grant cycles, with \$1.18 million awarded to support social services and programs benefiting Richmond residents, including individuals and families with lower incomes. While not all initiatives were directly focused on poverty reduction, many supported factors that contribute to addressing poverty, such as access to community food programs, outreach services, employment supports, and health and wellness opportunities.

5. Progress on the Poverty Action Plan

The following sections of the report include highlights from the implementation of the Poverty Action Plan from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025. The current status of the Poverty Action Plan’s strategic directions and recommended actions are outlined in the Appendix.

Strategic Direction 1: Reduce and Prevent Poverty

Poverty reduction and prevention means improving equitable access to the resources and opportunities needed for individuals to meet their immediate needs, foster belonging through social connections and develop more financially stable futures. The City is committed to facilitating collective action with community organizations and senior levels of government through ongoing dialogue, information sharing and social planning that proactively meets the evolving needs of Richmond residents.

Through the implementation of Strategic Direction 1, the City aims to strengthen community capacity in Richmond to implement strategies that meet the needs of residents at risk of or living in poverty.



Achievements and Highlights

- Since 2022, the Community Poverty Reduction and Prevention Table worked collaboratively to advance the Poverty Action Plan's priorities. In 2024–2025, the Table focused on fostering cross-sector collaboration, building awareness of the resources available to Richmond residents at risk of or living in poverty and identifying ways to enhance referrals between services. The Table also increased connections among community partners by welcoming Family Services of Greater Vancouver, Literacy Richmond and Richmond Women's Resource Centre to the Table. (*Action 1.1*)
- The City worked in partnership with the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation and BC Housing to open Harbour House, a 25-unit affordable housing development for women and women with children who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Completed in 2025, this development was made possible through investment from all three levels of government whereby, the City contributed land and allocated \$2.21 million in capital funding through its Affordable Housing Reserve Fund and the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation invested \$9.1 million in capital funding through the Rapid Housing Initiative. Additionally, BC Housing contributed capital funding towards the project, enabling an increase in the number of units from 18 to 25 homes and has provided ongoing operating funding to Turning Point Housing Society, the local non-profit housing operator managing the development. (*Action 1.2*)
- In 2024, the City launched the Community Services Connectors Pilot Program in partnership with Richmond Public Library. Development and implementation of the pilot program was supported by a \$50,000 provincial grant from the Union of BC Municipalities' Poverty Reduction Planning Action Program Grant and an additional investment of \$10,000 from the Government of BC's Public Library Enhancement Grant that was awarded to the Library. The Connectors program trains individuals with lived experience to provide peer-to-peer resource navigation to connect Richmond residents to a variety of government and community-based supports. (*Action 1.2*)
- Throughout 2024–2025, the City co-chaired the Richmond Employment Resources Network in collaboration with Back in Motion and Pacific Autism Family Network. The Employment Network focuses on increasing access to opportunities for mentorship, training and upskilling for Richmond residents at risk of or living in poverty. Since 2023, the Employment Network has engaged approximately 20 community organizations to strengthen connections among a broad range of community-based employment services and programs to support Richmond residents seeking employment. (*Action 1.4*)
- In 2024, the Richmond Employment Resources Network in collaboration with the City and Richmond Public Library, launched Employment Connections: Programs and Supports for Jobseekers. Employment Connections is a free resource event designed to raise awareness of employment services and supports available to Richmond residents who may face barriers to work. Employment Connections events were held in October 2024 and May 2025 at Brighthouse Library. The events helped to connect a total of 206 job seekers to 22 local organizations with information about training and employment programs, on-site resume reviews and mock interviews. (*Action 1.4*)
- The City, in partnership with WorkBC and City Centre Community Association, delivered annual hiring fairs at City Centre Community Centre in 2024–2025. These hiring fairs provided free, accessible opportunities for Richmond job seekers to explore their employment prospects with potential employers. A total of 1,100 individuals participated in the hiring fairs. (*Action 1.4*)

