



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

Minutes  
Fraser Valley Diversity and Immigration Partnership Council  
June 02, 2016 • 2pm to 4pm

Present	Regrets
Balbir Gill Danielle Nazarewich Gugan Sidhu Hardeep Sidhu Kanta Naik Lia Bishop Manpreet Grewal	Alda Messiah Allan Asaph Bharathi Sandhu Camila Boisvert Dave Loewen Dave Sidhu Ghizlaine Laghzaoui John Potts Ruth Meehan Scot Frisky Sue Federspiel Susan McAlevey Stephen Piper Tina Stewart

1. Opening & Introductions  
Due to lack of quorum at 2:15, the Chair decided to table all agenda items with the exception of 4.d Updates from the Abbotsford School District on Syrian Resettlement.
2. Approve Agenda – **Tabled**
3. Approve Minutes – **Tabled**
4. Follow Up

- a. Action Items – **Tabled**
- b. Budget – **Tabled**
- c. Geographic Boundaries – **Tabled**
- d. Abbotsford School District and Syrian Resettlement – Kanta Naik
  - Integrating 100+ new students into the School District mid-way into the year was a new experience for the School District of 34
  - Kanta Naik worked with key leaders within the School District to help create the big picture of the realities of the new Syrian students and their families
  - Sheltered emersion classes have been created for the students in all levels of education, for their safety and integration
  - Staff training of principals and teachers took place during the spring break
  - After the spring break, the students attended school, some for the first time, for 3.5 to 4 hours a day and slowly increased to full time schedule
  - Middle and High school kids are thriving and blossoming
  - Elementary School kids are most challenging, Grade 2-3 showing behavioral issues – Schools don't know how to cope with working with the kids especially because of language barriers
  - Kanta has organized VAST training (Vancouver Association for Survivors of Torture) for all district counsellors, ESL, LSS, behavior teams, psychiatrists, principals and room for settlement team
  - Currently in preparation for summer school for all the Syrian newcomer students
  - Starting September Syrian students will be integrated in to: Yale, Mouat, Chief Dan , William Fraser, Gordie Howe, Terry Fox, Dormic Park, Tenbrook, John Maclure, Marget Stenerson
  - Kanta is now advocating for Arabic speaking teaching assistants for September
  - 4 Syrian students qualified to the District track and meet competition

**Action Item – Kanta will connect with Balbir in regards to FVRL's summer reading club**

- e. ACS Chandigarh Office Q&A with Manpreet Grewal - **Tabled**

5. Evaluation Results Presentation and Discussion - **Tabled**

6. Community Updates - **Tabled**

- a. Housing In Abbotsford – Ruth Meehan
- b. Langley Community – Kate Collins
- c. June 29 Public Forum “Beyond Refugee Stereotypes” – Lia Bishop

- d. July 15 Family Fun Day Picnic – Gugan Sidhu
- e. Email Communication with the Group
- f. Working Group Updates
- g. Guest Presenter: Ranni Sangha-Tolman, Job Connections for Immigrants Program

7. Next Meetings

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

Meeting adjourned 4:06pm

DRAFT

