



Minutes
Fraser Valley Diversity and Immigration Partnership Council
February 12, 2015 • 2:30pm to 4:30pm

Present	Regrets
Alda Messiah, Academy of Learning Bharati Sandhu, Raymond James David Loewen, City Councilor Ghizlane Laghzaoui, UFV Hardeep Sidhu, BlueBell Farms, <i>Council Chair</i> Naomi Armstrong, Fraser Health Stephen Piper, UFV Sue Federspiel, City of Abbotsford Susan McAlevy, Abbotsford Community Foundation Tina Stewart, Abbotsford Downtown Business Varinder Dhesi, Fraser Valley Packers Secretariat: Danica Denommé, ACS Danielle Nazarewich, ACS, <i>Recording Secretary</i>	Allan Asaph, Chamber of Commerce Andy Sidhu, Punjabi Patrika John Potts, UFV Kanta Naik, School District #34 Med Manpreet Grewal, ACS, Secretariat Manzanal, Global Stakes Consulting Scot Friskey, Academy of Learning Ruth Meehan, Vybe Realty

- 1) Opening and Introductions
 - a. Hardeep Sidhu, voluntary Partnership Council Chair, opened the meeting at 2:35pm

- 2) Roundtable Member Updates
 - a. Hardeep Sidhu, Chair
 - i. Abbotsford, the Official Community Plan update is looking for your input to make Abbotsford better www.abbotsford.ca
 - b. Danica Denommé, Secretariat, ACS
 - i. Cultural Diversity Awards, March
6 <http://www.abbotsfordcommunityservices.com/news/events/cultural-diversity-awards>
 - ii. Human Dignity Coalition Meeting February 17 Topic: Changes in immigration law and the effects on Human Rights www.fvhumandignitycoalition.tumblr.com
 - c. Alda Messiah, Academy of Learning
 - i. Special Event – March 13th Ladies’ Night by Abbotsford Community Services for immigrant women, was invited to participate by one of her students
 1. Gifts and donations are welcome
 - d. Naomi Armstrong – Fraser Health
 - i. Metropolis Conference end of March, Topics including: workforce, employment, and International Students www.metropolisconference.ca
 - ii. Promotional material is available various languages to let people know about translation options in health care

- e. Ghizlane Laghzaoui, UFV, Researcher
 - f. Stephen Piper, UFV, Sociology
 - i. Budget cuts facing UFV, affecting programing
 - ii. Re-adjustment of Latin American studies – extended minor available in Spanish
 - iii. Introducing minors and extended minors in global development, already some graduates
 - g. Susan McAlevy, Abbotsford Community Foundation
 - i. Student Awards Program has \$347,000 available for 2015 grade 12 graduating students. Applications for scholarships and bursaries are open.
 - ii. Smart Community Grants Program rolling out in March. Helping charities that focus on serving children in poverty.
 - h. Varinder Dhesi, Fraser Valley Packers
 - i. Clientele is expanding and business is busy
 - i. Sue Federspiel, City of Abbotsford
 - i. Abbotsforward: 3 neighbourhood walks with community planners are scheduled
 - ii. May 9, Involve Abbotsford, 1 day training symposium for non-profits.
 - j. Bharathi Sandhu, Indo-Canadian Business Association
 - k. Dave Loewen, City of Abbotsford Councillor
 - i. Panelist at UFV event on March 13, highlighting the need for homelessness reduction
 - ii. Is current Chair of City of Abbotsford Homelessness Reduction Committee
 - l. Tina Stewart, Abbotsford Downtown Business Association
 - i. Hiring for an Admin Assistant
 - ii. Upcoming Events: AGM, Wine and Art Walk, Berry Festival, Car Show www.downtownabbotsford.com
 - iii. In budget waiting for approval: grant system for merchants to pay for video surveillance due to increase of vandalism
 - m. Danielle Nazarewich, Secretariat, ACS
- 3) Approval of Agenda
- a. Item 5 *Presentation: Local Diversity Demographics* was removed from the agenda
 - b. Motion was made by Dave Loewen and second to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
- 4) Approval of Minutes
- a. Motion was made by Stephen Piper and second to approve the December 4th, 2015 minutes. Motion carried.
- 5) Terms of Reference
- a. Danielle Nazarewich presented a revised Terms of Reference based on the input given at the January 22nd meeting. *Separately Attached.*

