



**Council/School Board Liaison Committee
Electronic meeting**

**Richmond City Hall
6911 No. 3 Road
Wednesday, April 3, 2024
9:30 a.m.**

AGENDA

Motion to adopt the agenda for the meeting of April 3, 2024.

MINUTES

CSBL-3 *Motion to adopt the **minutes** of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on January 31, 2024.*

STANDING ITEMS

CSBL-6 1. **TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
(COR – Sonali Hingorani)

2. **CHILD CARE UPDATE**
(COR – Chris Duggan)

3. **JOINT CITY AND DISTRICT PROGRAM COMMITTEE**
(COR – Keith Miller)

Council/School Board Liaison Committee Agenda
Wednesday, April 3, 2024

4. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

AGENDA ITEMS

- CSBL-12 5. **2024 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES**
(COR – Sonali Hingorani)

- CSBL-20 6. **2019-2029 CULTURAL HARMONY PLAN: 2022-2023 UPDATE**
(COR – Peggy Chen)

BUSINESS ARISING & NEW BUSINESS

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 (tentative date) at 9:30 a.m. by Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT



Council/School Board Liaison Committee

- Date: January 31, 2024
- Place: Electronic meeting by teleconference
Richmond City Hall
- Present: Councillor Alexa Loo, Chair
Trustee Rod Belleza
Trustee Ken Hamaguchi
Trustee Heather Larson
Trustee Donna Sargent
Trustee Debbie Tablotney
Trustee Alice Wong
- Absent: Councillor Laura Gillanders
Trustee David Yang
- Also Present: Steve Ahluwalia, Richmond School District No. 38
Elizabeth Ayers, City of Richmond
Evangel Biason, City of Richmond
Bill Dhaliwal, City of Richmond
Chris Duggan, City of Richmond
Sonali Hingorani, City of Richmond
Ravinder Johal, Richmond School District No. 38
Jane MacMillan, Richmond School District No. 38
Maryam Naser, Richmond School District No. 38
Rick Ryan, Richmond School District No. 38
David Sadler, Richmond School District No. 38
Christopher Usih, Richmond School District No. 38
Cindy Wang, Richmond School District No. 38
- Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

It was moved and seconded
That the Council/School Board Liaison Committee agenda for the meeting of January 31, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

Council/School Board Liaison Committee
Wednesday, January 31, 2024

MINUTES

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on November 15, 2023, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

STANDING ITEMS

1. **TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

City staff briefed Committee on Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) activities, noting that (i) ICBC provided updates on their pedestrian safety campaign that ran from October-November 2023, including several activities and outreach events, highlighting that nearly half of crashes involving pedestrians occur between October and January as visibility and weather worsen, and (ii) City staff are responding to a petition for traffic calming measures on Second Avenue between Steveston Highway and Chatham Street, noting that public engagement and assessment to determine next steps is forthcoming.

It was moved and seconded

That the verbal report on the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee be received for information.

CARRIED

2. **CHILD CARE UPDATE**

City staff reviewed Child Care activities, noting that staff are in the process of analyzing and reviewing data collected from the public engagement for the new 10-Year Child Care Strategy, which will be presented to Council for adoption in the spring.

Discussion ensued regarding the School District's involvement in the survey and feedback process when developing the Child Care Strategy.

It was moved and seconded

That the verbal update on Child Care be received for information.

CARRIED

3. **JOINT CITY AND DISTRICT PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

School District staff advised that they are in the process of coordinating a future meeting and there is nothing to report as the Committee has not recently convened.

Council/School Board Liaison Committee
Wednesday, January 31, 2024

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (STANDING ITEM)

None.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 (tentative date) at 9:30 a.m. by Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded
That the meeting adjourn (9:40 a.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of the
Minutes of the meeting of the City of
Richmond Council/School Board Liaison
Committee held on January 31, 2024.

Councillor Alexa Loo
Chair

Shannon Unrau
Legislative Services Associate
City Clerk's Office



Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

Held Thursday, January 25, 2024, 9:00 AM
Webex
Richmond City Hall

In Attendance:

Bill Dhaliwal, City of Richmond – Transportation
Matthew Chou, City of Richmond – Transportation
Lingly Wilson, Richmond District Parent’s Association
Forrest Weissler, Richmond Fire-Rescue
Harvey Kooner, ICBC
Joel Canlas, Richmond School District

Next Meeting

The next TSAC meeting is scheduled for: **Thursday, March 21, 2024, 9:00 am**, via Webex.

1. Manoah Steves Traffic Issues – L. Wilson

L. Wilson informed the committee that the strata president at Manoah Village has contacted the Richmond District Parent’s Association regarding traffic safety concerns with parents using the private laneway to drop off/pick up and park their vehicles. Staff agreed to meet on-site with all stakeholders and assess the issue.

2. Alta Court – B. Dhaliwal

B. Dhaliwal informed the committee that the “permit parking only” signage on Alta Court is in effect as of January 15th, 2024. Only a few permits have been issued to residents. Parking Bylaw’s have scheduled enforcement as resources allow.

Other business

B. Dhaliwal

B. Dhaliwal

Bill Dhaliwal, Acting Chairperson

Bill Dhaliwal, Recorder

❖ **Any corrections to the above minutes should be forwarded to the recorder within one week of receipt of these minutes, or otherwise they are deemed to be accurate and “Certified a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee on January 25, 2024”**

Next meeting March 21, 2024

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee	
Sgt. Eric Baskette, Richmond RCMP – Traffic (Chairperson)	Forrest Weissler, Richmond Fire-Rescue
Joel Canlas, Richmond School District	Trevor Northrup, Richmond Fire-Rescue
Lingly Wilson, Richmond District Parent’s Association	Lloyd Bie, City of Richmond, Transportation
Dave Madeira, Richmond District Parents’ Association	Bill Dhaliwal, City of Richmond – Transportation
Nadia Fourik, Vancouver Coastal Health	Matthew Chou, City of Richmond - Transportation
Quiambao Kirvy, Vancouver Coastal Health	Mark Corrado, City of Richmond – Community Safety
David Hill, ICBC	Ken Eng, City of Richmond – Community Safety
Harvey Kooner, ICBC	Candice Kurji, City of Richmond – Transportation
Sonali Hingorani, City of Richmond - Transportation	
Traffic Safety Advisory Committee – Member Agencies	
City of Richmond – Fire and Rescue	Richmond District Parent Association
City of Richmond – Bylaws - Parking Enforcement	Richmond RCMP Detachment – Traffic Section
City of Richmond – Transportation	Richmond School District
ICBC	Vancouver Coastal Health
RPRC	
Traffic Safety Advisory Committee - Guests	
Athena Estremadura, Richmond Poverty RPRC	



Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

Held Thursday, March 21, 2024, 9:00 AM
Webex
Richmond City Hall

In Attendance:

Bill Dhaliwal, City of Richmond – Transportation
Lloyd Bie, City of Richmond – Transportation
Lingly Wilson, Richmond District Parent’s Association
Nathan Andrews, City of Richmond – Transportation
Sonali Hingorani, City of Richmond – Transportation
Joel Canlas, Richmond School District
Cpl. Eric Baskette, Richmond RCMP – Traffic
Trevor Northrup, Richmond Fire-Rescue

Larry Ford, City of Richmond - Roads
Kirvy Quiambao, VCH
Athena Estremadura, RPRC
Harvey Kooner, ICBC
Alice Miro - VCH

Absent:

David Hill, ICBC

Next Meeting

The next TSAC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, May 30, 2024 9:00 AM**, via Webex.

1. Spring Distracted Driving Campaign (H. Kooner)

H. Kooner informed the group that the month of March is the Spring Distracted Driving education and enforcement month in BC.

On March 1, Richmond RCMP led a joint forces operation with Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE), Transit Police, and BC Highway Patrol Integrated Road Safety Unit (IRSU) to conduct distracted driving enforcement. This outreach kicked off a month-long province-wide campaign in partnership with ICBC, police agencies and community police volunteers. In total, 107 charges were laid under the Motor Vehicle Act, 70 for use of an electronic device while driving.

In Richmond, outreach continues with Richmond RCMP members and volunteers:

- 2 Think of Me safety blitzes at local schools: Bridge & McKinney
- Distracted Driving enforcement in various areas

Statistics wise: we lose 78 people a year on average due to distracted driving car crash fatalities.

L. Wilson asked H. Kooner if ICBC would continue to engage with the rest of the school zones or will it only continue with McKinney and Bridget. H. Kooner mentioned that ICBC do have more schools lined up in May for speed month. They will be reaching out to more schools: Hamilton etc. Still waiting to hear back from other schools. K. Quiambao asked when the schools are off this month (March), what are we doing in terms of speeding around schools when it is spring break. Cpl. E. Baskette responded if school is not in session then the school zones are not in effect, the RCMP tend to not focus on the school zones at that time. During spring break the RCMP, change their enforcement focus however, playground zones are still in effect. Cpl. E. Baskette notified that group that March is “Chiefs of Police Traffic Month” for distracted driving.

2. Traffic Issues at McMath and Bylaw Summary Around Schools (L. Wilson)

L. Wilson mentioned to the group that the PAC are working on some issues with traffic flow at McMath Secondary school. L. Wilson asked the City staff if McMath is on the schedule for bylaw patrol and if they will be on the schedule for upcoming months. L. Wilson expressed that parents blocking traffic and parking in the no parking zone. During rush hour, it is getting congested at the school. There have been three (3) hit and runs in September that has caused concerns. B. Dhaliwal will follow up with Bylaw group; he will get more details regarding the scheduling. L. Wilson interested in seeing what the stats from the bylaw are.

J. Canlas expressed that he was at McMath Secondary school and the school is looking to add additional signs for traffic issues and traffic flows. The concern stems from vehicles trying to get in and out of the school ground. Looking at limiting vehicles making a left turn out of the school grounds when it is during rush hour at school. Currently, the school is working with their sign shop to get that going. They are looking at the best times to have the sign active, not sure, when they are planning to put the sign up J. Canlas mentioned.

L. Wilson has not spoken to the Principle yet. Spoke about the limit of traffic flow to turning right only. Driveway of McMath Secondary school and No. 1 Road is small; turning right at rush hour will cause a back up on the property. School bus issues and how to make sure the flow is better was also mentioned in the meeting. L. Wilson expressed that this all comes back to parent education.

Cpl. E. Baskette asked the group if anyone else had any more thoughts on signage and education.

S. Hingorani expressed that talking to the Principal would be the next step. Education is really important and looking at the onsite traffic flows that can alleviate the congestion. Any signage changes should not impact the public roadway S. Hingorani stated.

B. Dhaliwal did meet with the Principal last year and he provided some options.

L. Wilson, school wants to put up signs as soon as possible. The main concern is the roadway traffic, the main corridor on Garry Street. The PAC is waiting to hear back from the school Principal.

Next steps

L. Wilson will talk about this agenda item again at the next TSAC meeting when there is more information provided.

Cpl. E. Baskette would like to what the impacts are in terms of how the school board property goes into the City. That will be added to TSAC agenda for May to discuss further in detail.

Other Business

Enforcement along River Road:

B. Dhaliwal asked Cpl. E. Baskette if the RCMP has done any enforcement along River Road. Cpl. E. Baskette mentioned that the RCMP has been there twice now, for two hours each time. He asked that the traffic black cat go out and provide enforcement and education. B. Dhaliwal asked Cpl. E. Baskette to provide an email summary with details after the meeting. The RCMP has given a dozen tickets along the stretch. The RCMP will continue to get out there and provide enforcement (Cpl. E. Baskette).

E-Scooter Pilot Project Update:

S. Hingorani provided the TSAC group with an update that the City is working with ICBC and RCMP as part of the E-scooter Pilot Project to review the possibility of skills training in the peak of the summer season. The plan is to advise users the rules and obligations around using these devices. Primarily, focusing on helmet use, which is one of the safety campaigns related to these devices. The City is also working with the Corporate Communications team and the RCMP to have a blitz social media campaign around e-scooter and electric mobility users – subject to Council’s decisions, then the City could be in for another 4 years for the E-scooter Pilot Project (S. Hingorani).

T. Northrup asked S. Hingorani if there are plans that speaks to the maintenance component of the e-scooters. There appears to be non-approved manufactured devices which can burn and become very hot very fast. Richmond Fire-Rescue has gone to fires at home due to the devices. Residents are repairing their devices in their homes. S. Hingorani expressed that the current education efforts focus on the safe operation of e-scooters but if Richmond Fire-Rescue can share detailed information, we can discuss further. The focus is the use of the road, where they users can travel and helmets (S. Hingorani). L. Bie suggested that S. Hingorani get in touch with Richmond Fire-Rescue, RCMP and Corporate Communications as to how we can add this education regarding safety measures/maintenances for the public.

K. Quiambao expressed that Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) would be happy to be part of those discussions on the education piece and the safety around e-scooters.

Next steps

T. Northrup will do more research and see where we can go from here and will put it out to the group and start the steps.

Car Seat Clinic:

H. Kooner shared with the TSAC group that the Richmond Fire-Rescue & Richmond RCMP are putting on a FREE car seat clinic on Saturday, March 23, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Brighthouse Fire Hall No. 1 6960 Gilbert Road. H. Kooner asked the group to share this information with their contacts.

CKurji

Candice Kurji, Acting Chairman

CKurji

Candice Kurji, Recorder

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Next meeting May 30, 2024

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee	
Cpl. Eric Baskette, Richmond RCMP – Traffic (Chairperson)	Forrest Weissler, Richmond Fire-Rescue
Joel Canlas, Richmond School District	Trevor Northrup, Richmond Fire-Rescue
Lingly Wilson, Richmond District Parent’s Association	Lloyd Bie, City of Richmond, Transportation
Dave Madeira, Richmond District Parents’ Association	Bill Dhaliwal, City of Richmond – Transportation
Nadia Fourik, Vancouver Coastal Health	Matthew Chou, City of Richmond - Transportation
Kirvy, Quiambao, Vancouver Coastal Health	Mark Corrado, City of Richmond – Community Safety
David Hill, ICBC	Ken Eng, City of Richmond – Community Safety
Harvey Kooner, ICBC	Candice Kurji, City of Richmond – Transportation
Sonali Hingorani, City of Richmond - Transportation	Alice Miro, Vancouver Coastal Health
Traffic Safety Advisory Committee – Member Agencies	
City of Richmond – Fire and Rescue	Richmond District Parent Association
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City of Richmond – Transportation	Richmond School District
ICBC	Vancouver Coastal Health
RPRC	
Traffic Safety Advisory Committee - Guests	
Athena Estremadura, Richmond Poverty RPRC	



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee

Date: January 12, 2024

From: Lloyd Bie, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation

File: 10-6500-01/2024-Vol
01

Re: 2024 Active Transportation Initiatives

Staff Recommendation

That the report titled “2024 Active Transportation Initiatives” dated January 12, 2024 from the Director, Transportation, be received for information.

Lloyd Bie, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation
(604-276-4131)

Att.1

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

Staff Report

Origin

The City undertakes and supports a number of infrastructure projects, programs and ongoing activities to support active transportation (human-powered transportation) around Richmond. In addition to projects included in the capital budget, joint initiatives with the Richmond Active Transportation Committee and HUB Cycling are undertaken throughout the year to encourage walking, cycling and rolling trips in the City. The City also funds cycling skills education courses for all Grade 6 & 7 students and continues safety-related campaigns for personal mobility devices, such as e-scooters.

This report provides an overview of the active transportation initiatives planned for 2024 to support the improvement and promotion of the City's active transportation network. The report also highlights the 2023 active transportation accomplishments. Input and collaboration with the cycling community are integral to the delivery of these initiatives.

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

2.4 Enhance Richmond's robust transportation network by balancing commercial, public, private, and active transportation needs.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Strategy #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.

Analysis

As part of the planning and review of active transportation projects, staff meet monthly with the Richmond Active Transportation Committee (RATC) to seek input and feedback on infrastructure projects designed for cyclists, pedestrians and other micro-mobility devices. The committee also undertakes various activities in co-operation with the City to encourage, educate and raise awareness of active transportation. Committee members are local residents, employees and HUB Cycling representatives who reflect a diverse range of ages and cycling skills. RATC will be providing input and participating in the active transportation initiatives planned for 2024 as identified in this report.

Planned 2024 Active Transportation Initiatives

Capital Projects - Active Transportation Network Expansion: Commence and continue design efforts and implementation of Council approved active transportation capital projects including:

- Complete construction of Phases 1 and 2 of the Steveston Highway Multi-Use Pathway (Shell Road to No. 2 Road). The project is scheduled for completion this year.

