

# **Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee 2023 Annual Report**

## **Introduction**

The Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC) was established by City Council in February 2002 to act as a resource and provide advice to City Council in support of enhancing and strengthening intercultural harmony and cooperation in Richmond. The committee also provides information and recommendations regarding intercultural issues and opportunities referred to the RIAC by Council.

The 2023 RIAC Annual Report is prepared for City Council in accordance with the Terms of Reference. This document serves as a summary of the RIAC's activities during the 2023 calendar year and is based on input from RIAC members with support from the Staff Liaison.

## **Highlights of 2023**

### **Cultural Harmony Plan**

The RIAC continues to support the implementation of the recommended actions of the Council-adopted Cultural Harmony Plan, which informs the City's response to building awareness of and enhancing cultural harmony among Richmond's diverse population, by providing an intercultural lens in response to staff requests for input on various City strategies and initiatives. Throughout the year, City staff have consulted with the RIAC on various strategies and initiatives across the organization.

### **City of Richmond Diversity Symposium**

As in previous years, many RIAC members were actively involved in the planning and implementation of the ninth annual Diversity Symposium. Under the theme of "Resilience," the 2023 Diversity Symposium offered virtual sessions as well as a special in-person presentation. Overall there were 504 registrations, with most of the registrants joining from the Lower Mainland and some registrants from across Canada. A number of RIAC members participated on the steering committee and served as session hosts during the virtual sessions. The steering committee included Tahzi Ali, Diana Leung, Michael Ma, Rubina Mahal, and Mikaela Nuval from the RIAC.

## **Activities for 2023**

### **Guest Speakers and Organizational Presenters**

Throughout 2023, guest speakers and organizational representatives presented innovative and collaborative approaches to strengthening intercultural connections and removing barriers to participation in our community.

## January

- Miriam Plishka, Park Planner at the City of Richmond gave a presentation on the City's Lansdowne Parks and Open Space project and sought feedback from RIAC members on the draft guiding principles of the project.

## February

- Joyce Dieudonne, Program Lead for Youth at the City of Richmond, provided an overview of the City's draft Youth Strategy 2022–2032.

## March

- Melanie Burner, Program Manager for Social Development and Sarah Erceg, Social Planning Analyst at the City of Richmond shared information about the City's Recreation Fee Subsidy Program.

## April

- Constable Jace Rondario from the Richmond RCMP's Diversity and Inclusion section provided an overview of the RCMP's approaches in fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion in the Richmond community.

## May

- Dorothy Jo, Program Manager for Social Planning and Grace Tiu, Planner for Community Social Development at the City of Richmond conducted a focus group with the RIAC to guide the development of the City's new Social Development Strategy.

## June

- Alan Hill, Inclusive Communities Program Coordinator at Richmond Multicultural Community Services shared a presentation on the Richmond Community Protocol, a resource designed to help organizations and community members respond to racism and hate.

## September

- Vladimir Choi, citizen appointee to the RIAC, shared his observations on cultural harmony overseas and intercultural indices from international hubs and cities.

## October

- Chris Duggan, Acting Manager, Community Social Development and Tiffany Mallen, Child Care Planner at the City of Richmond invited the RIAC to provide input on current and future child care needs that would inform the development of Richmond's new 10-year Child Care Strategy.

## Members of the 2023 Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee

### Citizen Appointees

1. Tahzi Ali
2. Yun-Jou Chang
3. Vladimir Choi
4. Rubina Mahal
5. Michael Ma
6. Mikaela Nuval
7. Kanwarjit Sandhu
8. Randy Sandhu

### Organizational Representatives

1. Baren Tsui, Richmond School District
2. Adena MacLean, Vancouver Coastal Health (June to December)
3. Ian Lai, Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee (January to August)
4. Allie Lin, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. (January to February)
5. Diana Leung, Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee
6. Ashok Rattan, Richmond Multicultural Community Services
7. Daniel Remedios, Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee
8. Roy Wong, RCMP
9. Ian Yeung, Richmond Centre for Disability

### Council Liaison

Councillor Bill McNulty

### Staff Liaison

Peggy Chen, Planner 2 (Inclusion)

## Financial Summary

As an Advisory Committee to City Council, the RIAC's activities are fully supported by the City's operating budget. In 2023, the City allocated an operating budget of \$2,500.00 for RIAC and part of these funds were used for refreshments:

<b>Revenue</b>	
City funding	\$2,500.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
Refreshments	\$618.98
<b>Balance</b>	\$1,881.02

## **Conclusion and Acknowledgements**

2023 was another busy year for the RIAC. The Committee achieved a full slate of nine meetings and fulfilled its mandate of acting as a resource and providing advice to City Council on intercultural issues. The RIAC supported another successful year of the Diversity Symposium and RIAC members actively engaged in various City consultation opportunities. Through various presentations and dialogues, RIAC members have also discussed ways to measure intercultural harmony, deepen community connections as well as enhance representation within the committee.

The RIAC has an important role to play in advancing cultural harmony in the community. Looking ahead, the RIAC seeks to participate actively in initiatives and dialogues that promote cultural harmony and further support the City in fulfilling the objectives of the Cultural Harmony Plan by bringing diverse community voices and perspectives into various City initiatives as requested.

We acknowledge the significant commitment and contributions of outgoing members in 2023, namely Ian Lai from the Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee and Ian Yeung from the Richmond Centre for Disability. We thank Councillor Bill McNulty for his support of the RIAC. We also express our appreciation to Peggy Chen, Staff Liaison and Kristy Ng and Jennifer Wong, Minute-Takers, for their work in supporting the committee's needs. We look forward to furthering our work together in 2024.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Yun-Jou Chang  
Chair, Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee