

Terms of Reference

Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee

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1. Purpose

These terms of reference shall apply to the “Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee” (RIAC).

2. Mandate

The purpose of the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee is to enhance intercultural harmony and strengthen intercultural co-operation in Richmond.

3. Role

The role of the RIAC is to carry out the following functions:

- advise City Council by providing information, options and recommendations regarding intercultural issues and opportunities
- respond to intercultural issues referred to the RIAC by Council or the community
- assist Council and the community to:
 - develop a vision for improved intercultural relations in Richmond
 - determine appropriate goals, objectives, policies and guiding principles to enhance intercultural harmony
 - periodically review City policies and procedures pertaining to intercultural issues
- encourage and co-ordinate public participation and networking in the identification and development of solutions to intercultural issues
- enhance public awareness of and involvement in intercultural issues
- liaise with other levels of government to address Richmond intercultural issues

4. Principles

The RIAC will follow a community development approach by involving those affected in resolving issues and identifying opportunities.

In doing so, the RIAC will act on the following principles:

Inclusiveness:

- The RIAC will consult with and seek to include Richmond’s many cultures and organizations in its activities.

Co-operation:

- The RIAC will co-operate with Richmond’s many cultures and organizations to achieve enhanced intercultural harmony.

Partnerships:

- The RIAC will seek and encourage a wide range of partnerships with Richmond’s many cultures and organizations to identify enhancing intercultural opportunities and available community resources to address intercultural issues.

Flexibility:

- The RIAC will operate with flexibility thereby encouraging Richmond’s many cultures and organizations to determine themselves how they wish to co-operate.

Voluntary:

- Participation in and with the RIAC is voluntary.

3. City Councillor Liaison To RIAC

There shall be one Councillor Liaison appointed to the RIAC.

4. Composition

Voting Members:

RIAC shall be comprised of up to 18 Council appointed members consisting of:

- six citizens interested in enhancing intercultural harmony
- four RCSAC representatives
- one representative from each of the following statutory organizations:
 - School District 38
 - RCMP
 - Richmond Health Services
 - Ministry of Children and Family Development
- two youth representatives
- one representative from the Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee
- one representative from the Richmond Committee on Disability

5. Recruitment, Selection and Appointment

a) Recruitment

- Recruitment of citizen appointees shall be according to Council policy and procedures (e.g., the City Clerk's office will place appropriate public advertisements in the media to ask for volunteers).
- RCSAC representatives shall be recruited and nominated by the RCSAC.
- Statutory organizations shall recruit and nominate their own representatives.
- Organizations (e.g., School District #38) will be asked to nominate youth interested in participating.

b) Selection

All members of RIAC shall be selected based on one or both of the following criteria:

- Be a Richmond resident or non-resident who has demonstrated an interest in and commitment to improving intercultural harmony in Richmond
- Represents the diversity of the community.

c) Appointment

- All members shall be appointed by Council.

6. Term

- Members shall be appointed for 2-year terms.
- The RIAC shall have rotating membership so that:
 - eight members shall initially be appointed for a one-year term, and
 - eight shall initially be appointed for a two-year term.
- When these respective initial terms expire, each appointment shall be for a two-year term.

7. Operation and Process

a) Operation

- Each year, in January, RIAC shall appoint a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary.
- Meetings shall be held a minimum of six times a year.

- Sub-committees may be appointed by the RIAC as necessary. Membership in the sub-committees is not restricted to appointed RIAC members. The sub-committees will report to and take direction from the RIAC.

b) Accountability

The RIAC shall:

- produce annual reports, work programs, budgets and other reports for Council approval
- be required to disclose in writing the nature of their interests and involvement in Richmond to identify any potential conflict of interest.

c) Communication

- The RIAC shall report to Council through the staff liaison to Planning Committee and then to Council.
- The RIAC may communicate regularly with the public.
- RIAC meetings shall be open to the public.

d) Decision-Making Process

- Members of RIAC shall:
 - follow Council decision-making policy and procedures;
 - strive for consensus.
- Each member is entitled to one vote.
- Where RIAC recommendations are brought forward on a basis other than consensus, the submission of minority RIAC member(s) opinions shall be permitted.

8. Resources

- RIAC shall prepare and submit:
 - For the Year Just Completed:
 - an annual report
 - a financial statement
 - For the Upcoming Year
 - a proposed work plan
 - a proposed budget.
- Richmond City Council will review the RIAC annual budget submission and may provide funding subject to City budgetary priorities.
- RIAC may incur expenses only for Council authorized items, and City policy and procedures shall be followed.
- The RIAC may draw upon external consultants and volunteers to assist in fulfilling its mandate, provided that any expenditure can be accommodated within the approved annual RIAC budget.
- City staff support and liaison shall be co-ordinated through the Policy Planning Department.