- Commence construction of the off-street multi-use pathway (MUP) on No. 2 Road (Steveston Highway to Williams Road). The project is anticipated for completion in 2024.
- Complete detailed design of Phase 3 of the Steveston Highway MUP (No. 2 Road to Railway Avenue). Construction is anticipated to commence this year.
- Complete design of neighborhood bikeways:
 - Midtown Neighbourhood Cycling Route - Improvements to signage, bike stencil painting and installation of improved, accessible concrete letdowns along 3.8 km of neighbourhood cycling route.
 - Alder Neighbourhood Cycling Route - Improvements to signage and bike stencil painting along 340 m of neighbourhood cycling route.
- Complete design of Great Canadian Way cycling protection enhancements: Protecting existing on-street cycling lanes between Bridgeport Road and River Road with delineators, improved line painting or concrete curbing.
- Complete design work of Gilbert Road Cycling Facilities: Design includes an off-street cycling facility and protection of existing bike lanes on Gilbert Road that will enhance safety and connectivity of cyclists from Granville Avenue to Dinsmore Bridge.

Active Transportation Network Spot Improvements: Review the active transportation system to identify spot locations for upgrades to enhance safety, accessibility and connectivity. Potential projects include localized improvements to existing on-street cycling facilities such as improved pavement markings (e.g., green painted bike lanes at conflict areas), additional signage, new ramps and installation of protective devices along on-street bike lanes to prevent motorists from parking or encroaching into parts of the bike lane.

Park, Road and Development Projects: Review additional City and external agency projects that impact existing or planned active transportation infrastructure as part of the overall project such as the Province's Fraser River Tunnel Project and through the development applications process.

Cycling Network Plan Update: The City's Cycling Network Plan (CNP) identifies cycling infrastructure priorities over 15 years (2022-2036). To advance the strategy, staff will identify cycling network upgrades as determined in the plan to prioritize future capital projects for Council consideration.

Bicycle-Pedestrian Counters: There are currently seven counters that record pedestrian and bicycle volume by direction on various facilities across the City. Further expansion of 10 new additional counters are planned for implementation on existing and new cycling facilities to allow for more comprehensive monitoring of the City's active transportation network.

Public Bicycle Parking: Research vendors and products for potential pilot projects that can showcase covered and secured bike parking facilities for public use. Staff anticipate bringing forward a report to Council with recommendations in Q3 2024 regarding the findings of this review.

Cost Share Grants and Awards: Continue to explore and apply for external grants related to active transportation projects.

E-Scooter Pilot Project: The City's E-Scooter Pilot Project began in July 2021. In December 2023, the Province announced that the Provincial Pilot Project is being extended for an additional four-year term. Participating Municipalities must pass a resolution authorizing the use of e-scooters on municipal streets in the extended pilot. Staff will bring forward a staff report for Council consideration in March 2024 regarding the e-scooter pilot project extension.

Promotion and Education of Active Transportation in 2024

Activities to encourage and promote active transportation as sustainable travel modes that also have significant health benefits are planned for 2024. RATC members and HUB Cycling will assist in the planning, promotion and staging of the following events in 2024:

- Bicycle Education for Students: Jointly with HUB Cycling and the Richmond School District, the City will facilitate the expansion of cycling education courses to all Grade 6 and 7 elementary school students over a two-year period. Students will learn the rules and responsibilities of riding on City streets and bike paths and receive hands-on practice with fundamental cycling skills on school grounds and local neighbourhood streets.

HUB's fleet of bikes includes a range of specialized adaptive bikes that are available to children with physical and cognitive differences to help achieve a goal of 100 per cent participation.

- Promotion of Active Transportation Network: Continue to participate in City events related to health and transportation to raise awareness of new active transportation facilities both locally and regionally. RATC will be engaged to help enhance active transportation information and resources on the City's website.
- Cycling Go by Bike Week (June and September/October): The June 2024 event of this region-wide annual initiative organized by HUB Cycling will be held from June 3 to June 9, 2024. People cycling log their daily bike trips for a chance to win prizes and to help support cycling in Metro Vancouver. Staff and the RATC will assist in the planning and promotion of this event, which will include celebration stations in the City.
- Bike to School Week (June): An annual celebration where students of all ages are encouraged to bike, roll or walk to school. The week-long event will take place from June 3 to June 7, 2024. Cycling and rolling trips are logged by schools with prizes drawn at the end of the week.
- Cycling Bike to Shop Week (August): HUB Cycling stages this annual event to encourage people to ride to and shop at local businesses. Bike to Shop is both a 'support local' and tourism campaign, designed to bring people directly to local stores as well as travel to new areas. In the past, the event in Richmond has been focused in Steveston and includes participating businesses that offer promotions and discounts to participants.

- 22nd Annual “Island City, by Bike” Tour: The bike tour of Richmond is tentatively set for Sunday, June 9, 2024. Both a long and short route will seek to feature recent improvements to the active transportation network. This event helps raise community awareness of the neighbourhood facilities that support sustainable travel options.
- Active Transportation Safety Initiatives: Implement education and outreach regarding cycling and pedestrian safety in the City, including updating information on the City’s social media platforms. Continue to support HUB Cycling activities including learn to ride and bike maintenance courses.

2023 Active Transportation Highlights

The City continued to expand and enhance the active transportation network in 2023. RATC was engaged in the planning and implementation of the projects highlighted below:

Infrastructure Improvements

- Delineators were installed along the existing bike lanes on Garden City Road between Granville Avenue and Sea Island Way. This completes the delineator project to protect the entire length of on-street cycling facilities between Granville Avenue and Railway Avenue to Garden City Road and Sea Island Way.
- Completion of the Westminster Highway Multi-Use Pathway (Smith Crescent to Fraserside Gate). Provision of protected cycling and walking facilities on the west side of Westminster Highway allows for safer travel and separation from vehicle traffic.
- Completion of the pedestrian walkway on the north side of Westminster Highway from Muir Drive to 150 metres east connecting to an existing pedestrian facility. The walkway extension enables more residents in the neighbourhood to walk to amenities and transit service along Westminster Highway.

External Cost Share Grants

The City was successful in securing a record amount of external grants in 2023 towards active transportation projects. Through working effectively with a number of external organizations, the City has been awarded approximately \$8.0 million in funding for Active Transportation projects from organizations including the Government of Canada, Province of BC and TransLink.

Promotion and Education of Active Transportation

- Bike to School Education for Students: In 2023, a total of 1,801 students from 18 elementary schools (Attachment 1) received hands-on practice with fundamental cycling skills on school grounds and local neighbourhood streets.
- Go by Bike Week (May/June and October 2023): Both the May/June and October 2023 events were held in person. Richmond had 354 participants. Collectively, Richmond participants logged 2,139 trips for a total distance of nearly 24,635 km.

- HUB Cycling Bike to Shop Week (August 1 to 31, 2023): The event in Richmond was focused in Steveston and included a celebration station at the Steveston Farmers Market on August 20, 2023 that offered promotions and discounts to participants.
- Cycling Education: HUB Cycling hosted learn to ride and bike maintenance courses in partnership with the City. Courses and online webinars totaled 100 attendees with 13 courses taught.
- 21st Island City, By Bike Tour Event (June 11, 2023): The event was held at Thompson Community Centre and two rides were organized: a short ride and long ride, highlighting recent cycling infrastructure improvements around the City. Over 120 participants turned out for the event.
- E-Scooter and E-Bike Share Pilot Project Highlights: Lime operates the City's shared e-bike and e-scooter pilot project. Since its launch in May 2022, residents and visitors have embraced this service with over 115,000 trips taken in Richmond. In partnership with HUB Cycling, Lime held recurring, in-person safety events to train riders to safely ride an e-scooter. Lime was a regular participant in supporting cycling and other City events to offer free trials and safe riding education on their devices. Lime had demonstration booths at the 2023 Public Works Open House (May 13, 2023) and at the Island City, by Bike Tour (June 11, 2023). Lime also implemented a new, connected helmet and lock system to enhance safety for riders. Helmets attach to brackets on each Lime vehicle when not in use which has increased the availability of helmets on these devices. A report to Council providing an update on the e-scooter pilot project is scheduled for March 2024.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The active transportation initiatives planned for 2024 will encourage greater and safer use of pedestrian and cycling modes in Richmond. Increasing walking and cycling trips is an effective means to improve social, economic and health outcomes in the community.

