



FRASER VALLEY
DIVERSITY & IMMIGRATION
PARTNERSHIP

Minutes
Fraser Valley Diversity and Immigration Partnership Council
April 09, 2015 • 2:30pm to 4:30pm

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

1. Opening & Roundtable Introductions
 - a. Scot called the meeting to order at 2:34pm
 - b. Scot introduced new council members Kate Collins and Camilla Boisvert
 - c. Scot welcomed guest presenters: Nissa Hildebrand and Claudia Stoehr
2. Approve Agenda
 - a. Ruth moved to approve the agenda, motion second, motion carried.
3. Approve Minutes – February 12th, 2015
 - a. Scot reviewed the highlights of the February 12th meeting.
 - b. Dave moved to approve the minutes of February 12th as presented, motion second, motion carried.
4. Approve Terms of Reference last edited February 17th, 2015
 - a. Naomi moved to approve the Terms of Reference as presented, motion second, motion carried.
5. Asset Mapping Presentation – Bharathi Sandhu of Raymond James Financial and Fraser Valley Indo Canadian Business Association
 - a. Raymond James Financial
 - Raymond James is a financial planning services firm
 - They believe the more they understand clients, the better job they can do for them
 - Understanding a client's preconceived notions and knowledge of international investing is key providing good service
 - Many new immigrants want insurance to protect their income
 - Newcomers may benefit from knowledge of Canadian Markets, where to access financial services information, learning about the available options and who they can work with
 - b. Fraser Valley Indo Canadian Business Association
 - FVICBA is about tying communities together
 - They know that knowledge from other communities is valuable
 - The more we know, the better we can do in connection
 - An organization all about diversity
6. Guest Presentations: Newcomer Experiences of Abbotsford - Nissa Hildebrand & Claudia Stoehr
 - a. Nissa Hildebrand
 - i. Circumstance
 - Nissa was introduced to us by Hardeep Sidhu, together they sit on the citizen's advisory committee for the City of Abbotsford Official Community Plan
 - New to Abbotsford, originally from Victoria, lived in St. Johns Newfoundland
 - Moved to Abbotsford, 8 weeks pregnant, unemployed, with her husband for his job.
 - ii. Experience

- Found it difficult to engage socially as a young, white, non-religious person, who looks like an insider
- Found it difficult to find safe public gathering places
- Grandmother helped her find mediocre rental housing
- Found a doctor with relative ease
- Found work in her field as an Orthotist
- Finds it easier to run or walk than take public transit

b. Claudia Stoher

i. Circumstance

- Moved to Abbotsford in 2009 from Columbia with her husband and first born without much preparation and minimal English Language skills.
- She is a Lawyer and her husband a Civil Engineer
- She had her second son in Canada

ii. Experience

- Met other women at her son's school, but was not able to communicate with them
- Spent lots of time language learning
- Over the last six years she has found amazing people and developed friendships
- Her husband started his own business
- Bus schedules were difficult to navigate. Eventually, she has obtained a license and bought car.
- Finding permanent work was difficult. Her credentials were not recognized though her knowledge had not changed. After two years she found a job advocating for temporary farm workers.
- Able to get a mortgage after a year and a half.

c. Group Discussion

- i. Kanta highlighted that diversity in immigrants is important to consider. People who look like they belong may need help too. Looking at a community in terms of what it offers is an important perspective. (Note that Nissa is not an immigrant but a Canadian who found settling in Abbotsford very difficult).
- ii. Nissa faced invisible barriers. Meeting people through work was not an option. Nissa suggested an Abbotsford Newcomers club.
- iii. Camilla referenced the Welcome wagon program. Nissa tried to access this program but was unable to find a connection.
- iv. Nissa mentioned that affordable family-sized housing options are a needed.
- v. Claudia's qualifications were not recognized in Canada, some of her skills have transferred into her job with the Farm Workers Alliance. For example, she provides support with banking in Spanish.
- vi. John recognized that Downtown Abbotsford closes at 6, Abbotsford is not a walking city; and asked what can be done.
- vii. Nissa suggested asking for less box stores and more housing
- viii. Dave acknowledged that Abbotsford is a complete city with incomplete neighborhoods. U district is an upcoming neighborhood plan between city and University.

7. Secretariat Update:

- a. Danielle announced that a new website for the project has been developed www.FraserValleyDiversity.ca
- b. Secretariat held a Community of Practice session with the LIP organizers of Mission, Chilliwack and Delta to exchange information about the successes and challenges, and useful tools.
- c. Secretariat has made special effort to include Langley in the Council.
- d. Manpreet announced that there will be an ACS settlement office opening in Chandigarh, India in 2015.
- e. Manpreet announced that ACS received a grant to run a Conference on Human Trafficking in partnership with the Ministry of Justice. An advisory committee for this project will be called together soon.