- In 2024–2025, Richmond Public Library hosted several employment-based initiatives in partnership with community organizations.
 - The Library, in partnership with WorkBC, Richmond Multicultural Community Services and local Richmond businesses, hosted five job fairs at Brighthouse Library in 2024–2025. These free in-person events provided opportunities for close to 1,900 job seekers to network with potential employers, explore job openings and participate in on-the-spot interviews.
 - In 2024–2025, the Library partnered with BC Settlement and Integration Services, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and WorkBC to deliver monthly resume clinics at Ironwood Library. These resume clinics provided a total of 130 job seekers the opportunity to receive resume feedback from employment experts. (*Action 1.4*)
- Since 2023, the City in partnership with Touchstone Family Association, has delivered the Workforce Readiness Initiative for at-risk and gang-involved youth 12 to 24 years who are seeking support with employment readiness. The program provides employment supports tailored to individual participant's career goals, which includes vocational training, resume development, interview preparation, guidance on education pathways and purchasing protective workwear. In 2024–2025, a total of 21 youth accessed support through the program. The program is federally funded through Public Safety Canada's Building Safer Communities Fund and will continue until March 2026. (*Action 1.4*)
- In 2025, the City was awarded a \$5,000 BC Healthy Communities PlanH Grant to develop the Rec Ready Program for young adults 19 to 24 years who were not enrolled in post-secondary education. Through Rec Ready, participants were introduced to a variety of recreation roles and equipped with the skills and training needed for successful employment in the recreation field. As a result of this initiative, Community Associations and Societies engaged five youth as staff and five youth as volunteers. (*Action 1.4*)
- The Richmond Youth Media Program continued to provide Richmond youth with access to digital media skills development and literacy opportunities. In 2024–2025, approximately 550 Richmond youth joined the program's free weekly drop-in sessions, where they developed digital media skills and applied these skills to volunteer and paid roles, such as photography at the City's Battle of the Bands event series. The program also collaborated with community partners to deliver initiatives that developed digital media skills among youth participants.
 - In 2024–2025, the Richmond Youth Media Program hosted an annual Career in Media Arts networking event to celebrate BC Youth Week in May. The event welcomed approximately 80 youth and seven partner organizations to highlight the diversity of digital media career pathways.
 - Throughout 2024–2025, the Richmond Youth Media Program, with funding support from Public Safety Canada's Building Safer Communities Fund, engaged 25 at-risk youth in sessions that built a variety of digital and media skills, including photo and video production, music creation, graphic design, digital illustration and filmmaking.
 - In March 2024, with funding through Public Safety Canada's Building Safer Communities Fund, improvements to the Media Lab were completed that enhanced its capacity to meet the needs of at-risk youth. This funding enabled the purchase of new hardware, equipment and software. (*Action 1.5*)



■ Throughout 2024–2025, Richmond Public Library hosted digital literacy education programs that helped individuals use computers and smartphones for learning, communication and accessing programs and services.

- The Library's Tech Buddies program linked seniors with volunteers for one-on-one learning about basic computer skills, such as using email and applications. In 2024–2025, over 130 sessions were offered at the Brighthouse and Steveston Libraries, supporting approximately 1,300 seniors.
- The Library partnered with Richmond Mental Health Consumer and Friends' Society in 2024–2025 to deliver 60 computer basics training sessions that benefited over 350 participants. (*Action 1.5*)

Strategic Direction 2: Support Residents at Risk of or Living in Poverty

People at risk of or living in poverty face complex barriers to accessing the supports and services they need to meet their basic needs and improve their overall well-being. The City works alongside Richmond's network of community organizations and federal and provincial government agencies to increase access to a wide range of programs and services.

Through the implementation of Strategic Direction 2, the City aims to reduce barriers and increase access to the programs and resources available to community members at risk of or living in poverty and to promote resiliency and a sense of inclusion in the community.

Achievements and Highlights

- Richmond Public Library continues to reduce barriers to accessing library resources for Richmond residents who are at risk of or living in poverty and housing instability. In 2025, 267 library customers accessed the No Fixed Address Library Card that requires no proof of identification for library registration. Additionally, the Library introduced an instant access digital library card in 2025. Approximately 2,350 library users have benefited from this access initiative that promotes the inclusion of Richmond residents. (*Action 2.1*)
- In July 2025, Richmond Public Library launched the RPL To Go service which aims to ensure that Richmond community members can access library resources regardless of where they live in the city. From July onwards, the RPL To Go service engaged with more than 1,100 individuals through 19 outreach visits to locations in Richmond, including the Richmond Food Bank and City community facilities. Learnings from the pilot program will be used to develop additional outreach opportunities to reduce barriers to accessing literacy and digital resources for Richmond residents. (*Action 2.1*)
- As of spring 2025, 11 of the 13 City-owned child care facilities now operate as \$10 a day sites, charging a maximum fee to parents of \$200 per month. Funding to support these fee reductions is provided by the Province of BC. The other two facilities participate in a range of Provincial funding programs that also reduce fees. These initiatives, combined with nominal leases for the use of City-owned facilities, support child care affordability and give families, particularly women, opportunities to pursue employment and improve their finances. (*Action 2.1*)
- In 2024–2025, the City collaborated with City Centre Community Association, East Richmond Community Association, South Arm Community Association, Steveston Community Society and the Richmond School District's Community Schools Program to provide free or low-cost after-school activities at Richmond school sites. In total, 65 children and youth participated in art, recreation and social programming through this partnership. (*Action 2.1*)
- The annual Snow Angels program matches volunteers with residents who face barriers to snow clearing that prevent them from safely accessing the Richmond community. In 2025, recognizing the financial barriers faced by some Richmond residents to completing snow clearing, the program was expanded to serve Richmond residents with low incomes. In 2024–2025, Snow Angels provided snow-clearing assistance to 169 residents. (*Action 2.1*)
- The City provides grant funding to community organizations to support a variety of opportunities for children, youth and families who face financial barriers to accessing recreational and physical activities.
 - The City awarded KidSport Richmond \$20,000 in funding in 2024 and \$24,000 in funding in 2025 through the Parks, Recreation and Community Events Grant Program, to subsidize sport fees for children and youth of low-income families. In 2024–2025, KidSport Richmond provided 967 children with the opportunity to participate in at least one season of a sport that is affiliated with Sport BC.

