

Diversity Services

The Diversity Services section works to eliminate barriers and ensure appealing, livable and well-managed recreation and cultural services for all Richmond residents. By working with community groups, we develop opportunities for people living with disabilities and those in financial need. We also work to develop opportunities for all of Richmond's diverse cultural groups.

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LOW COST, NO COST GUIDE

Diversity Services coordinates and publishes a guide to low cost and free programs for each season. For a copy visit www.richmond.ca/lowcostnocost, pick one up at a community facility near you or call 604-276-4300 to have a copy mailed to you. If you know of fun, exciting activities in our community forward the information to ahill@richmond.ca.

KIDSPORT RICHMOND

KidSport can assist with the cost of registration for participation in sport programs. KidSport Richmond is a non-profit charitable organization that has been licensed to operate a community chapter as part of the national and provincial KidSport program. The goal is to ensure that all kids in need have access to the positive experience of sport and physical activity. We believe that participation through sport provides a life-long opportunity for self expression, goal setting, dedication, positive thinking and increases self confidence for kids. For more information, email richmondbc@kidsportcanada.ca or visit www.kidsport.ca

RECREATION FEE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

The City of Richmond administers a Fee Subsidy Program to Richmond residents who are in financial need. Fee Subsidy enhances the access to recreation and is available for admissions and program registration in Richmond's community centres, cultural centres, aquatic centres and arenas. To apply to the Fee Subsidy program, please fill out an application form which is available online at www.richmond.ca/parksrec/about/access/roar or call 604-247-4909. An income test is required to determine eligibility for the program.

RECREATION ACCESS CARD

This Card entitles residents of Richmond, who are living with a permanent disability that seriously impairs their daily living, a 50% discount to drop-in activities at City recreation facilities - restrictions apply. The card is not recognized for special needs programs. Application forms can be picked up at most City recreation facilities or the information desk at City Hall. For details, call the Community Services Office at 604-247-4909.

INTERCULTURAL EXPERIENCES

Are you involved in a community group or activity which promotes intercultural understanding and dialogue? Would you be interested in sharing the enjoyment of what you do with a larger or different audience? Whether you are involved in arts, drama, music or any cultural education activity particular to your community we would like to hear from you. Diversity Services looks for opportunities to bring groups together to create mutual understanding and cooperative opportunities. Richmond is an excitingly diverse community and together we can strive to make it an even more inclusive place for all who live, work and play here.



School District
No. 38 (Richmond)

Settlement Workers In Schools (SWIS)

SWIS assist newcomer students and their families to access community resources (e.g. recreation services) and adapt to the local school system. SWIS speak 16 different languages. Please contact your child's school for more information.

NEWCOMERS GUIDE TO RICHMOND

The City of Richmond now has an online guide to help answer some of the questions that you might have while settling into your new community. The guide contains local information on everything from finding employment to housing to City services. View the guide online at www.richmond.ca/discover/about/newcomersguide. The Guide is currently available in both English and Chinese versions with other languages to follow. Print copies are available at:

- SUCCESS, Richmond Office, #220-7000 Minoru Boulevard
- Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society, #210-7000 Minoru Boulevard
- Volunteer Richmond Information Services, #190-7000 Minoru Boulevard

SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANT YOUTH

Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society (RMCS) runs the YES program (Youth Education, Employment and Empowerment Service). YES is currently recruiting for youth 15-25 years old who have been in Canada for five years or less and who are in need of additional supports regarding transitioning to life in Canada. Participants can be Permanent Residents or Refugee Claimants who are not attending high school, college or other vocational training full time. The YES program is for people who are interested in improving their English language abilities while making new connections in the Richmond community. There is no cost to participants. YES also has a twice weekly recreational component in partnership with the City of Richmond. For more information, call 604-248-0433 and ask for YES.

PROGRAMS FOR IMMIGRANT MOTHERS WITH PRESCHOOLERS

Family Services of Greater Vancouver runs two programs for immigrant mothers at East Richmond Community Hall. These are opportunities for immigrant mothers to practice English, meet new friends and gain new skills. An opportunity to learn and socialize while children play.

- ESL for Health Program - health information for families.
- ESL and Cooking Program - learning and sharing cooking skills.

For more details, call 604-279-7100.

SUCCESS SETTLEMENT SERVICES

SUCCESS provides free information and settlement services at Cambie Community Centre. Information and services are available in English, Punjabi, Hindi, Farsi and Urdu. Call Poojanjot Kochhar at 604-279-7157 for information.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

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Special Needs Swim	page 52

WHEELCHAIR SPORTS OPPORTUNITIES

A number of wheelchair sport opportunities are offered in Richmond throughout the year including curling, tennis and basketball. Call BC Wheelchair Sports at 604-333-3524 for more information.

