



MINUTES

Abbotsford Local Immigration Partnership Council
Archway Community Services - Boardroom
Thursday, October 10, 2019 – 2-4 pm

In Attendance		Regrets	
Manpreet Grewal (co-chair)	Sharon Crawley (Literacy Matters)	Kanta Naik (SWIS)	Jennifer Mpungu (MCC)
Sue Federspiel (co-chair)	Nicola Mooney (UFV)	Balbir S. Gill (FVRL)	Harpreet Singh (SACRO)
Dave Loewen (City Council)	Adrian Bontuyan (UFV International)	Max R. Aranguiz-Peterson (IAT)	Stephen Piper (UFV)
Seydou Keita (IAT)	Camilla Boisvert (FHA)	Liliana Harvard (IAT)	Hillary Russell (FVRL)
Adlin Babantaj (IAT)		Sherry Wang (IAT)	
Tammy Johnson (Inasmuch)		Katerina Anastasiadis (Chamber of Commerce)	
Michael Spuls (VanCity)			
Alison Gutrath (Project mgt)			
Natalia Deros (Project mgt)			
Harold Rosen (AIM)			
Sue Kupp (MCC)			
Ghizlane Laghzaoui (UFV)			

1. Meeting Opening and Introductions –

On Speaker Phone: IRCC Program Officers Ling & Shawna

Land Acknowledgement

2. Agenda Review

- a. Approval of Agenda

3. Acceptance of Minutes June 17th, 2019

4. Working Group Updates

- a. Social Integration –

- 3rd Annual Newcomers Bus Tour – Thursday, October 24th, includes venues in Abbotsford as well as Sumas First Nation (with speaker Naxaxalhts'i, Albert (Sonny) McHalsie - Cultural Advisor/Historian and Honorary Doctorate of Law, University of Victoria.)

- b. Labour Market Integration –

- Recent meeting on October 3, 2019.
Upcoming Engagement dialogue on the topic of Human Resources, Friday, December 6.



- February 2020 – event in partnership with the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce with targeted businesses looking to hire; featuring a panel of newcomers; and inviting newcomers looking for work to attend as well.
- Michael Spuls and Adrian Bontuyan wish to join.

c. Research, Policy & Practice –

- “Success in Settlement” research to be completed in December 2019

d. Immigration Advisory Table –

- Recent meeting on October 1, 2019
- Recruiting new members. Application process will be advertised.

5. **Presentation: English Language Services** – Bethany Klassen, Administrative Coordinator, Language Instruction for Newcomers (LINC)

- LINC has two main streams: federally funded and one provincially funded. There are currently 275 adult learners in 20 classes, offered both morning and evening. Two classes are offered for mothers with small children, providing childcare 2.5 days a week. Classes go from September to June, and take Spring break. 65% of the student body are female. Evening serves more men, since most work during day. Building little communities in the classes. A lot of countries represented- 87!
- Another program, “Access to English” is provincially funded. This program is offered at ACS West with 1-1 tutor access and group sessions. Those not eligible for LINC, such as TFWs, Naturalized Canadian citizens, or refugee claimants are able to attend.
- All traditional LINC classes in the pod system are looking for more English tutors. Call out for volunteering is available online. CCR at UFV, a way to accredit services as a way for volunteering. Mentorship availability for UFV students with UFV faculty. LINC always in need of volunteers.
- A possible partnership with Social Integration in the New Year with the higher level classes.
- Empowering success stories about building communities in classrooms- A beautiful antidote to the stories of racism and discrimination.
- End of year celebration featured in newspaper. Press release, monthly feature of great stories. Community stories strewn around town. Teachers and students and alumni still connected. Supporting each other across barriers.
- Receives strongly positive feedback from stakeholders, lovely to drop in.



6. New Business –

- ALIP Training, Kairos Blanket Exercise facilitated by Cecilia Reekie from the Haisla Nation – Tuesday, December 10, 2019; 9:00am – 1:00pm (lunch provided). Inspired by the push to indigenize organizations and institutions in Canada. Open to other stakeholders but RSVPs in advance are required.
- Action plan: 2019-2020. Built upon priorities around 2018-2019 action plans. Working groups will draft plans, and get incorporated later.