- In 2024–2025, the City provided funding to Richmond Sports Council to support the Active Recreation & Sports Fund, which helps to remove financial barriers to recreation and sport programming for children in Richmond, with \$5,000 in funding provided in 2024 and \$8,000 in funding provided in 2025. Since 2024, the Fund has supported 50 children, providing up to \$500 per child to cover fees for active recreation and sport programs that do not have a provincial governing body. Eligible programs included martial arts, floor hockey, swimming, gymnastics and various types of dance.
 - In summer 2025, Community Associations and Societies hosted Neighbourhood Play Days with funding from the City's Parks Recreation Culture and Event Grants Program. These summer events delivered free, family-friendly programming in neighbourhood parks across Richmond. Play Days attracted over 1,450 participants, providing an opportunity to build social connections among Richmond's diverse community members while providing low-barrier access to recreation programming. Program partners included Art2Heart, OceanWise, Richmond Fire Rescue, Richmond RCMP and Urban Bounty.
 - Beginning September 2024, the City, in partnership with Touchstone Family Association and the Richmond School District's Horizon Program, offered art, recreation and social programs to youth who were not attending traditional school and facing mental health or financial barriers to participating in community programs. Over 50 youth benefitted from these low-barrier programs, which are scheduled to continue until the end of the 2026 school year. (*Action 2.1*)
- A Drop-in Centre for individuals at risk of or experiencing homelessness, located at the City-owned Brighthouse Pavilion, continued to operate in 2024–2025. The Drop-in Centre was funded by the Province of BC through the Union of BC Municipalities' Strengthening Communities' Services Grant from December 2021 until March 2024, when the grant concluded. Starting in April 2024, the Drop-in Centre has been funded by the City and is currently operated by The Progressive Housing Society. The Drop-In Centre offers resources and referrals to community services, lunches, showers, laundry and access to computers. (*Action 2.1*)
 - During the 2024–2025 and 2025–2026 winter seasons, there were two Temporary Winter Shelters in Richmond to provide overnight accommodation for people experiencing homelessness. Operated from two City-owned facilities, by The Progressive Housing Society, these shelters provided a safe, warm space to rest, evening meals, snacks, washroom access and referrals to additional services. In the 2024–2025 winter season, the Temporary Winter Shelters were supported by operating funding from the City and BC Housing and for the 2025–2026 winter season, all operating funding was provided by BC Housing. (*Action 2.1*)
 - The Recreation Fee Subsidy Program, offered by the City and Community Associations and Societies, supports residents of all ages who are experiencing financial hardship by providing access to a wide range of recreation, cultural and parks programs. During the 2024–2025 program year (September 1–August 31), 4,584 residents participated in the program, representing an 18% increase from the 2023–2024 program year, which supported 3,899 residents. This increase highlights the continued and growing need for affordable recreation opportunities in the Richmond community for residents facing financial barriers. (*Action 2.2*)
 - Throughout 2024–2025, the City increased awareness of the Recreation Fee Subsidy Program through outreach initiatives to Richmond residents at risk of or living in poverty in partnership with community organizations. This included hosting Recreation Fee Subsidy Program information tables at the Community Services Pop Ups at Brighthouse Library, Cambie Community Centre, Seniors Centre at the Minoru Centre for Active Living, South Arm Community Centre and Steveston Community Centre. Additionally, the City, in partnership with S.U.C.C.E.S.S. delivered two informational workshops for newcomers to learn more about the program. (*Action 2.2*)

