



To: Richmond City Council **Date:** January 23, 2008
From: Councillor Harold Steves, Chair **File:** 01-0100-20-R1AD1-01
Re: **2007 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2008 WORK PROGRAM: RICHMOND
INTERCULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Planning Committee, at its meeting held on Tuesday, January 22, 2008, considered the attached report, and recommends as follows:

Committee Recommendation

- (1) That the 2007 Annual Report for the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee be received for information, and the 2008 Work Program be approved.*

- (2) That with the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee, the City explore issues related to Richmond's festivals and activities leading up to the 2010 Olympics to ensure that: (i) there is inclusivity, and (ii) volunteer opportunities are available to all citizens of Richmond.*

Councillor Harold Steves, Chair
Planning Committee

Attach.

VARIANCE

Please note that staff recommended Part (1) and Committee added Part (2).

Staff Report

Origin

This report presents the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC) Annual Report to Council, describing RIAC activities and accomplishments for the year 2007, as well as the proposed RIAC 2008 Work Program and Budget.

Findings Of Fact

1. RIAC 2007 Annual Report: The highlights of RIAC 2007 activities are described in **Attachment 1**.
2. Proposed RIAC 2008 Work Program: The proposed RIAC 2008 Work Program and Budget are described in **Attachment 1**.

Analysis

1. 2007 Annual Report

Highlights of the 2007 Annual Report include:

- Preparation of the Draft Richmond Newcomers Guide, including review by City staff, the Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee (RCSAC), the Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee and the Child Care Development Advisory Committee. RIAC will be seeking Council's endorsement of the Draft Newcomers' Guide in a separate report to Planning Committee.
- Community Forum, "Bridges to Community – The Imam and the Pastor", held June 13th at Council Chambers in partnership with Initiatives of Change (Canada) with approximately 150 in attendance.

2. Proposed 2008 Work Program

RIAC has identified seven strategic directions from the 2004 – 2010 Richmond Intercultural Strategic Plan and Work Program, and specific initiatives pertaining to each, as priorities for 2008. Initiatives planned include presenting the Draft Richmond Newcomers' Guide to Council and hosting a community forum as a follow-up to "Bridges to Community – The Imam and the Pastor".

3. 2008 Budget

To cover higher operating costs and host community forums, RIAC requested an additional \$1,000 to increase their annual operating budget from \$5,000 to \$6,000. As the request is late, the Committee will operate within the existing budget and the increase may be considered in 2009.

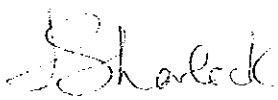
Financial Impact

RIAC receives an annual operating grant of \$5,000 as part of the approved 2008 base budget.

Conclusion

RIAC's 2008 Work Program presents steps to further achieve their vision for intercultural life in Richmond, "for Richmond to be the most welcoming, inclusive and harmonious community in Canada".

Staff recommend support for RIAC's proposed 2008 Work Program.



Lesley Sherlock
Social Planner
(4220)

LS:cas

Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee

2007 Annual Report 2008 Work Program and Budget

1. RIAC 2007 Activities

The first meeting of 2007 was marked by a moment of silence reserved for deceased RIAC member Norberto Balce, who passed away in December 2006. He is fondly remembered by his fellow RIAC members.

The following activities were undertaken by RIAC in 2007:

(1) CITY CENTRE AREA PLAN CONCEPT

We were briefed on this Plan by Terry Crowe, Manager, Policy Planning early in the year and devoted substantial time to come up with comments and suggestions. We are excited by the vision of the City Centre Area as a "world class" urban centre and the centrepiece of Richmond.

We made some specific suggestions in our written submission, with a view to reflecting the cultural diversity of the community, one of which was inclusion of a major public Intercultural Centre into the Plan. This would promote integration.

(2) BRIDGES TO COMMUNITY-THE IMAM AND THE PASTOR

A Community Forum was held in Council Chambers during June, in partnership with "Initiatives of Change". After the film screening there was active participation and feedback from the audience. The event was very well attended and considered a great success. The subcommittee which was instrumental in organising this event is now exploring the possibility of following up on the goodwill and interest generated by this Forum to involve youth.