7. Group Discussion –

- a. How is racism and discrimination towards newcomers prevented and addressed in your business or organization? How could ALIP further support local businesses and organizations in addressing racism?
 - This is related to the federal Call for Proposals for the Anti-Racism Action Program. Diversity Education will be applying for this funding.
 - Diversity Education is engaging multiple groups such as the Immigrant Advisory Table, the Fraser Valley Human Dignity Coalition, the UFV Race and Anti-Racism Network, and the other community partners. Brainstorming what initiatives would be helpful to combat racism in the coming two years. The funding would cover a large-scale, comprehensive strategy for the Fraser Valley.
 - Some ideas could include: Creating a standardized statement after incidents of racism/discrimination to respond quickly as a community response, as a position, as a speaking out against. Funding used to create robust structures of reporting and responding to racism and discrimination. Can feel shaming to know that you have been targeted. Creating safe spaces to report incidents important.
 - Creative projects with high school youth can open the space to talk about the issue too. Training on how to stand up to racism. Similar to standing up to bullying programs already in effect. It's not necessarily possible to decrease the number of racist incidents, but perhaps the question is around how people become empowered who are targets of racism. Possibly through teaching children how to stand up for themselves. Create a collective response, but also programming for the individual, for both the target and also the ally. Witnesses have the potential to be a powerful anti-racism force.



- Impactful Report with the City of Abbotsford facilitated by Sue Federspiel. Findings were that newcomer youth in Canada often feel stuck between two identities. Best to emphasize that both are embraced and true. Part of it is helping parents accept that, as well as the community to embrace the two.
- Emphasize the positive, and using words such as “inclusive” positive language. City of Ottawa, Equity and Inclusion lens snapshot. Envisioning an immigrant friendly city. Abbotsford is an age-friendly city. Community level recognition as an immigrant-friendly city. Not just as City, but also a whole community. Archway as holding the program. Collectively strive to be a systems-based city, building on the past work as welcoming community. Abbotsford should be able to lead, since there is already so much diversity already. (SWIS) looking to integrate Syrian children.

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Action Item: Project Management to look into this. Also send the City of Ottawa Equity and Inclusion snapshot.

- Create opportunities to bring people together from different backgrounds, eg. At Inasmuch, formerly warring groups of people now living together under the same roof, forming friendships. The more people spend time together, the harder it is to hate entire groups.
- Businesses can construct a leadership model of no tolerance to racism. VanCity requires staff to attend a respect in the workplace course annually, which provides a time for self-reflection on hidden biases or blind spots. Organization as a whole is very inclusive of both staff and people.
- International events can Trump effect, going backwards, Abbotsford has more racist incidents, people against religion and culture in school, federal debate, politicians in the East heavily against multiculturalism and immigration. National effect on the population.
-National leaders, none will call Quebec to task, poisonous to our society, for the sake of votes, why isn't Archway speaking up on these kinds of issues, calling them to task at a public forum? Archway tries to be non-partisan, but protocols could be created.

Action Item: Project Management to send out the op ed.

8. Round Table Updates /Upcoming Events –



- Mental Health Awareness Week: October 4-10th. Nation-wide events.
- GirlKind, October 11, at The Reach. Celebrating the International Day of the Girl.
- Inspire Health - Supportive Cancer Care workshop, October 16, Clearbrook Library
- Women at the Centre of Community Well-being Panel, Thursday October 17, 2019, 5-9, and the Matsqui Centennial Auditorium. Panelists: Jennifer Mpungu, Janice Abbott, Helen Thubo, Sidrah Ahmad, Sharanjit Sandhra, and moderated by Nora Weber. Ba-hai and Interfaith Reflections.
- Exploring Diversity, October 22, 6-8, the Reach Gallery. Hosted by SASI and UFV, panel discussion on diversity and culture.
- Newcomers Bus Tour, October 24, 2019, hosted by ALIP project management staff and sponsored by the City of Abbotsford on October 24, 2019
- 3rd Annual Inclusive Employers Award, October 31, 2019. Includes breakfast!
- Advance Care Planning, November 28th, 2019, 2-4 pm. Clearbrook Library.
- City of Abbotsford Involve Symposium, November 20, 2019. A free conference for the non-profit sector, with keynote speaker Riaz Meghji and breakout sessions. Registration in advance required.
- PRC- Culture Strategy, Engagement around that, “Let’s Talk Abbotsford” app. Community engagement on strategy.
- **Action Item:** Natalia to forward Camilla’s digital flyers

Upcoming ALIP Council Dates:

Hoping we can set the dates for the coming year so that they will be in everyone’s calendars. Outlook Calendar invites will be sent out.

- ALIP Training – Tuesday, December 10, 2019; 9:00am – 1:00pm (lunch provided)
- ALIP Council Meeting – **TBC** Thursday, January 23, 2020; 2:00pm – 4:00pm
- ALIP Council Meeting – **TBC** Thursday, April 23, 2020; 2:00pm – 4:00pm
- ALIP Council Meeting – **TBC** Thursday, June 11, 2019; 2:00pm – 4:00pm
- ALIP Council Meeting – **TBC** Thursday, October, 2020; 2:00pm – 4:00pm

End of Meeting

