



**FRASER VALLEY  
DIVERSITY & IMMIGRATION  
PARTNERSHIP**

**Minutes  
Fraser Valley Diversity and Immigration Partnership Council  
April 07, 2016 • 2pm to 4pm**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Regrets</b>
Alda Messiah Allan Asaph Balbir Gill Camila Boisvert Danielle Nazarewich Dave Loewen Gugan Sidhu Hardeep Sidhu Kate Collins John Potts Lia Bishop Ranjna Sidhu Ruth Meheen Scot Friskey Sue Federspiel Vick Dhesi	Barathi Sandhu Ghizlane Laghzaoui Kanta Naik Med Manzanal Naomi Armstrong Manpreet Grewal Stephen Piper Susan McAlevy Tina Stewart

**1. Opening & Introductions**

Hardeep called the meeting to order at 2:01pm

Resignation of Naomi Armstrong

Message from Naomi Armstrong

Hi everyone, I am sorry that I won't be able to join you next week or going forward as I am moving on from Fraser Health to a new role with the Canadian Red Cross. It has been a great

pleasure to get to know you, to work alongside and be inspired by you through the FVDIP! All the best and feel free to keep in touch.

Welcome Fraser Valley Regional Library as a new member.

Welcome Lia Bishop as the newest member of the Secretariat.

2. Approve Agenda

- a. Danielle will provide Item 4 a. and 4 e. as Manpreet and Kanta are not present.
- b. Item 5 a. Overseas Project Q&A is tabled for next meeting.
- c. An addition to executive team announcement of two new projects will be provided by Danielle.
- d. Motion was made by Ruth Meheen and second to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

3. Approve Minutes

- a. Update made to the Action Item: "City of Abbotsford will create welcome packages for Syrian families." Welcome packages were made by the BC Muslim Association.
- b. Motion was made by Dave Loewen to approve the February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 minutes as amended and second. Motion carried.

4. Syrian Resettlement

**a. Status update – Danielle Nazarewich**

Housing for Syrian families is coming along, 7 families will move into their homes this weekend.

Donation collection is ongoing. See the registry for details.

<http://www.freegiftregistry.com/donationregistry>

Cash Donations:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/dn/3040>

Ranjna Sidhu arrived 2:20pm and was welcomed to the table as the new representative from the Punjabi Patrika.

**b. Ice Cream Social – Gugan Sidhu**

Ice Cream Social was very fun, GAR and PSR families joined ACS staff and FVDI Partnership Council in the conference room at the Sandman for ice cream sundaes. A welcome was delivered from ACS staff to all the new families, and speeches of gratitude followed from a few Syrian individuals. Families took the opportunity to dance and sing songs. Danielle and Lia wore mascot outfits from local universities and all the children received teddy bears which were donated by a community member.

**BCMA Welcome Reception – Gugan Sidhu**

The BC Muslim Association held a formal welcome reception at the Islamic Centre in Abbotsford. Welcome speeches were delivered by Manpreet Grewal Rod Santiago, Kelly Chahal, Dave Loewen, Kanta Naik, Rick Rake (Mission Community Services), Sandy Blue, Mayor Henry Braun, and MLA Ed Fast. Ed Fast gave a big Canadian flag to each refugee family. There was food and good weather. Members of the community, and the Muslim community were present in large numbers.

**c. Regional Refugee Response Team – Danielle Nazarewich**

The province of BC has created a BC Refugee Readiness fund of 1 million dollars. BC has been separated to five regions, each region received 500,000 dollars. The Fraser Valley is the region Abbotsford and Langley fall into which also includes, Chilliwack, Delta, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, Mission, and Surrey. This response team is coordinated by DiverseCity. Meetings are attended by Danielle and Kate.

**d. Langley Response – Kate Collins**

120 Syrians have been registered to Langley. Langley Community Services Society hosted its 3rd community stakeholders meeting on April 1st. The momentum has continued and the community is well engaged. Langley Community Services Society continues to host Arabic dinners regularly to build community.

**e. School District #34 update – Danielle Nazarewich**

All school aged children have been registered to the school district. An alternative integration program is running in 4 schools in west Abbotsford, two elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. All children are attending school 10am to 1pm. Students will be integrated into regular classrooms in the fall.