The Richmond Active Transportation Committee continues to participate and support the City's sustainable transportation objectives, which in turn will support progress towards meeting the City's target for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as well as the travel mode share targets of the City's Official Community Plan.

January 12, 2024

- 7 -

As the Richmond School District is an essential partner in the delivery of cycling education courses for students, staff will forward the report to the Richmond Council-School Board Liaison Committee for information.



Sonali Hingorani, P. Eng.
Manager, Transportation Planning and New Mobility
(604-276-4049)

SH:cas

Att. 1: 2023 Summary of Bike to School Education for Students

2023 Summary of Bike to School Education for Students

	School Name	Dates of Instruction	# of Classes	# of Students
1.	Jesse Wowk Elementary	April 3, 11, 12, 17, May 4	3	83
2.	Henry Anderson Elementary	April 14, 17, 19, 20, 24	4	107
3.	Samuel Brighthouse Elementary	April 21, 25, 28, May 1, 2	4	112
4.	Lord Byng Elementary	May 29, 30, June 7, 13	2	50
5.	James Thompson Elementary	May 30, 31, June 1, 2, 5	3	81
6.	RM Grauer Elementary	May 29, June 2, 7, 9, 12	3	76
7.	Garden City Elementary	June 5, 6, 7, 9, 12	3	83
8.	Westwind Elementary	June 6, 7, 8, 12, 16	4	114
9.	Howard DeBeck Elementary	June 12, 13, 14, 15, 16	4	115
10.	Blundell Elementary	September 18, 19, 21, 25, 26	3	82
11.	Dixon Elementary	September 26, 27, 28, 29, October 3	4	103
12.	R.C. Talmey Elementary	September 27, 28, October 3, 5, 10	3	78
13.	Mitchell Elementary	October 4, 5, 6, 10, 11	4	97
14.	Spul'u'kwuks Elementary	October 12, 13, 16, 17, 18	5	135
15.	James Gilmore Elementary	October 13, 16, 17, 18, 19	4	103
16.	Walter Lee Elementary	October 17, 18, 19, 24, 25	4	112
17.	James Whiteside Elementary	October 31, November 1, 3, 6, 7, 8	6	163
18.	Katherine McNeely Elementary	November 1, 2, 7, 8, 9	4	107
Total			67	1,801



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Planning Committee

Date: February 21, 2024

From: Kim Somerville
Director, Community Social Development

File: 08-4055-01/2024-Vol 01

Re: 2019–2029 Cultural Harmony Plan: 2022–2023 Update

Staff Recommendations

1. That the 2019–2029 Cultural Harmony Plan: 2022–2023 Update as outlined in the staff report titled, “2019–2029 Cultural Harmony Plan: 2022–2023 Update,” dated February 21, 2024, from the Director, Community Social Development, be received for information; and
2. That the 2019–2029 Cultural Harmony Plan: 2022–2023 Update be distributed to key partners, local Members of Parliament, local Members of the Legislative Assembly and posted on the City website.

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

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Arts, Culture & Heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Corporate Communications & Marketing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Human Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Intergovernmental Relations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
RCMP Administration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Recreation & Sport Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Richmond Public Library	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

Since its adoption on November 25, 2019, the 2019–2029 Cultural Harmony Plan has guided the City’s approach to fostering and enhancing intercultural connections among Richmond’s diverse communities through policy development, program and service delivery, community engagement and inter-governmental relations. As the first plan of its kind in Canada, the purpose of this 10-year plan is to facilitate intercultural understanding among Richmond’s diverse communities, provide City programs and services that address the needs of the city’s diverse population, and remove barriers to participation for Richmond residents. It outlines five strategic directions and 27 recommended actions that the City and its partners could undertake to enhance cultural harmony in Richmond.

The purpose of this report is to provide a high-level summary of the accomplishments and endeavours the City, in partnership with the community, has accomplished in 2022 and 2023.

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

- 1.1 Continue fostering effective and strategic relationships with other levels of government and Indigenous communities.*
- 1.3 Increase the reach of communication and engagement efforts to connect with Richmond’s diverse community.*

This report also 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.*

Analysis

Richmond’s population has evolved into one of the most diverse cities in Canada, with over 60 per cent of its residents born outside of the country and 80 per cent identifying as racialized. Richmond continues to receive immigrants from all over the world and was the fourth largest recipient of recent immigrants to British Columbia in 2021. As Richmond continues to attract newcomers from all over the world, there is an ongoing need to ensure that it remains a welcoming and inclusive city where everyone is able to participate in all aspects of community life. In the last two years, the city has welcomed increased numbers of people from countries impacted by war, including those affected by the current conflict in Ukraine. Due to its proximity to the Vancouver International Airport, many Ukrainian arrivals stay in Richmond during their first days in Greater Vancouver. The City continues to work with settlement service agencies to respond to the unique needs and challenges of new arrivals in Richmond and provide access to programs and services in the community.

In addition, a 2023 report from Mental Health Research Canada found that newcomers to Canada report significantly higher levels of anxiety and depression in comparison to Canadian-born residents due to challenges related to housing, food insecurity and meaningful employment. These findings highlight the unique challenges faced by newcomers and present an opportunity for the City to play an important role in providing targeted supports for newcomers within its mandate. The City continues to partner with Community Associations and Societies to provide programs that allow newcomers to make meaningful social connections with others in the community. It has created a dedicated webpage for newcomers, featuring resources such as the *Newcomers Video Series* and *Newcomer's Guide to Richmond* that provide important information on how to access resources in the city. The City website now has a translation tool offering a selection of 58 languages to allow users to access City information in their preferred languages. In 2024, the City will once again offer the Newcomers Tour program, working with immigrant-serving agencies to bring newcomers to City Hall and other City facilities in order to increase their knowledge of civic and community resources.

The City has made notable strides over the past two years in fostering cultural harmony in the community. Highlights include the following:

- The Survivors' Flag, meant to honour residential school Survivors and all the lives and communities impacted by the residential school system, was displayed at City Hall for the first time in 2023 to commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- City Council endorsed the *Richmond Community Protocol: Responding to Racism and Hate*, a resource designed to help organizations and community members react promptly and effectively to incidents of racism and hate. In addition, the City's website now features a new Anti-Racism page that highlights the City's involvement in anti-racism work, and resources for community members to respond to incidents of racism and hate.
- The City and Richmond Multicultural Community Services were awarded \$92,000 from the Department of Canadian Heritage's Community Support, Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Initiatives program to bring diverse and multi-generational community members together to engage in dialogue through the arts and increase community capacity to address racism and discrimination. The project's final culmination was a "guided play" theatrical performance focused on the personal migration stories of Richmond youth and seniors held at the Richmond Cultural Centre Performance Hall on October 15 and 27, 2023.
- The City launched the *Newcomers Video Series*, featuring five videos showcasing newcomer stories, the many ways that newcomers can experience Richmond and the resources available to those newly settled in Richmond. The video series complements the *Newcomer's Guide to Richmond* and is available with English, Simplified and Traditional Chinese, Farsi, Arabic, Ukrainian, Punjabi, and Korean captions.

The 2019–2029 Cultural Harmony Plan: 2022–2023 Update (Attachment 1) includes additional highlighted achievements under each of the five strategic directions. A complete list of the recommended actions identified in the 2019–2029 Cultural Harmony Plan and their status is contained in Attachment 2. The City continues to share information about its cultural harmony initiatives and copies of the 2019–2029 Cultural Harmony Plan: 2022–2023 Update will be distributed to key partners, local Members of Parliament, local Members of the Legislative Assembly and posted on the City website.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The 2019–2029 Cultural Harmony Plan represents the City’s ongoing commitment to strengthen intercultural connections among the city’s diverse communities, provide City programs and services that address their needs, and remove barriers to participation so that Richmond community members can participate in all aspects of community life. The City continues to work with Community Associations and Societies, key partners and community members to implement actions outlined in the 2019–2029 Cultural Harmony Plan and adapt its approach to the changing needs of Richmond’s diverse population in order to further the vision “that Richmond residents recognize and respect diversity in the community and enable each individual’s contributions in all aspects of community life.”