- In 2024, Urban Bounty was awarded a Parks, Recreation and Cultural Events grant of \$16,000 to implement food system programs, events and community initiatives. Through this grant, Urban Bounty delivered initiatives that provided access to fresh produce for community members, including those at risk of or living in poverty and experiencing food insecurity.
 - In 2024, Urban Bounty partnered with homeowners to collect 6,300 pounds of recovered local fruit from trees on private property through the Fruit Recovery Program. Portions of the collected fruit were donated to Richmond community service organizations that support residents at risk of or experiencing food insecurity, such as the Richmond Food Bank and RainCity Housing.
 - Urban Bounty also lowered barriers to growing food for Richmond residents experiencing food insecurity by providing tools and resources needed to grow food. In 2024, the City in partnership with Urban Bounty, provided five individuals and 28 groups (non-profit organizations or schools) with subsidized garden plots. In 2025, this increased to 12 individuals and 68 groups. (*Action 2.4*)
- During the 2024 and 2025 grant cycles, the City provided a total of \$369,097 through the City Grant Program and additional one-time funding to support food security initiatives. These initiatives—including grocery distribution and meal delivery services, community and outreach meals, small-scale sustainable agriculture, and local farmers' markets and events that supported food security through the promotion of local food and food producers—helped improve food access among Richmond residents, including individuals and families with lower incomes, supporting their ability to meet basic needs. (*Action 2.4*)
- The City collaborated with the Richmond Food Bank and Richmond Food Coalition to update the No or Low-Cost Community Meals and Food Programs resource. The resource compiles information about free and low-cost meals delivered by community organizations and grocery distribution through the Richmond Food Bank. In 2024, the resource was refined to enhance access to information about community food programs, as well as provide a tool to support community meal providers in identifying potential gaps and service duplication. The resource is available on the City's Community Resources webpage and regularly updated in collaboration with the Richmond Food Bank. (*Action 2.4*)



- In 2024–2025, the City and its partners delivered a variety of social food programs that aim to foster social inclusion and provide access to healthy meals to Richmond residents experiencing food insecurity in an inclusive and low-barrier environment.
 - The Minoru Seniors Society, in collaboration with Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives (RCRG), hosted the free Seniors Social Meals program, which included transportation to and from a social activity and group meal. In 2024–2025, 32 sessions were hosted, providing 579 meals to 135 isolated seniors. Participating seniors were referred through social prescribing programs offered by the Richmond Division of Family Practice and RCRG. The Seniors Social Meal program was supported by a United Way BC Social Meals Enhancement grant totaling \$22,000.
 - From May to October 2025, the Minoru Seniors Society delivered the Food for Thought program, with funding from the Government of Canada’s New Horizons for Seniors Program. This free program engaged 108 seniors who learned hands-on skills to grow their own produce and cook basic dishes. The program also included intergenerational activities and trips to farmers’ markets to learn about local producers, enhancing the food security of the participating seniors.
 - In 2024–2025, Minoru Seniors Society and Steveston Rotary Club partnered to deliver a total of 680 free meals to Richmond seniors experiencing food insecurity. Through this partnership, the Minoru Seniors Society prepared meals in its cafeteria and Rotary Club volunteers delivered them to participating seniors.
 - In April 2025, the City launched Brunch with Friends, a free program for youth 13 to 24 years who are experiencing food insecurity. Since its inception, the biweekly program has fostered social connections and provided light snacks and brunch meals to 36 youth. (*Action 2.4*)
- In 2024, the City, in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health’s Richmond Adult Mental Health Team, launched the free Arts Sampler program for Richmond patients facing financial and mental health barriers to participating in arts programming. Through the program, participants were exposed to a variety of art forms, including creative movement, drumming, clay hand building and printmaking. Since the program launched in 2024, 70 participants have accessed the Arts Sampler program. (*Action 2.6*)
- In 2024–2025, the City delivered Into the Woods, a free hiking program that supports youth experiencing addiction, anxiety, poverty and social isolation. The program engaged a total of 23 youth to take part in weekly hikes throughout the summer which also provided opportunities to develop peer-to-peer connections. Youth participants were referred to the program through community partners, including Community Associations and Societies, Richmond Addiction Services Society, Touchstone Family Association and Richmond School District. (*Action 2.6*)
- In 2024–2025, the City continued to partner with Community Associations and Societies to deliver monthly citywide 55+ Wellness Clinics, which provide free or low-cost access to a variety of seniors’ health and wellness services. Services include blood pressure and glucose checks, hearing exams, foot care clinics, shiatsu treatments, reflexology, registered massage therapy and information from community organizations. These clinics were hosted at City Centre Community Centre, East Richmond Community Hall, Minoru Centre for Active Living, South Arm Community Centre and Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre. In response to high demand for Wellness Clinic services, an additional clinic was opened at the Thompson Community Centre in 2025. In total, over 13,400 appointments were completed in 2024–2025 for various health and wellness services offered at these clinics. (*Action 2.6*)

