



6.1 DIVERSE POPULATION

ISSUE:

It is expected that between 1996 and 2021 upwards of 62,000 people will be added to Richmond, with 55% moving into the City Centre. There will be a significant increase in the number of seniors as the baby boomers age, and as life expectancy increases. At the same time, the number of children and young people will continue to increase through births and immigration. Immigration from Asia and other continents has also helped to create an increasingly ethnically-diverse community.

The guiding principles of the City Strategy for Youth Services, endorsed by City Council on June 26, 1995, provide the framework for developing, assessing, delivering, promoting, and evaluating services on a quantitative and qualitative level.

Youth

Deliverers of service to youth recognize that a preventative, community-based, collaborative approach is most effective in serving the needs of youth, whose world is a constantly changing and increasingly challenging place. Youth (aged 12 to 24 years) make up a significant portion of the population. They are looking for an opportunity to be active and involved in their community. They want to share in the decision-making process about the issues which affect them. They are unhappy about the perceptions society has of them, and would like to develop open and trusting relationships with their parents, teachers, and other role models in the community. In a broader context, the work defined within a youth services delivery system impacts upon the personal, social, educational, recreational, environmental, cultural, and health needs of young people.

Seniors

There are many issues impacting the quality of life of seniors, including housing (see 3.0 Housing), transportation (see 4.0 Transportation) and community services (see 6.3 Health, and 6.8 Leisure Services). People are healthier, have greater life expectancies, survive illnesses, and are more physically active than previous generations. More seniors are remaining in their own homes. Older recent immigrants have different needs and expectations. Appropriate community services must cater to the wide variety of interests, abilities, and increasing expectations of a diverse age group, as well as the possible physical limitations experienced on account of aging, and the vulnerability felt by many older persons, both in terms of their personal safety and their ability to make ends meet.



Council, working with input from advisory groups and task forces, endorses the policy which identifies and removes barriers that prevent full participation in the community for people with disabilities.

Richmond City Council:

- *Values both cultural diversity and a multicultural community as a source of enrichment and strength;*
- *Supports the rights of all persons to freedom from cultural/racial discrimination;*
- *Supports the rights of all persons to equal opportunity and participation in community affairs.*



Richmond's youth are active and involved

Persons with Disabilities

There are many issues that impact the quality of life and the ability to participate for people with disabilities: housing (see 3.2 Housing), transportation (see 4.0 Transportation), physical design (see 5.0 Natural & Human Environment) and community services. The disabled community is far from homogeneous, and removing barriers to participation in community services, access to transit, and, movement to and within buildings, public facilities, streets and open spaces can take many forms, including different methods of providing information, providing volunteers to enable participation in recreation programs, and ensuring that the built environment is barrier-free.

Intercultural

Richmond is an ethnically-diverse community which experienced a significant increase in Asian immigrants during the 1990s. This rapid change in the ethnic makeup of the community makes it imperative that policies and programs address the needs of long-time residents, and the integration of new residents into the community. The community needs to celebrate its diversity and harness the opportunities this presents to develop a rich social fabric.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Promote opportunities for youth to participate as full members of the community.

POLICIES:

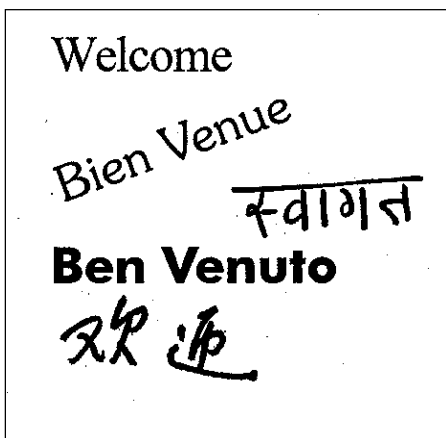
- a) Provide youth a place in the community through the design of spaces and services that reflect the needs and the different ages of young people;
- b) Provide opportunities for youth to have a strong voice and involvement in City and community decisions that affect them;
- c) Provide youth resources to support their contribution to themselves and the community;
- d) Recognize youth as positive contributors to the community by:
 - Promoting youth activities and services;
 - Creating opportunities for youth to gain an understanding of their City;
 - Acknowledging and promoting their contributions and successes;
- e) Ensure that communication to youth about programs and services is direct and accessible to them.



Seniors are a growing part of the community



Richmond promotes participation by all



Welcome

OBJECTIVE 2:

Ensure opportunities and services are available to encourage and enable seniors to function independently.

POLICIES:

- a) Ensure opportunities for seniors are suited to a broad range of abilities of older people;
- b) Facilitate the availability of services to seniors.

OBJECTIVE 3:

Ensure that opportunities and services are available to encourage and enable persons with disabilities to function independently.

POLICIES:

- a) Support initiatives which will promote the independence of persons with disabilities and encourage integration;
- b) Facilitate education and awareness programs for persons with disabilities;
- c) Encourage the development of networks between the community and other agencies working with people with disabilities;
- d) Facilitate the availability of services for people with disabilities;
- e) Work with advisory groups and task forces to remove barriers that inhibit full participation by people with disabilities;
- f) Support initiatives which promote the independence of a person with disabilities and encourage integration.

OBJECTIVE 4:

Recognize Richmond's multicultural nature in the delivery of community services and promote harmonious intercultural relations.

POLICIES:

- a) Develop public consultation processes which create understanding and acceptance between different cultures;
- b) Facilitate intercultural education and awareness programs and activities;
- c) Encourage the development of networks between the community and service agencies dealing with intercultural activities.