Peggy Chen
Planner 2 (Inclusion)
(604-276-4104)

Att. 1: 2019–2029 Cultural Harmony Plan: 2022–2023 Update
2: 2019–2029 Cultural Harmony Plan: Status of Actions



CITY OF RICHMOND
2019–2029 Cultural Harmony Plan
2022–2023 UPDATE

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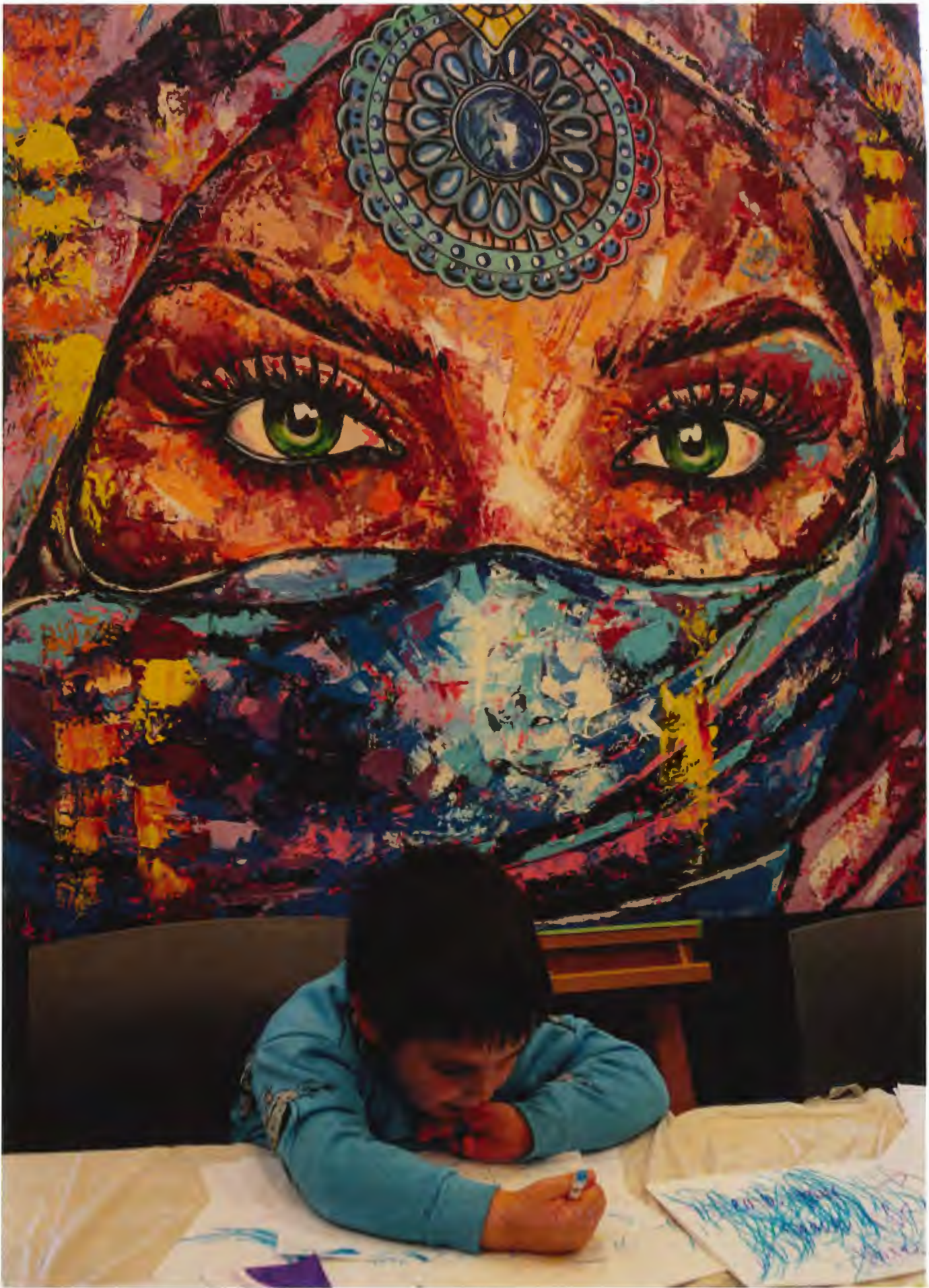
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INTRODUCTION

Since its adoption in November 2019, the *2019-2029 Cultural Harmony Plan* has guided the City's approach to fostering and enhancing intercultural connections among Richmond's diverse communities through policy development, program and service delivery, community engagement and inter-governmental relations. As Richmond continues to attract newcomers from all over the world, there is an ongoing need to ensure that it remains a welcoming and inclusive city where everyone is able to participate in all aspects of community life. Over the past two years, there has been significant progress in addressing the actions outlined in the Plan. The *Cultural Harmony Plan 2022-2023 Update* provides a high-level summary of the achievements the City, in partnership with the community, has accomplished in 2022 and 2023.

The 2021 Census, released in 2022, shows how Richmond's population has evolved into one of the most diverse cities in Canada, with over 60 per cent of its residents born outside of the country and 80 per cent identifying as racialized. Richmond continues to receive immigrants from all over the world and was the 4th largest recipient of recent immigrants to British Columbia in 2021. In the last two years, the city has welcomed increased numbers of people from countries impacted by war, including those affected by the current conflict in Ukraine. Due to its proximity to the Vancouver International Airport, many Ukrainian arrivals stay in Richmond during their first days in Greater Vancouver. The City continues to work with settlement service agencies to respond to the unique needs and challenges of new arrivals in Richmond and provide access to programs and services in the community.

Newcomers to Richmond continue to face challenges related to employment and income. Despite often a higher level of educational attainment, they face higher unemployment rates and earn less income than the Canadian-born population. The City continues to monitor policies that impact the labour force participation of newcomers in Richmond. In 2023, the Government of British Columbia passed the *International Credential Recognitions Act*, which seeks to increase fairness and transparency in the credential recognition process. It will require 18 regulatory bodies to remove barriers in 29 professions and make it easier for qualified professionals to seek credential recognition regardless of where they were trained. The Act will also eliminate the requirement of Canadian work experience prior to being accredited in Canada.

Mental Health Research Canada's 2023 report, *Examining the Mental Health Experiences of Newcomers*, found that newcomers to Canada report significantly higher levels of anxiety and depression in comparison to Canadian-born residents. Challenges related to housing, food insecurity, and meaningful employment are cited as the top sources of anxiety for newcomers, and poor mental health is often exacerbated by barriers such as cost and language constraints that prevent access to social and mental health supports. In addition, the City's 2023 *Community Services Community Needs Assessment Study* found that Richmond residents who are not primary English or Mandarin speakers reported less usage

of the City's programs, services and facilities and that recent immigrants are seeking more opportunities to meet new people, engage with their neighbours and learn about the community. The findings in these reports, in addition to the data presented in the 2021 Census, highlight the unique challenges faced by newcomers and the need to reduce barriers to their participation in the community. It also presents an opportunity for the City to play an important role in providing targeted supports for newcomers within its mandate. In the last two years, the City has continued to partner with Community Associations and Societies to provide programs that allow newcomers to make meaningful social connections with others in the community. It has created a dedicated webpage for newcomers, featuring resources such as the *Newcomers Video Series* and *Newcomer's Guide to Richmond*, both of which are available in multiple languages and provide important information on how to access resources in the city. The City website now has a translation tool offering a selection of 58 languages to allow users to access City information in their preferred languages. In 2024, the City will once again offer the Newcomers Tour program, working with immigrant-serving agencies to bring newcomers to City Hall and other City facilities in order to increase their knowledge of civic and community resources.

To ensure the safety of Richmond's diverse population, the City also works in partnership with the RCMP to monitor and respond to hate-motivated incidents towards newcomers, racialized and equity-deserving groups. In 2023, there were a total of 25 hate crimes and incidents reported in Richmond from a previous high of 45 incidents in 2021 during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the total number of reported incidents pointed towards a downward trend, representing a 26 per cent decrease from 2022 and a 44 per cent decrease from 2021, the City recognizes there is still work that needs to be done to prevent incidents of racism and hate in the community. In 2023, the City endorsed the 'Richmond Community Protocol: Responding to Racism and Hate,' a resource designed to help organizations, residents, and community members respond to hate crimes and racist incidents and created an Anti-Racism webpage highlighting community-based resources and initiatives that address racism.

Despite the progress made in the last two years, newcomers continue to face challenges. Guided by the *2019-2029 Cultural Harmony Plan*, the City remains committed to work with community members, Community Associations and Societies, and key partners to strengthen intercultural connections among the city's diverse communities, provide City programs and services that address their needs, and remove barriers to participation so that Richmond community members can participate in all aspects of community life.