- Lime operates the City’s shared micromobility e-scooter and e-bike service. In 2024, to reduce barriers to accessing affordable transportation, the City collaborated with Lime to introduce a streamlined application process for Recreation Fee Subsidy Program participants to apply to the Lime Access Program. The Lime Access Program provides discounted e-scooter and e-bike rides to program participants with low incomes. In 2024–2025, 171 Richmond riders signed up for the Lime Access Program, completing 761 rides. In total, approximately 40% of riders participating in Lime Access are Recreation Fee Subsidy Program participants. (*Action 2.8*)
- In 2024–2025, a variety of accessible transportation programs were offered that aimed to remove transportation and financial barriers for seniors.
 - In 2024, the Rediscover Richmond Parks pilot program provided seniors with free shuttle service to attend free workshops in Richmond parks. These workshops focused on themes such as bird watching, kite flying, bees, and local flora and fauna. In total, 300 seniors participated and 19 workshops took place at nine different Richmond parks. The pilot was funded provincially by a \$5,000 BC Healthy Communities PlanH Grant and was made possible through partnerships with the City and Community Associations and Societies.
 - In 2025, the City awarded the Richmond Nature Park Society a Parks, Recreation and Cultural Events grant for \$3,000 to support environmental parks programming. This funding was used to provide free shuttle bus service to the Richmond Nature Park to increase access to the park for 42 seniors who face transportation barriers. The transportation enabled participants to engage in nature walks, educational sessions and social activities.
 - In 2024–2025, the City partnered with the Minoru Seniors Society to deliver the Shopping Bus, which provides seniors with low-cost shuttle services to access local businesses and services around Richmond. Shuttle services include pick-ups and drop-offs from several seniors housing complexes in Richmond and the Minoru Centre for Active Living. Throughout 2024–2025, seniors used the Shopping Bus in record numbers, completing a total of 97 trips by 1,316 passengers. (*Action 2.8*)
- Richmond Public Library partnered with Family Services of Greater Vancouver, Canada Revenue Agency, Service Canada and the Lord’s Harvest Fellowship to offer free income tax clinics to low-income individuals at Brighthouse Library. In 2024–2025, 17 tax clinics were offered, providing 450 individuals with low incomes personal income tax filing assistance. As a result, low-income Richmond residents had an increased opportunity to receive provincial and federal income benefits, such as the Canada child benefit. (*Action 2.9*)
- Throughout 2024–2025, Richmond Public Library in partnership with Family Services of Greater Vancouver, Chartered Professional Accounts of BC and Gulf and Fraser Financial Group, hosted 12 free financial literacy programs at Brighthouse and Ironwood Libraries. Through these programs, 70 participants learned new skills for managing finances. (*Action 2.9*)
- In March 2024, Richmond Public Library launched the Laptop Kiosk program to expand options for free access to information and resources for Richmond residents navigating community services. The program provides residents with the ability to borrow a laptop computer and use it in the library for a single day. Between March 2024 and December 2025, community members borrowed laptops over 13,500 times through this self-serve kiosk. (*Action 2.9*)

Strategic Direction 3: Increase Awareness and Educate

Building a community that is inclusive of all residents, regardless of socioeconomic standing, requires increased awareness and understanding of the needs and challenges of those at risk of or living in poverty. As well, participation of residents with lived or living experience of poverty is essential to developing initiatives that address their needs to ensure solutions are accessible and meaningful.

Through the implementation of Strategic Direction 3, the City aims to develop a shared understanding of the needs of households at risk of or living in poverty and to increase opportunities for people with lived experience to contribute to the development of poverty reduction initiatives. This enables the City, community organizations and individuals themselves to advocate more effectively for funding, policies and programs that best support Richmond community members.

Achievements and Highlights

- Due to the complexity of Canada’s poverty reduction policy landscape and the unique needs of Richmond residents, the City continued to raise awareness of emerging community needs and local poverty reduction efforts to provincial and federal government partners.
 - In 2024, in response to growing needs in Richmond, the City sent letters to the Government of Canada and the Province of BC to advocate for increased support for non-profit organizations that provide meals to food-insecure individuals in Richmond.
 - In 2025, the City sent a letter to the federal government advocating for the reinstatement of Immigrant, Refugees and Citizenship Canada funding to Richmond-based organizations that provided settlement services for newcomers, including refugees. This letter emphasized the importance of comprehensive supports for newcomers who need settlement services to enable their success in their new home. These supports provide essential tools that enable newcomers to build the necessary economic and social connections to prevent and reduce poverty.
 - Throughout 2024–2025, the City shared progress reports on the implementation of its Council adopted Poverty Reduction Plan, Seniors Strategy, Youth Strategy and Child Care Strategy to raise awareness among the Government of Canada and Province of BC about the needs of Richmond’s vulnerable populations. The reports highlight the City’s efforts to improve the resiliency of children, youth, seniors and families through providing information related to community trends and highlighting the collaborative efforts of community partners in Richmond. (*Action 3.1*)
- The Community Services Pop Ups continued to be offered at Brighthouse Library throughout 2024–2025 in collaboration with Richmond Public Library and community partners. Since 2022, the Pop Ups have provided a targeted outreach opportunity for community and government organizations to engage with Richmond residents seeking access to vital community-based services and supports. In 2024–2025, 2,085 participants were supported through these monthly drop-in sessions. In recognition of the Pop Ups program model, the City received honourable mention from the Union of BC Municipalities 2024 Community Excellence Awards: Excellence in Service Delivery Award. (*Action 3.2*)

■ In 2024, the City, in partnership with Richmond Public Library, launched the Community Services Connectors Pilot Program at Ironwood Library to expand the reach of resource navigation supports in Richmond beyond the city centre and outside of traditional service hours (e.g. Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm). The Connectors program trains individuals with lived and living experience to provide Richmond residents living on lower incomes with one-on-one, peer-led assistance to find information about community-based services and supports.

In 2025, Richmond Public Library assumed operations of the Community Services Connectors program and the Community Services Pop Ups, which included an expansion of the Connectors program to Cambie Library. In recognition of the Library's role in the development of the Community Services Pop Ups and Community Services Connectors program, the Library was awarded the 2025 British Columbia Library Association's Building Better Communities Award. As of December 31, 2025, Community Connectors have supported over 629 residents in navigating community supports and services at Ironwood and Cambie Libraries. (*Action 3.2*)

■ In 2024–2025, Richmond Public Library made nine outreach visits to the Richmond Food Bank, providing access to library cards, books and information about library services to 430 individuals. Through these outreach visits the Library serves as an informational resource hub that connects Richmond residents at risk of or living in poverty with a range of library programs that increase their financial resiliency, digital literacy and social inclusion. (*Action 3.2*)

■ Throughout 2024–2025, Richmond Public Library continued its longstanding partnership with NewToBC to deliver the Library Champions Project. Library Champions is a three-month volunteer program that helps newcomers build outreach and communication skills while learning about library and community services. Volunteer Library Champions are then equipped with information and skills to help connect newcomers with a range of library and community resources. The Library hosted four intake cycles of the Library Champions Project in 2024–2025, with more than 60 Library Champions completing the program. (*Action 3.2*)

■ In 2024, the City developed a Homelessness Outreach Program and hired two Homelessness Outreach Workers to support individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Richmond. The Outreach Workers work directly in the community and provide street-based outreach to people experiencing homelessness and support referrals to housing and other relevant programs and services. (*Action 3.2*)

■ In 2024, the City established a Housing Office as a dedicated in-house department to advance Council's affordable housing goals. The new office brings together reallocated and new grant-funded positions to work alongside existing departments that facilitate housing development to expand affordable housing opportunities across the community. Through planning policies, partnerships, and funding programs, the new Housing Office works with non-profit organizations, government agencies and developers to deliver a range of housing options. (*Action 3.3*)

■ Launched in 2025, the Affordable Housing Non-Profit Partnership Program brings together 20 non-profit housing providers and community partners who support the delivery of affordable housing and housing-related services in Richmond. This initiative aims to monitor trends, coordinate information sharing, maintain partnerships with non-profit housing providers, liaise with senior levels of government and educate partners on the continued need for affordable housing in Richmond. The overarching goal of the Partnership Program is to build the capacity of local non-profit affordable housing operators to expand their delivery of new affordable housing units through programs and partnerships. (*Action 3.3*)

■ In April 2025, the City in partnership with the Richmond Public Library, hosted a Community Services Networking Event. This event aimed to increase awareness of community-based services, foster collaboration between organizations and improve client referrals to reduce barriers to accessing services. In total, 89 representatives from 30 community and government organizations participated in the event. (*Action 3.3*)