**5. Executive Team Updates**

**a. New Projects**

**i. Job Connections for Immigrants Project**

ACS received Federal funding from the Ministry of Social Development for the Job Connections for Immigrants Project, a project based labour market training. *See attached flyer for details.*

**ACTION: Danielle will connect the Labour Market Group with this project leader for the purpose of collaboration and advising.**

**ii. Community Dialogue**

FVDIP received \$2800 from the Province Gaming Fund to run a public dialogue to create awareness around the integration of refugees,

dispelling stereotypes and brainstorm ideas of how the community can support newcomers.

**ACTION: The Secretariat will work with the Social Integration Working Group and individual members to plan and implement this event.**

## 6. Working Group Updates

The Secretariat will join the working groups to provide additional support. Lia will join the Research, Policy and Practice Working Group, Gugan will join the Social Integration Working Group, and Danielle will join the Labour Market Integration Working Group.

### a. **Research, Policy and Practice**

Working group lead, Naomi Armstrong, has moved on from her position, a new group leader is needed. Susan McAlevy is a possible candidate.

The group is looking forward to coming together and getting back on track and excited to have secretariat, Lia Bishop, assisting the group.

### b. **Labour Market Integration – Alda Messiah**

We are looking at connecting employers with possible employees. Allan and Kate came up with a great idea to help find jobs for the Syrian families: a roundtable networking opportunity for employers to learn about the services (related to labour market readiness) available for newcomers. Employers will be provided the context of newcomers, and Syrians, and cultural differences. The hospitality and construction industry are two industries the Labour Market group will be looking into. An organization did a day out for the newcomers to different industries; this may be something the Labour Market group does in the future.

### c. **Social Integration**

We are working on a massive pictorial story of immigration into Abbotsford. This art project will be used to educate and put immigration into perspective and promote inclusivity. The next fact sheet will answer the question: Why do newcomers matter to us? Social integration within the school district is something we are also looking into.

## 7. FVDIP: The Big Picture

### a. **PPT who we are & what we do - Sue Federspiel**

Sue presented the PowerPoint presentation that the Secretariat created for a Lunch and Learn that took place at the City in March on what FVDIP is and what we do. The presentation was offered as a resource to the members to use in their own organizations for the purpose of promoting the project.

Following the presentation, we discussed the exclusion of Langley within the presentation and the project as a whole.

Points that were raised during this discussion:

- Langley is not mentioned at all in the presentation or in our literature or website
- The topic of the inclusion of Langley in documents was discussed when the strategy and action plan were being approved.
- Why is the council called “Fraser Valley...”
- What area does the Fraser Valley include?
- Is it correct to refer to this table as a Fraser Valley table when it only includes Abbotsford and Langley, while recognizing that Chilliwack and Mission have their own LIPs.
- What is our Langley representation? There are 4 organizations represented on the council: Langley Community Services Society, Academy of Learning – Langley, Fraser Valley Regional Library, Fraser Health
- Main council meeting content is Abbotsford-centric, and always held in Abbotsford

**ACTION: Secretariat will revise the PowerPoint presentation to include Langley and distribute it to the Council.**

**b. Budget Review – Danielle Nazarewich**

Danielle presented the budget overview for the first two years of the project and the third year extension as approved by the Federal Government. Danielle agreed to answer questions to the best of her ability, as Manpreet is not present at the meeting.

Questions:

1. What are wages and benefits?

This line pays for Danielle’s position and Danica’s position, Danica’s hours got split into half and given to Gugan and Lia.

2. What are contracted services?

This includes the contract with the city, and the services we contracted Med to complete, (initial research document, and the evaluation of the project).

3. What does the City contract entail?

The City funds part of Sue’s role, printing of documents, connecting our websites, and liaising with other city staff.

4. What are the room rental costs?

All room bookings at ACS charge the program an hourly fee.

5. What are administrative costs?

10% of all grants/funds received are allocated to our ACS admin team. This is standard for non-profits.

6. Who makes budget decisions, and all decisions about where the money goes? Is it Manpreet?

The Secretariat, including Manpreet, make budget suggestions, the funder negotiates the budget with us, and the final budget is approved by the funder. All of the spending is monitored by the funder.

7. What budget is available to fund working group actions?

The Initial two year budget and activities were based on what the Federal Governments requirement was for LIP tables to create initial research, a diverse council, a terms of reference, a strategy and action plan, and to implement and monitor the plan. The new proposal was based on activities which have come up from working groups. Once again the new proposal is on hold and the previous contract has been extended with approval of budget and activities for the extension. The Federal Government has not approved funding for working group actions during this extended contract, April 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2017.