ABOUT THE PLAN

The *2019–2029 Cultural Harmony Plan* was adopted by City Council on November 25, 2019 to support its vision, “that Richmond residents recognize and respect diversity in the community and enable each individual’s contributions in all aspects of community life.” Developed in collaboration with community members, Community Associations and Societies, and key partners, the Plan outlines five strategic directions to enhance cultural harmony in Richmond. The five strategic directions are:

1. Intercultural Connections
2. Collaboration and Partnerships
3. Targeted Training and Professional Development
4. Communication and Community Engagement
5. Programs and Services

Under the five strategic directions, the *Cultural Harmony Plan* identifies 27 recommended actions with associated timelines and priorities to be completed over the ten-year time frame. The Plan, along with the previous update, is available on the City’s website at: richmond.ca/CulturalHarmony.



RICHMOND'S POPULATION PROFILE

Since the last *Cultural Harmony Plan 2019-2021 Update* was published, Statistics Canada has released the results of the 2021 Census of Population, which contains new and useful information on Richmond's demographics. This will help the City and its partners understand the needs and challenges faced by different groups and communities, and inform the City's planning and approach to cultural harmony in the coming years.

Immigration to Richmond

Richmond's population is estimated at 230,584¹ in 2023. From 2016 to 2021, Richmond's population increased by 5 per cent. In the last two decades Richmond experienced a significant growth in its population mainly due to immigration. Between 2001 and 2021, Richmond's immigrant population rose by 37,300, accounting for 85 per cent of the total increase. Richmond has consistently maintained a larger share of immigrants compared to Greater Vancouver and almost all other Canadian municipalities². Figure 1 highlights the population and immigration trends in Richmond and Greater Vancouver from 2001 to 2021.

Figure 1: Population and Immigration Trends for Richmond and Greater Vancouver (2001-2021)

	Richmond			Greater Vancouver		
	Total Population	Immigrant Population	% of Total Immigrant Population	Total Population	Immigrant Population	% of Total Immigrant Population
2021	208,400	125,600	60.3%	2,607,010	1,089,185	41.8%
2016	198,309	118,305	60.2%	2,463,431	989,540	40.8%
2011	190,473	112,875	59.6%	2,313,328	913,310	40.0%
2006	174,461	99,660	57.1%	2,116,581	831,265	39.6%
2001	164,345	88,300	53.7%	1,986,965	738,550	37.5%

Source: NewToBC Immigrant Demographic Profile 2023

In 2021, Richmond was the 4th largest recipient of recent immigrants³ to British Columbia after Vancouver, Surrey and Burnaby. In addition, China, Philippines and India are the top three sources of recent immigrants to Richmond and the Greater Vancouver. However, in Richmond, China accounts for a much bigger proportion with 52% compared to 19% in Greater Vancouver. Figure 2 highlights the top places of birth for recent immigrants in Richmond and Greater Vancouver.

1 This figure is based on Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy Projections.

2 NewToBC Immigrant Demographic Profiles 2023

3 Recent immigrant refers to a person who obtained landed immigrant or permanent resident status in the five years preceding a given census. In the 2021 Census, this refers to the period from January 1, 2016 to May 11, 2021. In comparison, immigrant refers to a person who is, or who has ever been, a landed immigrant or permanent resident. Such a person has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. In the 2021 Census, this included 30 immigrants who were admitted to Canada on or before May 1, 2021.

Figure 2: Top Places of Birth for Richmond and Greater Vancouver (2021)

Richmond					Greater Vancouver			
Total Immigrants		Percentage	Recent Immigrants		Percentage	Recent Immigrants		Percentage
China	46,490	37%	China	7,090	52%	India	30,545	20%
Hong Kong	24,335	19%	Philippines	1,580	12%	China	28,970	19%
Philippines	13,570	11%	India	955	7%	Philippines	15,090	10%
Taiwan	7,745	6%	Hong Kong	820	6%	Korea, South	6,125	4%
India	5,380	4%	Taiwan	365	3%	Iran	5,615	4%
United Kingdom	2,210	2%	United States	275	2%	United States	5,460	4%
United States	1,605	1%	Korea, South	215	2%	Brazil	4,625	3%
Vietnam	1,510	1%	Brazil	195	1%	United Kingdom	4,555	3%
Korea, South	1,230	1%	Syria	125	1%	Syria	3,380	2%
Pakistan	995	1%	Iran	120	1%	Mexico	2,460	2%
Other Places	20,530	16%	Other Places	1,965	14%	Other Places	47,995	29%

Source: NewToBC Immigrant Demographic Profile 2023

Ethnicity

There were over 150 different ethnic origins⁴ and 100 languages spoken in Richmond in 2021. The most commonly reported ethnic origin was Chinese with 47 per cent of the population, followed by Filipino with 7 per cent, and English with 5 percent. The ten most common ethnic origins are highlighted below in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Top Ethnic Origins for Richmond and Greater Vancouver (2021)

Richmond		Greater Vancouver	
Chinese	99,780	Chinese	475,160
Filipino	15,905	English	365,150
English	12,185	Scottish	281,420
Hong Konger	9,760	Irish	235,970
Scottish	9,750	Indian	213,795
Indian	9,330	German	184,145
Canadian	8,280	Canadian	174,095
Irish	7,720	Filipino	141,230
Taiwanese	6,715	French	108,315
German	6,305	Italian	83,200

Source: Statistics Canada

⁴ Statistics Canada defines ethnic origin as the "ethnic or cultural origin of the person or their ancestors." A person's ancestors are usually more distant than grandparents. A person can have more than one ethnic origin.

In 2021, 80 per cent of Richmond’s population identified as racialized⁵, which gives Richmond the distinction of having the highest proportion of racialized groups of any municipality in British Columbia. The predominant racialized group in Richmond in 2021 is Chinese at 67 per cent followed by South Asian and Filipino at nine percent each. Figure 4 highlights the top racialized groups in Richmond and Greater Vancouver.

Figure 4: Top Racialized Groups for Richmond and Greater Vancouver (2021)

Richmond		Greater Vancouver	
Chinese	113,060	Chinese	512,260
South Asian	15,370	South Asian	369,290
Filipino	15,130	Filipino	142,125
Japanese	3,885	Korean	63,465
Southeast Asian	3,305	West Asian	64,640
Arab	2,205	Southeast Asian	56,815
Latin American	2,155	Latin American	51,500
Korean	2,035	Black	41,180
Black	1,775	Japanese	31,195
West Asian	1,670	Arab	22,440
Total racialized population	167,395	Total racialized population	1,420,270

Source: Statistics Canada

⁵ The concept of “racialized group” is based on the visible minority variable in the Canadian census. The Employment Equity Act defines visible minorities as “persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour.” The racialized population consists mainly of the following groups: South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Arab, Latin American, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean and Japanese.

Indigenous Population

A total of 1,540 people in Richmond reported Indigenous identity⁶ in 2021, which accounted for 0.7 per cent of the total population. Of this total, 58 per cent identified as First Nations, 36 per cent as Métis, and less than one per cent as Inuit. In Greater Vancouver, a total of 63,340 people reported Indigenous identity, which accounted for 2 per cent of the population: 58 per cent identified as First Nations, 36 per cent Métis and less than one per cent as Inuit. Richmond's Indigenous population accounted for 2.4 per cent of the total of Indigenous population in Greater Vancouver.

Religious Affiliation

A little over half (52%) of Richmond's immigrant population reported no religious affiliation. For the recent immigrant population, this proportion increased to 60 per cent, which was significantly higher than the 38 per cent reported by recent immigrants in Greater Vancouver. In 2021, 23 per cent of recent immigrants identified as Christian, followed by Muslim at 6 per cent and Buddhist and Hindu at 4 per cent each. See Figure 5 for a breakdown of the religious affiliation of immigrants in Richmond and Greater Vancouver.

Figure 5: Religious Affiliation in Richmond and Greater Vancouver (2021)

	Richmond		Greater Vancouver
	Total Immigrants	Recent Immigrants	Recent Immigrants
Buddhist	8%	4%	3%
Christian	31%	23%	30%
Hindu	1%	4%	8%
Jewish	1%	1%	1%
Muslim	4%	6%	10%
Sikh	3%	2%	11%
Other religions and spiritual traditions	1%	1%	1%
No religion and secular perspectives	52%	60%	38%

Source: NewToBC Immigrant Demographic Profile 2023

⁶ Indigenous identity refers to whether the person identified with the Indigenous peoples of Canada. This includes those who identify as First Nations (North American Indian), Métis and/or Inuk (Inuit), and/or those who report being Registered or Treaty Indians (that is, registered under the Indian Act of Canada), and/or those who have membership in a First Nation or Indian band.

