



FRASER VALLEY
DIVERSITY & IMMIGRATION
PARTNERSHIP

Minutes
Fraser Valley Diversity and Immigration Partnership Council
June 4, 2015 • 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Present	Regrets
<p>Alda Messiah, Academy of Learning Camilla Boisvert, Fraser Health Danica Denommé, ACS Danielle Nazarewich, ACS, <i>Recording Secretary</i> Hardeep Sidhu, <i>Chair</i> Kanta Naik, School District #34 Kate Collins, Langley Community Services Med Manzanal, Global Stakes Consulting Naomi Armstrong, Fraser Health Scot Friskey, Academy of Learning, <i>Vice Chair</i> Sue Federspiel, City of Abbotsford Susan McAlevy, Abbotsford Community Foundation</p> <p>Guests: Jen Romero, ACS</p>	<p>Allan Asaph, Chamber of Commerce Bharathi Sandhu, Raymond James Dave Sidhu, Patrika David Loewen, City Councilor Ghizlane Laghzaoui, UFV John Potts, UFV Manpreet Grewal, ACS, Stephen Piper, UFV Ruth Meehan, Vybe Realty Tina Stewart, Abbotsford Downtown Varinder Dhesei, Fraser Valley Packers</p>

- 1) Opening and introductions
 - a. Hardeep called the meeting to order at 2:02pm
- 2) Approve Agenda
 - a. Naomi moved to approve the agenda, Alda second, motion carried.
- 3) Approve Minutes
 - a. Naomi moved to approve the minutes, Alda second, motion carried.

Susan McAlevy joined the meeting.

4) Presentation: Jen Romero

- a. Danica Introduced Jen Romero: Jen is the Microloan Intake Worker (Multicultural and Immigrant Integration Services, ACS). Jen majored in International Development Studies at Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg. Jen will be starting a two year certificate program at SFU in Non-Profit Management in September. She has an Associate of Arts degree in General Studies from UFV and grew up in Abbotsford. Jen`s husband is a recent newcomer (from Peru) and they speak Spanish at home with their two small children.

- b. Jen introduced the Microloan Intake Loan Program

- i. *See Attached slide show*

- ii. For people with no credit history or needing to re-build credit

- 1. Back to Work
 - 2. With These Hands: recent grad from
 - 3. Be My Own Boss
 - 4. Provides help in several ways.

- c. Q&A

- Q: Is there a limit on the loans?

- A: no limit

- Q: What are the problems if the goals are not met?

- A: credit history will be affected if a client is unable to pay back, like any other loan.

- Q: who assists the client in being successful? Is there mentorship along the way?

- A: Jen walks clients through the application process and provides one follow up meeting a month after the approval. Jen wants to look into resources for extra support available in the community.

- Q: Do you have any success stories?

- A: This is a new program at ACS. There are a few clients in the process of applying. Vancity has worked through Mosaic and DiverCITY for many years, client testimonials are available on their websites.

- Q: How many people have taken advantage of this program? What is rate of defaults?

- A: This is a brand new program at ACS, stats are in process.

- d. Danica: other programs at ACS employment mentors, skills connect – education and career goald, Work BC, partnership with UFV with upgrading and recognition. This is not a one stop, it is a link to many other programs.

- e. Jen excused herself at 2:24

5) Midline Evaluation Summary

- a. Danica reviewed Med`s evaluation data

- i. See attached ppt.

- ii. Paste content from summary slide in DD`s powerpoint

- iii. Susan: appreciates being invited into evaluation because it feels to early in process. Feels like we are just getting organized what yet is there to share. We don't have many meetings but then we end up doing process things and it is a bit frustrating. We have limited time, if we spend too much time on the process. Med: this is midline, what is our progress thus far, not yet evaluating impact. Alda: wants to move faster. So let's do it. Danica: if we are not clear on what we are working on how yet are we to achieve it.

Sue Federspiel joined at 2:30

6) Developing our local Strategy

a. Timeline

- i. Presenting draft today.
- ii. Compile in July
- iii. Circulated in August
- iv. Sept : ready to be approved
- v. Accomplish our strategy and action plan by September?
- vi. Kanta: financial availability. We can't make new services, or massive.
- vii. Susan: rather than looking at new ideas
- viii. Looking to do actions between September 2015 and March 2016
- ix. In June and July participate in
- x. All in favour.

b. Presentations

- i. Kate Collins: First meeting attended. Alda is the lead.
 1. What is the action? Research a lot of funding opportunities for what they want to address. Allan, ACS, Vick fraser valley packers 7 people in attendance
 2. Issues faced, not gaps. Community and public do not know where the resources are. All newcomers need to be pulled together. What is not required is not a job developer, we have them in all the organizations. We need a community and industry liason. Want someone who will act on behalf of the newcomer. New CFP's commin out any day. Done research on funding opportunities. Started to action their strategy. See handout. Who has the skill and expertise to write the grant proposal? Already plan to present at the Chamber. Look at putting it in part of their proposal. Not a client counsellor, working with employer and service provider. If everyone if funding a piece of this.
 3. Q: regional position? Kate A: Langley is just their they do not belong to a greater area. Many settlement services would house them. Position developed through partnership. New Hirozons for seniors.
 4. Still remaining questions. Thanks for doing this!
 5. Next meeting scheduled for June 10.
 6. Alda wants Abbotsford Employer toolkit.
 7. Danica and Med affirmed WG's progress.
- ii. Camilla – Social Integration
 1. See handout.

2. Grouse Mountain entrance sign in different languages for example
 3. Making a neighbourhood block party kit more inclusive
 4. Welcome packs with businesses coupons for essential needs.
 5. Youth civic: junior city council. Involve new immigrant kids. Shadow youth commission kids, twinning.
 6. Older adults program, meeting to create tapestry. SWISS, REACH, Find what is common and share it.
 7. International film festival
 8. Picture project in England: "Meet the Chinese faces" explained relocation to Birmingham.
 9. Organizations named are ideas only.
- iii. Research policy and practice
1. See attachment
 2. Possible actions and approaches. Some overlap.
 3. Our website as database! Make sure people know about it. Annual forum for people to share needs back and forth.
 4. Example SUCCESS is funded by a Chinese group.
 5. Community Foundation in Coquitlam. Ethnic group funding. Alda/Susan will find out about how this fund works.

7) Media and Communications Update

- a. Danielle reviewed FVDI in the Media
 - i. Patrika
 - ii. Abby News
- b. Danielle reviewed website main content
- c. Danielle passed out talking points and encouraged member to speak to their networks about what our group is doing.

8) Next steps

- a. Action Items
 - i. The executive and secretariat will review the draft strategies and communicate feedback with working groups
- b. Next meetings
 - i. Sept 10, 2-4
 - ii. November 12 2-4