



**FRASER VALLEY
DIVERSITY & IMMIGRATION
PARTNERSHIP**

Minutes
Fraser Valley Diversity and Immigration Partnership Council
November 12, 2015 • 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Present	Regrets
Bharati Sidhu Danica Denommé Danielle Nazarewich Gugan Sidhu: Recording Secretary Hardeep Sidhu John Potts Kanta Naik Kate Collins Naomi Armstrong Ruth Meehan Scot Friskey Sue Federspiel Susan McAlevey Tina Stewart Varinder Dhesi Guests: Andrea Dykshoorn, Calvin Chan, Craig Towes, Karanvir Sahota, Mitchel Comb	Alda Messiah Allan Asaph Camilla Boisvert Dave Sidhu Ghizlane Laghzaoui Stephen Piper Dave Loewen Manpreet Grewal Med Manzanal

1. Opening & Introductions
 - a. Hardeep called the meeting to order at 2:05pm, announced the regrets and invited members to share their ‘big win’ of last week.
2. Approve Agenda
 - a. Sue Federspiel moved to approve the agenda, motion second, motion carried.
3. Approve Minutes – October 08, 2015
 - a. Ruth Meheen moved to approve the October 08, 2015 meeting minutes as presented, motion second, motion carried.

Danica Denommé joined at 2:13pm.

4. Presentations – U-District Presentation by Mitchell Comb, Senior Planner, City of Abbotsford and Craig Towes, UFV

The U-District project is a partnership between the City Of Abbotsford and UFV to develop the area surrounding UFV. The first outcomes of the project include a Neighbourhood Plan and a UFV campus Master plan. The purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan is to figure out how the neighbourhood and campus can grow and complement each other. The City and UFV have fully involved the public in creating the plan. The plan for the U-District will be finalized by spring 2016.

Q&A

Q: There has been no mention of environmental, sustainability aspects, were they not included in the plan?

A: The City and UFV have different mandates; the City's focus is to create a successful plan. UFV has very strong sustainability ideas that will be incorporated in the plan and the future i.e. community gardens, compost program, farmers market.

Q: A soccer field would bring diverse communities to the campus from all over the city.

A: It does go against our small parks around the neighbourhood idea, but it would definitely bring more people to the University.

Q: Other Universities have an entertainment district, like Goergia. Everyone drives to the university on the weekend, wouldn't this be a great idea and add a couple of pubs?

A: We are not looking to make an entertainment district but instead a social hub. The city and the University does not have much density so we have to start small, our success factor would be if we bring in more people.

Q: There is ALR land all around the university, how has the farming community responded to the plans?

A: Community members are willing to sell their land to us, we want the community to hold onto ALR land, and we will work with the other land available to us.

Q: Out of the two concepts that you have created, which one is preferred so far?

A: Concept 1 (more concentrated land use) was preferred by 500 more people. The walking and cycling bridge parallel to McCallum was very important to a lot of people.

Q: The FVDI council is invested in the development of the U-District, how can FVDI support you?

A: We will need support during policy making once the plan is approved. It is important to keep the area affordable and for the area to be walkable. We also need a policy framework that will allow the right type of housing for the neighbourhood. In terms of cultures, UFV has hosted Abbyfest and it was great having the community come to UFV, we would love to host more cultural events.

5. Local Strategy and Action Plan Updates

a. Research, Policy and Practice Action update – Naomi

The groups actions have been finalized and added to the Local Strategy and Action Plan document.

b. Strategy and Action Plan Document Approval

The following changes are to be made:

Update names of working group members

Social Integration will have all 4 documents completed by March 2016

Add a council member list

Add contributors
Add more Langley information

Action item: Secretariat will make the edits and the document will be approved via e-mail.

6. Working Group Updates

a. Social integration - Sue

Social Integration is adding info to the City website.

Discussions with the Reach to help create a travelling art piece to display pictures and stories regarding Fraser Valley newcomers are in the beginning stages- more details forthcoming.

b. Labour Market Integration – Kate

Labour Market Integration has recently connected with BC Enterprise, and engaged them in immigrant and refugee issues relating to the labour market.

c. Creating a Refugee Working Group

Kate has been working with Surrey and Langley to address community capacity for the influx of refugees in the upcoming months. The group has been looking into housing, schools, social services, and support within faith groups to have a better understanding of the resources available. The government has released that Surrey will be receiving 1500 refugees. Due to cheaper rent refugees will find themselves in Langley, Aldergrove, and Abbotsford, we need to prepare for this.

Action item – Kate will send Nov. 26th meeting invite to Danielle for distribution.

Kanta – I cannot commit to another committee but if you need anything from School District #34 please contact me.

Naomi – I will get Mental Health and hospitals involved in the refugee meeting.

Kanta, Ruth, and Susan excused themselves at 3:44pm

7. Executive Team Updates

Hardeep and Scot are willing to renew their position as Chair and Vice-Chair for another term if there are no objections. The next point of review for these positions will be September 2016.

8. Member Updates and Events

Tabled Until Next Meeting

9. Winter Networking – December 10th 3-6pm

The Winter Networking will take place at Maan Farms - 790 McKenzie Rd. Abbotsford BC.

Please invite those you would like to network with and who would benefit from the networking event.

There will be appetizers, entertainment and a mix of structured and open networking opportunities.

Maan Farms will have their estate winery and country market open for the event.

10. Next Meetings

a. Thursday, February 4th 2016 2-4pm

b. Thursday, April 7 2016 2-4pm

c. Thursday, June 2 2016 2-4pm

d. Thursday, September 15 2016 2-4pm

e. Thursday, November 3 2016 2-4pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:54pm