Language

In 2021, 69 per cent of recent immigrants to Richmond spoke languages other than English or French at home. This was a decrease from 74 per cent in 2016, suggesting that Richmond has welcomed more recent immigrants with official language (English and French) skills. Mandarin and Cantonese remained the most common languages spoken at home for recent immigrants with half of them speaking Mandarin and Cantonese at home. The top non-official home languages spoken in Richmond and Greater Vancouver are highlighted in Figure 6.

Figure 6: Top Non-official Home Languages Spoken for Richmond and Greater Vancouver (2021)

Richmond						Greater Vancouver		
Total Immigrants		%	Recent Immigrants		%	Recent Immigrants		%
Cantonese	32,000	25%	Mandarin	5,510	40%	Mandarin	21,675	14%
Mandarin	29,405	23%	Cantonese	1,245	9%	Punjabi	13,095	8%
Tagalog	4,270	3%	Tagalog	710	5%	Tagalog	6,160	4%
Punjabi	2,365	2%	Arabic	200	1%	Korean	4,515	3%
Russian	1,265	1%	Punjabi	175	1%	Cantonese	4,180	3%
Min Nan	1,200	1%	Portuguese	170	1%	Iranian (Persian)	4,105	3%
Japanese	820	1%	Spanish	150	1%	Arabic	3,670	2%
Spanish	780	1%	Korean	130	1%	Spanish	3,505	2%
Korean	725	1%	Hindi	115	1%	Portuguese	3,335	2%
Arabic	660	1%	Russian	100	1%	Hindi	2,510	2%
Other Non-Official Languages	6,075	5%	Other Non-Official Languages	935	7%	Other Non-Official Languages	19,865	13%

Source: NewToBC Immigrant Demographic Profile 2023

Overall, English as a mother tongue in Richmond is on the decline from 44 per cent in 2001 to 31 per cent in 2021. Cantonese (25%) remained the most common mother tongue for Richmond residents, followed by Mandarin (23%), Tagalog (3%), and Punjabi (2%). Figure 7 highlights the trends by the percentage of the population with English as their mother tongue for Richmond and Greater Vancouver.

Figure 7: Language Trends with English Only as a Mother Tongue for Richmond and Greater Vancouver (2021)

Richmond		Greater Vancouver
	Percentage	Percentage
2021	31.0%	51.0%
2016	33.1%	54.0%
2011	36.6%	56.0%
2006	38.6%	56.7%
2001	44.4%	60.2%

Source: Statistics Canada

In 2021, 21 per cent of recent immigrants to Richmond frequently spoke languages other than English or French at work compared to 10 per cent of recent immigrants in Greater Vancouver. Between 2016 and 2021, there was a significant decrease in the proportion of recent immigrants in both Richmond and Greater Vancouver who reported frequently speaking non-official languages at work, which suggests that recent immigrants to Richmond may have higher proficiency in official languages in comparison to previous years. See Figure 8 for the top non-official languages spoken at work by immigrants in Richmond and Greater Vancouver.

Figure 8: Top Non-official Languages Spoken Most Often at Work in Richmond and Greater Vancouver (2021)

Richmond				Greater Vancouver	
Total Immigrants		Recent Immigrants		Recent Immigrants	
Mandarin	10%	Mandarin	16%	Mandarin	4%
Cantonese	7%	Cantonese	4%	Punjabi	2%
Japanese	.3%	Punjabi	.5%	Cantonese	1%

Source: NewToBC Immigrant Demographic Profile 2023

Education

In 2021, 59.4 per cent of recent immigrants held a bachelor's degree or higher. This was 12 percent higher than the proportion among all immigrants and 23 per cent higher than Canadian-born residents. Since 2016, Richmond saw a significant increase in its proportion of college and university-educated immigrants. In 2016, 50.6 per cent of Richmond's recent immigrants held a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 43.2 per cent for all immigrants and 35.5 per cent for its Canadian-born population. See Figure 9 for the education comparisons for immigrants and Canadian-born residents in Richmond and Greater Vancouver.

Figure 9: Highest Level of Education for Recent Immigrants, Total Immigrants and Canadian Born in Richmond and Greater Vancouver (2021)

	Richmond			Greater Vancouver		
	Canadian Born	Total Immigrants	Recent Immigrants	Canadian Born	Total Immigrants	Recent Immigrants
University Certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above	36.9%	47.9%	59.4%	35.7%	47.8%	63.4%
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	24.4%	19.9%	20.1%	24.5%	19.4%	15.6%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	6.3%	3.3%	2.4%	8.1%	4.2%	2.7%
Secondary (high) school diploma or equivalency certificate	27.4%	22.3%	14.5%	26.2%	20.5%	13.4%

Source: NewToBC Immigrant Demographic Profile 2023

Labour Force Participation

Despite a higher level of educational attainment, 12.1 per cent of recent immigrants were unemployed, slightly higher than the total immigrant population (11.2%) and the Canadian-born population (9.9%). The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in an increase in the unemployment rate for Richmond's labour force, regardless of immigration status, compared to the 2016 Census. In 2016, the unemployment rates for recent immigrants, total immigrants and Canadian-born residents were 9.9 per cent, 6.0 per cent, and 5.6 per cent, respectively. Figure 10 shows the labour market participation rates for residents aged 15 years and over in Richmond and Greater Vancouver.

Figure 10: Labour Force Participation Rates in Richmond and Greater Vancouver (2021)

	Richmond			Greater Vancouver		
	Canadian Born	Total Immigrants	Recent Immigrants	Canadian Born	Total Immigrants	Recent Immigrants
Population aged 15 years and over	48,760	122,045	11,940	1,035,580	1,053,850	135,165
In the labour force	31,515	71,040	8,170	708,255	655,110	101,265
Participation rate	64.6%	58.2%	68.4%	68.4%	62.2%	74.9%
Employment rate	58.2%	51.7%	60.1%	62.8%	56.5%	68.1%
Unemployment rate	9.9%	11.2%	12.1%	8.2%	9.0%	9.1%

Source: NewToBC Immigrant Demographic Profile 2023

Income

Census 2021 showed a significant increase in income for all groups in Richmond, particularly recent immigrants. Recent immigrants saw their median income double from \$15,834 in 2015 to \$31,600 in 2020. The median employment income of recent immigrants who worked full-time and year-round was \$49,600 in 2020, reflecting a 34 per cent increase from 2015. In addition, the proportion of full-time, year-round recent immigrant workers increased from 16 per cent in 2015 to 28 per cent in 2020. However, despite the increase, the median income of recent immigrants was still 24 percent less than Canadian-born residents, and the median income of recent immigrants working full time was 28 per cent less than Canadian-born residents.

The significant increase in total income⁷ for all groups could be partly due to the replacement benefits received during the COVID-19 pandemic. The reference period for income data for the 2021 Census is the calendar year 2020, which coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic. At the onset of the pandemic, in response to shutdowns and job losses, the government provided financial support to employees and self-employed Canadians who had lost their job or were working fewer hours through a number of replacement benefits, such as the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB). These benefits were directed at offsetting the decreases on employment income.

In general, immigrants in Richmond continue to face higher rates of low income in comparison to Canadian-born residents. In 2020, 22.5 per cent of recent immigrants and 18 per cent of all immigrants were classified as low-income compared to 8.9 per cent among Canadian-born residents.

⁷ Total Income refers to the sum of certain incomes, including employment income, cash income such as child support payments and scholarships, investment income, or income from government sources.

HIGHLIGHTED ACHIEVEMENTS

1 Strategic Direction #1: Intercultural Connections

Richmond is one of the most vibrant and multicultural communities in Canada. While cross-cultural differences are inevitable, creating the conditions for intentional connections and intercultural exchanges can lead to more acceptance and stronger relationships among people of diverse backgrounds. The City's role in fostering intercultural connections includes recognizing and celebrating Richmond's diverse cultures and unique heritage, identifying and recognizing community champions who improve positive relations among people of diverse backgrounds, and supporting programs and events that promote intercultural understanding. The City is committed to promoting intercultural connections and fostering a sense of shared community among Richmond's diverse population.