8. Developing our Local Strategy

- a. Danica reviewed the overarching goals and process of the Council:
 - i. Form a Council and create Terms of Reference
 - ii. Produce Research
 - iii. Form a Settlement Strategy
 - iv. Form an Action Plan
 - v. Implement and Monitor the Plan
- b. Danielle presented a model for the initiation of Working Groups and suggested actions for Working Groups to take to form a draft settlement strategy. *See Attachments.*
- c. The council broke into three working groups, one focused and chose team leaders
 - i. Sue Federspiel will lead the Social Integration Working Group
 - ii. Kate Collins will lead the Labour Market Integration Group
 - iii. Naomi Armstrong will lead the Research, Policy and Practice Working group.

9. Action Items

- a. ACTION: Working Groups will create a draft strategy by June 4th
- b. ACTION: Secretariat will send out samples strategy documents

10. Local & Regional Events

- a. Character of Abbotsford: Leadership Workshop April 23rd \$20 lunch Garden Park Towers. 12:30-4:00pm. Business and government will talk about how they have used character values and operational implementation of values. Opportunity to be a character champion.
- b. Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce Event: Fraser Valley Expo April 15th Chamber Showcase
- c. City of Abbotsford: Involve Abbotsford. May 9th. 1 day symposium for non-profits.
- d. UFV: School of Social Work International Conference
- e. Downtown Abbotsford: Tuesday, May 12th 4-6. Art and Wine Walk

11. Next Partnership Meetings

- a. Thursday, June 4, 2015, 2pm – 4pm
- b. Thursday, September 10, 2pm – 4pm
- c. Thursday, November 12, 2pm – 4pm

12. Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.



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WORKING GROUP GUIDE

Members of the Partnership Council may establish Working Groups at any time to complete work on a thematic area. The Working Groups consist of Partnership Council members and outside participants as needed. Working Groups chose the outside participants based on skills and knowledge.

Here is what you need to know in order to complete your tasks as a Working Group of the Council:

1. Set up when and how you will meet. Meeting rooms are available at any Abbotsford Community Services location.
2. Choose a team leader. Your team leader is responsible to:
 - a. Liaise with the Executive Team (Chairs and Secretariat).
 - b. Keep an updated list of members of your group, with names and contact information.
 - c. Collect notes, including dates you met, who attended, what you worked on, and knowledge networks consulted.
3. You can claim mileage or other expenses related to your work in the group (for example, printing, etc.) by submitting one of the attached forms to the Secretariat.
4. You may use resources and supplies of Abbotsford Community Services, including the lending library of the Diversity Education program.
5. The Working Groups report to the Council with an update at large group meetings.
6. Contact the Executive Team for:

Secretariat	Chairs
Logistical support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Meeting room bookings · Submitting forms and notes · Supplies and resources 	Leadership Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Connecting with knowledge networks · Direction, support, Ideas and advice · To add an item to the Council meeting agenda
Danielle Nazarewich Administrative Coordinator, Diversity Education, Abbotsford Community Services DiversityEducation@AbbotsfordCommunityServices.com 604-859-7681 Local 270	Hardeep Sidhu & Scot Friskey Partnership Council Members hapsidhu@gmail.com scotfriskey@telus.net

Attachments: Mileage Claim Form; Expense Claim Form



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STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT: Guide for Working Groups

What to Do

Your task is to draft your section of the strategy for how to address your chosen area of focus (either Labour Market Integration; Social Integration; or Research, Policy, and Practice).

Here are some tips to help you achieve your task:

1. Invite additional members to your group. This can include your co-workers and others outside of the Partnership Council.
2. Review the existing information and research on your topic. This includes *the Emergent Themes* report, other documents on www.fraservalleydiversity.ca, other local and regional research reports you can find, and your own group's brainstorming and knowledge, based on your experience.
3. Gather input on your topic from external networks. This may include individuals or organizations outside of the Council who have relevant information and contributions.
4. Draft your section of the strategy, addressing your focus priority. The draft should be approximately 1 page, in any format that the group is comfortable or experienced with.

The draft should include:

- a. a summary of the issue, including key facts
 - b. existing strengths in the community
 - c. current opportunities
 - d. aspirations / hopes / ideals / best case scenarios
 - e. how the priority should be approached
 - f. rationale for your suggested approach
 - g. expected results
 - h. list of sources used
5. During this process, you will likely come up with *actions* for members or others to take. Record these as you think of them, as they may be used to form the action plan.





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ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT: Guide for Working Groups

What to Do

Your task is to record some ideas for the action plan of your chosen area of focus (either Labour Market Integration; Social Integration; or Research, Policy, and Practice).

Here are some tips to help you achieve your task:

1. Review the Recommendations section for your chosen area in the *Emergent Themes* Report. Include or revise those recommendations, as potential actions to take.
2. Based on the information in your strategy piece, make a list of suggested actions that can be taken by Council members, member organization, or others in the community, within the next year.

Where possible, include:

- a. Which member would initiate the action
- b. Who would complete the action
- c. How this action would contribute to the desired results
- d. How the success of this action could be measured
- e. Which member would follow up to report on the results of the action

The Partnership Council will, together, review the suggested actions of the Working Groups and build consensus on the action plan.