- b. Highlights of changes include:
 - i. Addition of a document outline
 - ii. New Partnership Council Structure Matrix
 - iii. Clarified membership
 - iv. Clarified the main decision making process as consensus
 - v. Clarified quorum and voting procedures
- c. As requested, Non-profit Organizations will be added to section 5.1 under key areas for representation in membership
- d. The Terms of Reference are set to be approved at the April 9th meeting

6) Sector Presentations

- a. Alda Messiah – Private Education Sector
 - i. Serves many immigrant students at <http://www.academyoflearning.com/> who are seeking recognition of their credentials.
How immigration and cultural diversity have affected your work?
We do a lot of potluck lunches and social activities to help immigrant students feel a part of college life.
Needs of colleagues/employees
Colleagues have learned to use storytelling as a teaching method to be more accessible to students of various ethnicities with various learning styles.
Needs of newcomers?
Students need to know where they can go to get credentials recognized. For example, a student with an accounting degree would need the software that's used in Canada. Also have needs to get English language level assessed. She recently found more about the English language services at ACS, this has helped a lot.
- b. Susan McAlevy – Non-Profit Sector <http://abbotsfordcommunityfoundation.com/>
 - i. The foundation is local to Abbotsford only. They are currently giving out bursaries to students. The Foundation does three main things, the taking in of money, the granting out of money, and building capacity within Abbotsford non-profits and charities (ex. Participating in partnerships and collaborations).

7) Media and Communications Update

- a. Danielle Nazarewich unveiled the Local Immigration Partnership Logo and updated the group – promotional materials are being developed and a website is awaiting budget approval
- b. Danielle requested communication ideas from the members:
 - i. Dave Loewen suggested that the Secretariat attend Rotary Clubs to give presentations; Secretariat will consider this in the upcoming year based on availability
 - ii. ACTION ITEM: Secretariat will develop one-page point-form speaking notes to help enable members to represent the Partnership Council publically

- iii. Susan McAlevy and Stephen Piper suggested a feature in the Abby News or Punjabi Patrika possibly with the help of volunteer journalism students

8) Strategy Development

- a. Danica Denommé led the group in selecting priorities for our Settlement Strategy
- b. Members identified their top priorities out of the 9 themes presented in the 2014 research paper *Emergent Themes for Community Planning* (commissioned as part of this project).
- c. **See Attached Priority Results**

9) ACTION ITEMS

- a. The Secretariat will request feedback on the Terms of Reference from those not present at this meeting
- b. The Secretariat will compile, distribute and seek feedback on the selected strategy priorities
- c. Partnership Council will:
 - i. Read the report *Emergent Themes for Community Planning*. See Attached.
 - ii. Pay special attention to the sections on their selected priorities
 - iii. Identify possible actions to be taken on selected priorities, and communicate this by email and phone before April
 - iv. Identify what working groups need to be created , and communicate this by email and phone before April
- d. Bharati Sandhu (Business) will deliver a Sector Presentation April 9th

10) Next Meetings: Dates and Topics

Thursday, **April 9**, 2015 2:30 – 4:30 pm

Topics: Personal Experience of Newcomers, Strategy Development, Action Plan Development

Thursday, **June 4**, 2015 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Topic: Immigration laws and policy and their local impact

Thursday, **September 10**, 2:00 – 4:00pm

Topic: TBA

Thursday, **November 12**, 2:00 – 4:00pm

Topic: TBA