CAREFREE

This program provides parent relief to families who have children, aged 6 months to 3 years, with disabilities. Participants are referred from community health nurses, therapists and physicians. For more information, leave a message at 604-279-7044.

RICHMOND THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN SOCIETY (RTES)

13671 No. 3 Road in Richmond

RTES, supported by the City of Richmond, offers a therapeutic horseback riding program for children and youth with disabilities. This activity provides both therapeutic and recreational benefits to the riders. RTES is always recruiting new volunteers to join the therapeutic teams that assist with the horses and riders on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. RTES' website is www.rtesrichmond.com. For direct enquiries to the program, call 604-241-7837 or e-mail rtes@shaw.ca.

SOUTH ARM UNITED PEERS & STEVESTON UNITED PEERS

Tailored to youth with developmental disabilities and their peers, this program focuses on developing positive social relationships for youth in the Richmond community. Call South Arm Community Centre at 604-718-8060 or Steveston Community Centre at 604-238-8019 for details.

DEVELOPMENTALLY CHALLENGED YOUTH BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

The DCYBA promotes and supports the development of male youth, 13-25 years of age with developmental challenges, through basketball programs. Practices take place on Mondays from 7:30-9:15pm at West Richmond Community Centre. DCYBA encourages participation and is currently in need of non-challenged male peer volunteers. For more information, call Ann at 604-228-9527 or visit www.DCYBA.org. The season runs mid September to mid June.

Diversity Services

RICHMOND CENTRE FOR DISABILITY (RCD)

100-5671 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC
Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri from 9:00am-4:30pm
604-232-2404 www.rcdrichmond.org

The Richmond Centre for Disability, supported by the City of Richmond, is a service providing centre, offering a variety of specialized information, resources and activities to persons with disabilities and their support networks. The RCD is cross-disability and offers choices for the achievement of greater control over the decisions that affect people's lives.

Projects and services offered include:

Resources for Career Development (RCD) - Introducing an exciting new project designed to put people with disabilities in the driver seat to employment! Information and Networking - Information and referral services relating to all disability and accessibility issues. Parking Permit for People with Disabilities - The RCD is authorized to provide the provincial Accessible Parking Permit to people with disabilities.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Knitting Club

Mon 11:30am-1:00pm \$8/monthly pass

Creative Arts Club

Mon 10:00-11:30am \$20/8 sess

Yarn Crafts Club

Mon 11:30am-1:00pm \$2/Drop-in

Strategy/Skill Games Club

Tue 4:00-6:00pm Free/Drop-in

Martial Arts & Self Defense

Wed 10:00-11:00am \$80/10 sess

3-H Craftworks Club

Wed 11:00am-12:30pm Work Group

Singing Club

Thu 10:00am-12:00pm Free/Drop-in

Table Tennis

Thu 12:00-2:00pm Free/Drop-in

Social Group

Thu 2:00-4:00pm Free/Drop-in

Fun Exercise Class

Fri 1:00-2:00pm \$5 monthly pass

Chinese Friday Frenzy

Registration required

Fri 2:30-4:00pm \$2/Drop-in

SKILLS TRAINING COURSES

English Class - People with disabilities and learning challenges will learn functional and practical usage of daily English. The class is assisted by volunteers, Monday and Wednesday afternoons.

Computer Training - Classes include Windows Basic, Microsoft Office, PowerPoint, Access, Keyboarding and Internet/Email in 10 session weekly classes or 6-session two week classes format. One-on-one tuition is available for students working at a slower pace.

Life Skills Training - Learn various aspects of everyday living; topics include nutrition, money skills, safety, social conduct and simple cooking. Each term consists of 8 sessions on Tuesday from 2:30-4:00pm.

Public Education Series - A series of educational workshops will be offered on various topics; details to be posted on RCD website.

OTHER SERVICES

Youth Group RCD invites youth with disabilities, ages 15 to 30, to join the Youth Group; there are monthly meetings, activities, training and social functions. RCD also support youth to pursue the Duke of Edinburgh Challenge Awards.

Community Access Point (CAP) for Computer

The RCD is an official CAP site for the general public to access computers and use the Internet. In addition there is assistive technology to accommodate the special needs of people with diverse abilities.

Access Richmond Website For information pertaining to accessibility of businesses and locations in Richmond visit the website at www.accessrichmond.ca.

Registered Disability Saving Plan (RDSP) Information Session

The RDSP is a long-term savings plan to help Canadians with disabilities and their families save for the future. Info sessions will be offered on a regular basis; and one on one support provided to assist with RDSP application.

RCD Chinese Support Group

For networking and relationship building for Chinese families caring for members with disabilities.