- In October 2024 and 2025, Homelessness Action Week was proclaimed in Richmond. The proclamation included recognition that effective action to reduce homelessness and promote social inclusion requires all levels of government to work with individuals, non-profit organizations, Indigenous and community groups, and private sector representatives to find ways to that will break down barriers that hold people back, deliver supports that lift people up and make Richmond more inclusive for everyone. (*Action 3.4*)
- In fall 2025, the City undertook an extensive public engagement process to inform the development of the City's Building Our Future Together: Social Development Strategy (2025–2035). More than 700 community members provided input through surveys, pop-up events, presentations to community tables and facilitated focus group discussions. The engagement process centred around equity-deserving groups, including seniors, youth, newcomers, families with young children and individuals experiencing poverty, to ensure the Strategy reflects the realities and priorities of those most affected by social inequities. To deepen this outreach, Community Ambassadors with lived experience of poverty were hired and trained to support a more meaningful and culturally relevant engagement process across a diversity of residents. (*Action 3.5*)
- In fall 2025, the City conducted interviews with residents with lived experience that access affordable rental housing, live in affordable rental housing or help others navigate the process of finding affordable housing. Responses from these interviews were used to inform the development of the City's Affordable Housing Hub, an online tool designed to improve access to affordable housing information, and updates to its affordable housing website. (*Action 3.5*)

Strategic Direction 4: Research, Monitor and Evaluate

Developing an understanding of the evolving context and local trends related to poverty in Richmond is essential to determine the most effective responses through funding, services or supports. The City stays informed of the needs of residents at risk of or living in poverty through tracking community usage of programs and services, monitoring poverty line measures and reviewing research about poverty reduction and prevention.

Through the implementation of Strategic Direction 4, the City aims to monitor Richmond-specific information and remain up to date on emerging best practices in poverty reduction and prevention to make data-informed recommendations to meet changing community needs.

Achievements and Highlights

- To inform the development of the Richmond Child Care Strategy 2024–2034, extensive engagement took place with families and a best practice review was conducted. Findings highlighted the importance of child care for economic development and as an important poverty reduction measure, offering families the support they need to be able to sustain employment and allow more women to participate in the labour force. Through the Strategy, work is being done to support the expansion of a high quality, inclusive and universal system of child care that is both affordable and accessible for families in Richmond. The Strategy was adopted by City Council in December 2024. (*Action 4.3*)
- In 2025, the City developed Community Profiles based on the results of the 2023 Community Needs Assessment to support data-informed planning for the Parks, Recreation and Culture Division. Community Profiles included data such as demographics, household income, land use and park space within each City planning area. The profiles will inform the future development of approaches to meet the needs of community members in each planning area, including consideration for Richmond residents who face financial and social barriers to engaging in parks, recreation and arts programming offered by the City and Community Associations and Societies. (*Action 4.3*)
- In 2024–2025, the City facilitated information sharing between community and government organizations about emerging community trends and program opportunities to support the needs of Richmond residents at risk of or living in poverty. This included presentations to the Community Poverty Reduction and Prevention Table and Employment Resource Network on key topics such as the new Canada Dental Care Plan, usage trends for the Richmond Food Bank, financial empowerment programs from Family Services of Greater Vancouver, the social prescribing program from the Richmond Division of Family Practice and youth unemployment trends. (*Action 4.3*)
- In 2025, the City engaged community partners to ensure the perspectives of Richmond residents at risk of or living in poverty and organizations that support poverty reduction in Richmond were considered in the development of strategic priorities. In September 2025, the Community Poverty Reduction and Prevention Table was consulted as part of the Social Development Strategy consultation. In November 2025, the Employment Resource Network participated in a feedback session as part of the City's Economic Development Strategy public engagement process. (*Action 4.3*)

6. Next Steps and Conclusion

Poverty is a complex issue that requires collaborative efforts amongst all three levels of government, the private sector and community-based organizations to reduce its impacts and prevent more households from experiencing its effects. In 2024–2025, the high cost of living combined with increasing economic uncertainty placed financial pressures on Richmond households, resulting in a growing number of community members needing to access supports and services to meet their basic needs. In response, the City and its government and community partners worked together to meet the increasing demand for services. Together, numerous initiatives were implemented that strengthened connections to essential supports, enhanced financial stability and provided wraparound services that improve overall quality of life of Richmond residents.

Through this collaborative approach, noteworthy progress has been made by the City and community partners on the implementation of the 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Prevent and Reduce Poverty in Richmond. To date, five out of six short-term actions have been completed, with three of these short-term actions converted to ongoing activities. Significant progress has also been made on the remaining short-term action. Additionally, all seven medium-term actions have either been initiated or are in progress, and both long-term actions are also in progress. Finally, all ongoing actions continue to be advanced.

The City recognizes that ongoing collaboration is central to reducing and preventing poverty in Richmond and continues to work with community organizations, senior levels of government and residents, including individuals with lived experience, to implement actions in the Poverty Action Plan. Priority actions for 2026–2027 will support the implementation of initiatives that promote economic and social inclusion, digital literacy upskilling and increased food security in the community. Through these collective efforts, a more socially connected, resilient and livable community will be fostered for all community members.