(3) NEWCOMER'S GUIDE

This Project was undertaken by RIAC in 2006 as part of the RIAC Strategic Work Plan Program. A subcommittee was formed and recommended the framework on which the Richmond Newcomer's Guide is to be based. A number of current publications were used as a template for this Guide namely, the City of Vancouver Newcomer's Guide, B.C. Provincial Guide and the Federal Guide for New Immigrants.

The subcommittee has met regularly and, with the assistance of the City of Richmond staff under the co-ordination of Allan Hill, have produced the current version. This Draft has been discussed and commented upon by the RIAC. A copy is now being circulated internally to City Staff, to Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee (RCSAC) and various other advisory committees for their review and input. This process is taking longer than anticipated. However, in the end, it is expected to result in a much better product. After receiving this input, the subcommittee will be producing a final Draft for approval by RIAC and presentation to the Council early in the New Year for approval and support.

We intend to seek corporate sponsorship and governmental support for the publication and wide distribution of the Guide.

(4) TRAINING NEWCOMERS IN PUBLIC INVOLVMENT

In response to the presentation made by the Multicultural Helping House Society, RIAC welcomed three members of their Maple Bamboo Initiative to attend and observe our regular meetings for three months. All three had indicated that attending RIAC meetings was their first choice.

(5) AMSSA

We continue to be an associate member of Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of B.C (AMSSA). In addition, RIAC has now become a member of their Collaborative Committee on Multiculturalism. This allows us to access a secure section of the AMSSA web-site and share information on such things as network building, delivery of anti-racism and multicultural initiatives.

(6) MULTIFAITH CALENDAR

Multifaith Calendars were purchased by the RIAC for distribution to Mayor and Council, RIAC members and Staff to serve as guides to religious and cultural occasions observed by our diverse Richmond community.

(7) PRESENTATIONS AND SPEAKERS

We had the following presenters and speakers at our monthly meetings:

- Terry Crowe: City Centre Area Plan.
- Nancy Stairs, Tree Preservation Coordinator: Tree preservation Bylaw.
- Jon Henderson: regarding Richmond Archives Project.
- Deputy Fire Chief Geoff Lake: regarding Fire Fighters' Recruitment Policy.

- Christopher Hartnell, Regional Coordinator, Initiatives of Change Association (Canada)
- Eleanor Guerrero-Campbell and Olga Scherbina from Multicultural Helping House Society: Maple Bamboo initiative
- Michael Yue from Richmond Civic Engagement Network spoke about the Meet and Greet Event organised by RCEN.
- David Reay, from the Poverty Response Committee: seeking to involve faith community and bring more diversity to his committee.

(8) CORRESPONDANCE

The following are highlighted:

- Richmond Youth Service Agency: Providing information on four Intercultural Forums- Connecting Across Culture being held at various community Centres during the last quarter of the year.
- City of Richmond News Release: Richmond to celebrate Asian Heritage Month: Announcing a series of events in May.
- The Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society newsletter explorASIAN: providing information about Asian Heritage Month 2007.
- AMSSA'S call to Action: regarding comments made by Bruce Allen on CKNW and CRTC Response.
- Provincial Committee on Diversity and Policing: regarding Diversity Conference 2007-Balance Between Security, Human Rights and Accountability to be held at the Justice Institute on November 30th December 1st and 2nd.

(9) AWARDS

RIAC extended congratulations to two of its members who received prestigious awards this year:

- Mohinder Grewal received AMSSA's 2007 Riasat Ali Khan Award, recognizing individuals who have made outstanding volunteer efforts to support diversity and promote multiculturalism in their community.
- Shashi Assanand received the 2007 Solicitor General Community Safety & Crime Prevention Award of the "Anthony J. Hulme Award of Distinction – Lifetime Contribution" for extraordinary lifetime contribution and commitment to crime prevention and community safety.

2. 2008 Work Program

Please see the attached 2008 Work Program. Through this Work Program, RIAC is continuing to implement the "2004 – 2010 Richmond Intercultural Strategic Plan and Work Program".

3. 2008 Proposed Budget

RIAC would like to request an increase in its operating budget from \$5,000 to \$6000 for 2008 and ongoing (increase of \$1,000). This will cover costs associated with meetings, forums, interpretation/translation materials and consultant fees (should these be required) associated with implementation of the 2008 Work Program.

I would like to thank all RIAC members, Mayor and Council, Councilor Cynthia Chen, (our Council Liaison), community groups and stakeholders who supported and worked with RIAC to enhance intercultural harmony in Richmond.