**ACTION:** The budget will be added to next meeting's agenda. In the meantime, Manpreet is available to answer any additional questions regarding the budget, or other aspects of this project.

**c. Presentation: Where are other LIPs at? – Lia Bishop**

Lia shared a presentation that compared the organizational structures, strategies and goals of three proximate LIPs in the province, including Surrey, Tri-Cities and Central Okanagan. As requested by council members in previous meetings, the purpose of the presentation was to inform the Council on the FVDIP's progress and status compared to other LIPs with similar municipal populations and demographic statistics.

The subsequent group discussion recognized that the FVDIP has embarked on a unique path, including the creative goals of the three working groups. It was also acknowledged that the variety of signatory agents, community services and council members per community LIP project make comparisons difficult.

**Question**

1. How are we doing comparative to other LIPs?

LIPS cannot be compared; each community has different agencies holding the contract. Some service agencies and some municipalities hold the contract. The different demographics within each community and the

services already available within the community also make a difference in the way LIP's in each community are unfolding.

8. Dialogue: Where do you want FVDI Partnership to be at this time next year? Hardeep led this large table discussion. Each member at the table shared their top priorities for this year.

- Better Inclusion of Langley
  - highlighting LIP as Abbotsford and Langley, BC: Demonstrating the Fraser Valley partnership
  - stats from City and Township of Langley in documents, publications, presentations
  - Alternate meeting locations between Langley and Abbotsford
  - Invite LIP Leaders from Chilliwack and Mission to our council meetings
- Abbotsford and Langley become one; Change of logo (use of city names)
- Host a Regional LIPP Networking/Social Event (September)
- Budget clarity, especially for working groups.
- Funding for working group actions
- Increase LIP's presence in the community, build community awareness, education and diversity training
- Share more success stories of newcomers to achieve healthy positive integration
- More involvement in community events, more L.I.P. presentations
- Increase LIP's accountability with immigrants
- Highlight the contribution of immigrants within the Labour Market
- Make progress on the Research Working Group's goals
- Clarity of role and purpose of the council
- Promotion of success stories
- Greater voice/ representation of newcomers
- Recognized name, partnership with other community groups- businesses- sectors of the community
- Review Membership of Council- engagement, participation, involvement
- Increased presence in the Media (Tyler Olsen, Abbotsford News/ Times, Black Press, Langley News)
- Use appropriate meeting protocols

Varinder Dhesi announced that he received a job on Vancouver Island, as correctional officer, and this will be his last meeting, as he starts the new job in May 2016.

9. Next Meetings

- a. **Thursday, June 2 2016, 2-4pm**
- b. Thursday, Sep 15 2016, 2-4pm
- c. Thursday, Nov 3 2016, 2-4pm
- d. Thursday, Jan 12 2017, 2-4pm
- e. Thursday, March 9 2017, 2-4pm

Meeting adjourned 4:06pm

DRAFT





**JOB CONNECTIONS FOR IMMIGRANTS (JCI)  
Project Based Labour Market Training (PBLMT)**

Do you want to start a career in the Retail Industry?

**Project Description:** To train 12 eligible participants for the Retail Industry to gain skills and experience, leading to employment opportunities and success.

**Project Duration:** **April 11 – October 7, 2016**

**Time:** 9 – 4.30 / Monday to Friday

**Location:** **Abbotsford Community Services (ACS Location)**  
#102 – 31943 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford, BC V2T 1V5

**Content:** **May 2 – July 29, 2016**

In class: ELL – English Language Training  
Job Search & Life Skills  
Computer Training

UFV Certification Courses:

Customer Service, Cashier Training, Food Safe, WHIMIS  
Occupational First Aide, Management Foundations

**August 2 – September 23, 2016**

Practicum: 8-week Practicum

Applicants must have Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) Level 3 and above, applicants will be assessed

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- Have a claim for the Employment Insurance (EI) benefits, or
- Have had a EI claim in the last 3 years, or
- Have had a benefit period and were paid for maternity or parental benefits in the last 5 years and re-entering the labour force after having left it to care for newborn or newly adopted children, and;
- Have a Action Plan (AP) that identifies Project Based Labour Market Training (PBLMT) as a reasonable activity to support their occupational goal

**For more information, please contact:** **Ranni Sangha-Tolman, Project Supervisor**

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The Employment Program of British Columbia is funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.