Highlighted Achievements

- In 2022, the City recognized Mary Wilson with the Richmond Arts Award for Cultural Leadership for her contributions to the city's cultural development. Mary Wilson organized the first annual Richmond Black History Month celebration in 2016 and continues to showcase the stories, talents and achievements of the city's vibrant Black community every year. She promotes intercultural understanding by improving the awareness and acceptance of Black Canadians and their legacies, as well as their contributions to Richmond's culture and community.
- In 2022, Richmond Museum & Heritage Services conducted a records update and inventory list of Indigenous belongings in its collections in order to provide access to these items to local Indigenous groups. In support of the Canadian Museums Association's *Moved to Action: Activating UNDRIP in Canadian Museums, A Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #67* initiative, the list will be provided to local Indigenous groups upon request in 2024.
- To commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, the Survivors' Flag was displayed at City Hall for the first time in 2023 to honour residential school Survivors and all the lives and communities impacted by the residential school system. The City is committed to advance Truth and Reconciliation in Richmond and has reviewed the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's *94 Calls to Action* and identified opportunities for Richmond to work towards reconciliation.



The Survivors' Flag displayed at Richmond City Hall.

- In 2022 and 2023, the Richmond Public Library, in partnership with the Community Arts Council of Richmond, Islamic Art of British Columbia, and the Welcome Ramadan, Celebrate Eid Organizing Committee, presented the *Islamic Art Experience*, which allowed children and adults to experience the rich and varied Islamic art forms from around the world, fostering cross-cultural exchange among all faiths and cultures. The event, which welcomes over hundreds of visitors each year, also highlighted new artists and performers from the local Muslim community in British Columbia.
- Doors Open Richmond is an annual event that celebrates cultural diversity and raises civic awareness by offering a look inside places of worship, cultural centres, local businesses, museums and heritage sites. For the first time in 2023, the City partnered with Richmond Multicultural Community Services to offer a public art bus tour for newcomers as part of the Doors Open event, engaging new Richmond residents in the city's diverse arts and culture.
- Throughout 2022 and 2023, the Richmond Public Library offered 24 programs that explored Indigenous themes and highlighted Indigenous strength and resilience. In 2023, a powerful and inspiring Indigenous Author Series showcased eight Indigenous authors, artists and illustrators and provided Richmond residents with opportunities for cultural learning, reflection and understanding ahead of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- In 2023, the City installed two interpretive signs at King George Park honouring the history of the Sikh community in Richmond and acknowledging the Komagata Maru incident of 1914 which played a pivotal role in the future of Canadian immigration policy. The signs were created in consultation with representatives of the Descendants of the Komagata Maru Society, the India Cultural Centre of Canada (Gurdwara Nanak Niwas) and Nanaksar Gurdwara Gursikh Temple.



Islamic Art Experience at the Richmond Public Library.

2 Strategic Direction #2: Collaboration and Partnerships

Richmond has a strong network of Community Associations and Societies, community service organizations and ethno-cultural and faith-based community groups that play a critical role in meeting the needs of different communities in Richmond. The City continues to participate in joint planning with key partners to increase awareness of current issues, identify gaps in services, and collaborate on shared initiatives such as addressing racism and hate in the community. The City also continues to pursue funding opportunities provided by senior levels of government regarding multiculturalism and anti-racism initiatives and participate in networks that aim to build inclusive communities.

Highlighted Achievements

- In 2022, the City and Richmond Multicultural Community Services, in partnership with Minoru Seniors Society and City Centre Community Association, were awarded \$92,000 from the Department of Canadian Heritage's Community Support, Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Initiatives program to bring diverse and multi-generational community members together to engage in dialogue through the arts, reduce barriers to participation in community life, and increase community capacity to address racism and discrimination. The project's final culmination was *Mosaic Firefly: Richmond Edition*, a "guided play" theatrical performance focused on the personal migration stories of Richmond youth and seniors held at the Richmond Cultural Centre Performance Hall on October 15 and 27, 2023.
- In 2022, the City and Richmond RCMP launched a call-to-action for victims and witnesses to report racially motivated incidents directly to the police as they occur, in order to ensure that Richmond continues to be a safe and welcoming community. Richmond RCMP pledged that all reported incidents involving hate-motivated undertones would receive full attention and oversight.
- In 2023, the City became an Employer Partner of the *Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion*, joining a growing network of over 700 organizations across Canada, including over 50 municipalities, that share resources on diversity, equity and inclusion and work towards building inclusive societies.
- In 2023, the City endorsed the *Richmond Community Protocol: Responding to Racism and Hate*, a resource designed to help organizations and community members react promptly and effectively whenever critical incidents of racism, hate crime or hate incidents occur. In addition, the City's website features a new Anti-Racism page that highlights the City's involvement in anti-racism work and resources for community members to respond to incidents of racism and hate.



Mosaic Firefly performance at the Richmond Cultural Centre.

3 Strategic Direction #3: Targeted Training and Professional Development



2023 Diversity Symposium speakers.

The City is committed to being a learning organization that equips staff, volunteers and community partners with the knowledge and skills to serve Richmond's increasingly diverse communities. The City recognizes that a workforce that is able to communicate effectively and build meaningful connections with people from various backgrounds contributes to a welcoming and inclusive city. The City also continues to work with key partners and immigrant-serving agencies to help newcomers access volunteer and employment opportunities so they can participate meaningfully in the community.

Highlighted Achievements

- The City continues to offer the annual Diversity Symposium, a virtual and week-long conference for professionals, volunteers and community members interested in advancing diversity, equity and inclusion in their communities. Over the past two years, the City has broadened the reach of the Diversity Symposium across Canada, attracting professionals and volunteers from outside the Lower Mainland who were interested in learning best practices in diversity and inclusion. Workshop topics in 2022 and 2023 included anti-racism response training, equity in the digital age, and anti-oppression principles in program design.
- In 2022, an online Anti-Indigenous Racism Circle workshop was available to City staff to explore their understanding of anti-Indigenous racism and work towards reconciling relationships within the workplace and community.
- In 2023, the Richmond Public Library partnered with diverse cultural, ethnic and faith organizations to help reduce employment barriers faced by newcomers and equity-deserving groups through targeted employment outreach and skills development programs. One example is the Library's partnership with the Richmond Women's Resource Centre to deliver English classes for newcomer women, helping them improve English literacy skills and build community connections. A total of 129 English classes were offered, supporting over 1,500 women in Richmond.

4 Strategic Direction #4: Communication and Community Engagement

Community engagement is an important part in promoting cultural harmony because it allows Richmond residents, regardless of their length of time in Canada, to have a say on issues that concern them. With over 100 languages spoken by Richmond residents, the City is committed to improving language access to City information and raising awareness of supports and services available in the community. In the past two years, the City has actively engaged with harder-to-reach groups and sought to reduce barriers to participation by providing multilingual translation and interpretation services, as well as other services. The City continues to provide viable options for newcomers and multilingual communities to access City-related information through the use of different communication methods so that all Richmond residents, regardless of cultural background or language ability, are able to access key City information and meaningfully participate in the community.

Highlighted Achievements

- The Richmond Arts Centre developed a Visual Accessibility Guide for users to navigate the physical space of the Arts Centre building. The guide includes images and simple information regarding common areas, studios, busy periods, accessibility features and washrooms, enhancing accessibility for all users regardless of their experience, knowledge or language skills.
- In 2022, the City launched the *Newcomers Video Series*, which featured five videos showcasing newcomer stories, the many ways that newcomers can experience Richmond, and the resources available to those newly settled in Richmond. The video series complements the *Newcomer's Guide to Richmond* (2020) and is available with English, Simplified and Traditional Chinese, Farsi, Arabic, Ukrainian, Punjabi, and Korean captions to ensure that City-related information is accessible to Richmond residents of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.
- In 2023, as part of the City's website redesign, a translation tool was integrated into the website offering a selection of 58 languages, many of them commonly spoken within the community, allowing users to access City content in their preferred languages.
- The 2023 Edition of the *Access Richmond Guide* was released in English, Traditional and Simplified Chinese. The guide was developed in collaboration with community service organizations, Richmond Public Library, Richmond School District and provincial government agencies, and highlighted a range of City and community resources that support individuals and families living in Richmond. The purpose of the guide is to reduce barriers that vulnerable populations, including newcomers, immigrants and refugees, may experience when accessing services by increasing awareness of the types of supports and resources available.



Richmond residents featured in the Newcomers Video Series.