Appendix: Summary of Poverty Action Plan Strategic Actions and Status

The tables below outline the strategic actions in the 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Prevent and Reduce Poverty in Richmond and their status at the end of 2025.

Legend

Status of Actions

Initiated	Work towards this action has begun.
In progress	Considerable work towards this action is underway.
Completed	Work towards this action has been accomplished.
Ongoing	Work towards this action has been initiated and will be continuous.

Strategic Direction 1: Reduce and Prevent Poverty

No.	Action	Time Frame	Status
1.1	Create a Community Poverty Reduction and Prevention Table to support the implementation of the Poverty Action Plan.	Short-term	Completed, converted to Ongoing
1.2	Pursue funding opportunities to advance poverty reduction and prevention initiatives.	Ongoing	Ongoing
1.3	Develop and implement a poverty lens criterion to support future City social planning processes (e.g. strategy and policy development, community needs assessments).	Medium-term	Initiated
1.4	Expand work experience, mentorship and upskilling opportunities for residents at risk of or living in poverty.	Long-term	In progress
1.5	Increase educational opportunities to support employment readiness and digital literacy programs for residents at risk of or living in poverty.	Medium-term	Initiated
1.6	Develop social enterprise opportunities in the community to stimulate job creation for populations at risk of or living in poverty.	Long-term	Initiated
1.7	Provide additional staff resources to support the implementation of the Poverty Action Plan and prevent and reduce poverty in the community.	Short-term	Completed, converted to Ongoing

Strategic Direction 2: Support Residents at Risk of or Living in Poverty

No.	Action	Time Frame	Status
2.1	Reduce barriers, address gaps and streamline access to City programs and services for residents at risk of or living in poverty.	Ongoing	Ongoing
2.2	Continue to monitor and refine the Recreation Fee Subsidy Program to ensure it responds to changing community needs.	Ongoing	Ongoing
2.3	Explore the development of a city-wide community food hub to expand access to healthy food and food skills programs for residents at risk of or living in poverty.	Medium-term	Initiated
2.4	Implement initiatives to increase food security in the community for residents at risk of or living in poverty.	Ongoing	Ongoing
2.5	Explore the development of a community resource centre for residents at risk of or living in poverty.	Short-term	In progress
2.6	Provide accessible community wellness opportunities for residents at risk of or living in poverty (e.g. dental clinics, mental wellness-based programming).	Ongoing	Ongoing
2.7	Explore ways to improve community connections and health impacts for residents at risk of or living in poverty.	Medium-term	In progress
2.8	Reduce transportation-related barriers in the community for residents at risk of or living in poverty.	Medium-term	In progress
2.9	Develop programs and services that respond to the specific needs of demographics at risk of or living in poverty (e.g. energy poverty reduction programs, financial literacy training for young adults, family-based outreach programming).	Ongoing	Ongoing

Strategic Direction 3: Increase Awareness and Educate

No.	Action	Time Frame	Status
3.1	Advocate to senior levels of government regarding the needs of residents at risk of or living in poverty in Richmond (e.g. health care, transportation).	Ongoing	Ongoing
3.2	Implement targeted outreach that facilitates connections to community programs and services for residents at risk of or living in poverty (e.g. community navigator programs).	Short-term	Completed
3.3	Identify new opportunities to share poverty-related information and best practices among the City, community service organizations and key stakeholders.	Medium-term	In progress
3.4	Raise awareness and increase understanding of the challenges faced by residents at risk of or living in poverty in the community to support increased inclusion.	Medium-term	Initiated
3.5	Foster dialogue with residents at risk of or living in poverty to ensure they are active participants in the development of initiatives related to reducing and preventing poverty.	Ongoing	Ongoing

Strategic Direction 4: Research, Monitor and Evaluate

No.	Action	Time Frame	Status
4.1	Develop a consistent set of community-based measures to track trends and changing needs of residents at risk of or living in poverty.	Short-term	Completed, converted to Ongoing
4.2	Research and monitor the impacts of COVID-19 on populations at risk of or living in poverty in Richmond.	Short-term	Completed
4.3	Monitor and analyze trends in poverty-related data to understand and respond to emerging and changing community needs.	Ongoing	Ongoing
4.4	Research and evaluate best practices related to poverty reduction and prevention and continue to identify opportunities for Richmond.	Ongoing	Ongoing
4.5	Report out every two years on the progress of the Poverty Action Plan.	Ongoing	Ongoing



City of Richmond

6911 No.3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

Telephone: 604-276-4000

richmond.ca

GP - 104