



**FRASER VALLEY**  
DIVERSITY & IMMIGRATION  
**PARTNERSHIP**

Minutes  
Fraser Valley Diversity and Immigration Partnership Council  
October 8, 2015 • 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Present	Regrets
Danielle Nazarewich Dave Loewen Gugan Sidhu: Recording Secretary Hardeep Sidhu Kanta Naik Kate Collins Manpreet Grewal Med Manzanal Naomi Armstrong Sue Federspiel Susan McAlevey Tina Stewart Varinder Dhesi	Alda Messiah Allan Asaph Bharathi Sidhu Camilla Boisvert Danica Denommé Dave Sidhu Ghizlane Laghzaoui John Potts Ruth Meehan Scot Friskey Stephen Piper
<b>Guests:</b> Joo Namgung, Lata Aggarwal, Rimple Mohindra	

1. Opening & Introductions
  - a. Hardeep called the meeting to order at 2:01pm, announced the regrets and invited members to share about an inclusive practice they noticed or experienced, while in another city.
2. Approve Agenda
  - a. Dave Loewen moved to approve the agenda, motion second, motion carried.
3. Approve Minutes – June 4, 2015
  - a. Tina moved to approve the June 4, 2015 meeting minutes as presented, motion second, motion carried.
4. Presentations – Social Integration of Newcomers

- a. Report on Family Fun Day, July 15 2015 – by Rimple Mohindra and Joo Namgung, ACS Settlement Workers

The Settlement Workers of ACS started Family Fun Day in 2005 because newcomer families wanted to know what to do in the summer in our community. So they invited all of their clients to a local park, provided lunch, and led sports activities and crafts for children and families. Over the years, several partners have joined ACS in hosting Family Fun Day including The City of Abbotsford (Parks and Rec), Abbotsford Kiwanis, and the Salvation Army. It is now a tradition for City Parks and Rec staff to attend the event, share information about recreational activities happening over the summer and to provide newcomers with passes to the local recreation centers. Over 300 diverse participants attend Family Fun Day each year. The Purpose of Family Fun Day is to exchange information between residents and newcomers and to create space for newcomer families to connect with one another, even if they do not share a mutual language.

Rimple also mentioned the annual Christmas party for newcomers where guests are invited out for an evening of dinner, entertainment, pictures with Santa, and gifts. This event is only possible with the help of sponsors and volunteers. The 2014 event sponsors were Hands Up and South Abbotsford church.

- b. Announcement: Ladies Night March 2016 – by Lata Aggarwal, ACS Community Connections ([See attached PowerPoint](#))

Ladies Night began in 2010, with the goal of providing newcomer women with an evening to celebrate their strength, feed their confidence, feel good about themselves, and to connect with other women that face the similar challenges. The event includes pampering services, childcare and delicious food all at no cost. Entertainment includes a DJ, dance performances and a fashion show. Their first event started with 70-80 women and has grown to over 300 participants in 2014 and 2015.

This event is planned by a Project Management team of newcomer women. This year they are looking for support in the following areas:

1. Financial contributions: To help off-set the costs of the event, we would welcome any financial contributions.
2. Door prizes: For our clients, many of whom are single mothers or are families on fixed incomes, a small gift can go a long way.
3. Services: we provide the women attending the event with services like hair styling, nails, make-up, massage, reflexology, etc. and are looking for specialists who could volunteer to do the above.

**ACTION:** Danielle will introduce Kanta and Lata via email to make the connection between Ladies Night and the International Women's day, 1 Billion Rising event at the Reach.

**ACTION:** As per Dave Loewen's suggestion, a delegation will be arranged to have this presentation made to City Council. Danielle and Dave will connect to arrange this.

## 5. Syrian Refugee Crisis

- a. Manpreet Grewal invited the council to hold a conversation about the Syrian refugee crisis and presented the idea that this council could coordinate and create a working group to help with sponsorship building capacity to support people. This wouldn't be exclusive to Syrian refugees but all refugees. The province may receive \$1 million to support refugees, though the numbers of refugees in Abbotsford is not currently high, but if conservative government's timeline goes through we'll see what

happens, we may get a high volume at one time. We will need everything to come together: affordable housing, mental health trauma counselling, we as community need to be prepared. Keep our eyes and ears open, especially if there will be a critical mass coming, we will need to prepare and invite others to the table, such as MCC.