Prepared by:
Mohinder Grewal
Chair, Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee

December 2007

RIAC 2007 Membership

Citizen Appointees

Rod Belleza
Shawkat Hasan
Howard Jampolsky
Kami Lau
Lawrence Lim
Jake Pogoson
Bhavraj Singh Ghtaura (Youth)

Organizational Representatives

Shashi Assanand, Ministry of Children & Family Development
Belinda Boyd, Richmond Health Services
Tony Carrigan and Daphne McMillan, School District #38
Mohinder Grewal, Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee
Nycki Basra, RCMP Richmond Detachment
Francis Chan, Richmond Community Services Advisory Council
Nick Chopra, Richmond Community Services Advisory Council
Parm Grewal, Richmond Community Services Advisory Council
Jocelyn Wong, Richmond Community Services Advisory Council

RIAC 2008 Work Program

Strategy/Initiative	RIAC Actions/Steps	Expected Outcome of RIAC Actions	Indicator of RIAC Success	RIAC Lead/Sub-ctc	Partners
<p>1. Address the perception and reality of racism and discrimination in the community. Dispel misconceptions related to culture that maintain stereotypes and foster prejudice</p> <p>Establish media watch mechanisms to monitor media reports that present misconceptions and stereotypes and that foster prejudice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly monitoring of Richmond News/Review, Vancouver Sun, others Summary report at each RIAC meeting Recommend RIAC position (no public statements will be made) Recommend if advice to City Council is necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of media reporting of intercultural matters at each meeting Standing item of discussion by RIAC Occasional written advice to Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RIAC members will be well informed about media reporting Council will be provided with advice regarding intercultural matters in the press 	<p>Shashi, Francis, Jake</p> <p>Media</p>	
<p>2. Ensure that City & stakeholder systems, policies and planning processes are aligned with the Intercultural Vision recommended in this plan and use 'best practice' methods to make decisions and prevent cross-cultural misunderstanding and antipathy</p> <p>3. Develop Opportunities for Intercultural Experiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage reference to Intercultural Vision and Principles in City and stakeholder Terms of Reference, where appropriate Research opportunities for community forums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With community partners, organize up to 2 community forums in the year Advise community based committees and organizations re. hosting intercultural events Direct community feedback to Council with recommendations as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community forums held Collaboration with community partners Council advised 		<p>Shawkat, Shashi, Nick, Belinda, Lawrence, Alan, Lesley</p> <p>All Stakeholders</p>	
<p>4. Continue support for newcomers through current City and stakeholder programs and partnerships</p> <p>Welcome newcomers to Richmond through stakeholder partnerships (e.g. hosting an annual event, brochure, letter of welcome)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate staff and advisory committee changes to draft Newcomers Guide Present draft to Council for approval seek corporate sponsorship and governmental support for translation and publication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft approved for translation, publication and distribution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Booklet distributed and found useful 	<p>Lawrence, Rod, Francis, Nick, Alan, Mohinder, Jocelyn, Tony, Kam</p> <p>School Board Other levels of Gov't RCMP Business Media NGO's Religious/ethnic/cultural groups</p>	

RIAC 2008 Work Program

Strategy/Initiative	RIAC Actions/Steps	Expected Outcome of RIAC Actions	Indicator of RIAC Success	RIAC Lead/Sub-cte	Partners
5. Address Participation Gaps in Events & Electoral Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise RIAC re: research and information - Advise research initiatives - Advise Council as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RIAC informed about participation gaps - Council advised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommendations made to remove barriers to participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Howard, Shawkat, Jake, Alan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NGO's - Religious/ethnicocultural groups - others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop awareness materials and information campaign for different populations re: their rights and responsibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise RIAC and community partners re: existing awareness materials and information campaigns - Advise Council as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Materials and information campaigns prepared or enhanced by partners - Council advised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved materials and information campaigns prepared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - as above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - as above
6. Programs for Integrating Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support and promote access to information that addresses intercultural issues in the community - Encourage the development of and access to cultural and recreational facilities for newcomer youth and families - Advise Council as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RIAC informed about programs and services - Partnerships encouraged - Council advised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community has greater understanding of intercultural issues - Greater involvement of youth in intercultural understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Daphne, Belinda, Lawrence, Jocelyn, Kami 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All Stakeholders