**ACTION:** Contact [Danielle](#) to participate in a working group to support refugees.

## 6. Executive Team Updates

### Manpreet

- a. ACSis opening an office in Chandigarh, Panjab. We are partnering with UFV. We have signed a lease for office space, hired an office manager, and hope to open doors in November. This is a much needed venture; we will be able to do preparation with newcomers before they come to BC. We will be using skype most of the time. We are partnering with Surrey and Vancouver as well. The project is contracted until March 2017; we hope it continues for another 3 years. Contact [Danielle](#) to send information to the Chandigarh office.

### Danielle

- b. FVDI has a practicum student, Karn Sahoata, from the School of Social Work UFV who is helping with website updates and marketing.
- c. Danica was chosen by our funder (CIC) from all BC LIPs to represent our Partnership at a conference in Edmonton for prospective LIP communities in June 2015. Danica's presentation on our best practices was well received.
- d. With input from council members and working groups the Secretariat spent the summer completing an application for continued LIP funding. The proposal suggested a partnership with Langley. Interaction, and OARH proposals were also submitted this summer.

### Danica

- e. Danica continues to sit on the Regional LIP Working Group, and shared a video update.

### Gugan

- f. Danielle and Gugan represented ACS at the [ChangeUp2015](#) Conference in Toronto and shared the work of the FVDI with attendees.
- g. Lia Bishop and Gugan are coordinating [a Human Trafficking 'Train the Trainer' workshop](#) in Abbotsford, funded by the Ministry of Justice. The Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons works in conjunction with coordinators in various communities throughout BC to educate key community members to what human trafficking looks like in their community, and helps create a community response model. The workshop is 2 days long November 5-6. From 9am-3pm, at ACS.

### Hardeep

- h. September meeting was cancelled because there was no quorum. Reminder: Each member is responsible to have an alternate representative on the council. Members are responsible for keeping their alternate up to date about the happenings of the council.
- i. Upcoming Professional Development opportunities:
  - i. [Pathways 2 Prosperity Conference Nov29-Dec1 2015](#)
- j. [Abbotsfwd](#) is doing another round of engagement with the community.
- k. Danielle, Alda, Scot and Hardeep will attend the Chilliwack LIP networking event on Tues Oct 20. All council members are invited to attend.
- l. Hardeep suggested that we host our own networking event in December for our Council, Working Groups and Knowledge Networks.

**ACTION:** Contact [Danielle](#) to help plan the Social/Networking Gathering.

Update from Susan McAlvey:

- m. Abbotsford Community foundation is sponsoring its first [youth philanthropy award](#). Award is open to a young person or group of young people who have fundraised for a cause or donated time. Easy online nomination form due Nov 3rd. Event is on November 17 at Cascade Church.

7. Developing our Local Strategy

- a. Danielle presented the draft Strategy and Action Plan document (*See attached PDF*)

**ACTION:** Please send any edits of the Strategy and Action Plan Document to [Danielle](#) by Nov. 10.

8. Working Group Updates

- a. Social Integration – Sue Federspiel
  - i. We chose 2 actions of our initial 9. First to create 4 informational handouts and 2 online resources to support newcomers and inform residents. Second, a picture project art show.
- b. Research Policy and Practice – Naomi Armstrong
  - i. Our focus will be on knowledge translation, we are in the process of confirming our actions.
- c. Labour Market Integration – Kate Collins
  - i. Alda and Krista Perry attend a Chamber agricultural tour, engaged many employers and experienced the need for the Job Developer Position. Med wrote a paper for the working group titled *The Business Case for Industry and Community Relations Liasion in the Fraser Valley*. The paper outlines a rationale and a proposed job description. Evidence from the paper was used in funding proposals submitted this summer.

9. Next Steps

- a. Strategy and Action plan document is set to be approved at the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**ACTION:** Susan McAlvey will send the National Report on Belonging to Danielle, to be posted on the FVDI website.

b. Next Meetings

Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> 2015 2-4pm

Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> 2016 2-4pm

Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> 2016 2-4pm

Networking Ggathering: December 10<sup>th</sup> 3-6pm