



Healthy City Strategy:

New Start

A Settlement and Integration
Strategy for Immigrants and
Refugees in Vancouver
2016 – 2025

Presentation to City Council
September 21, 2016

Purpose:

1. Overview of the Vancouver Immigration Partnership (VIP)
2. Strategy Highlights
3. Next Steps



Context

The New Start Strategy corresponds to the Healthy City Strategy goals of:

- access to human services
- making ends meet
- feeling connected and included
- collaborative leadership



Context (cont'd):

In April 2014, Council approved for staff to sign a contribution agreement with the Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to undertake a Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) Initiative.

Federal funding 2014-2017 - \$651,805

City and community partners provide in kind contributions



Context (cont'd):

Local Immigration Partnerships – A National Initiative:



Context (cont'd):

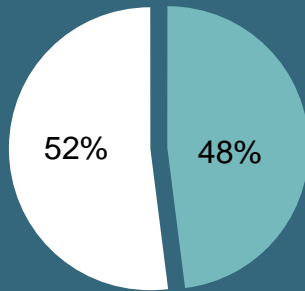
The Mayor's Working Group on Immigration (MWGI), co-chaired by Councillor Geoff Meggs and Professor Dan Hiebert, oversees the project, and the Strategy development is guided by the MWGI Vision and Value Statement :

- Cities are playing an increasingly important role in advocating for the inclusion of newcomers;
- The goal of inclusion is consistent with the City's commitment to reconciliation by honoring and valuing the role of First Nations;
- Vancouver is proud of its cultural diversity and is committed to fostering an open, welcoming and safe environment to people of all cultural backgrounds.

Rationale:

foreign born

48% of Vancouver residents were born outside of Canada



language

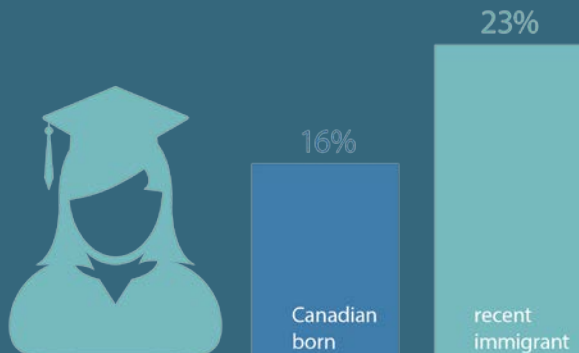


8% of population | 46,000 people in Vancouver

cannot converse in English or French

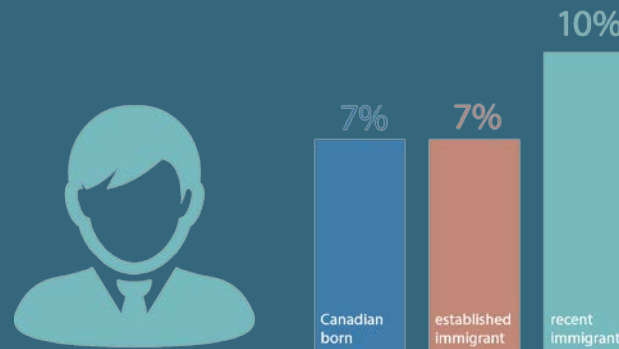
education

EDUCATION ABOVE BACHELOR'S DEGREE



unemployment

Recent immigrants experience higher unemployment rate than established immigrants and Canadian born individuals.



Source: 2011 National Household Survey, Statistics Canada

Note: Recent immigrants are people born outside of Canada who immigrated to Canada between 2006-2011

VIP's Objectives

Mandate:

Improving newcomers' settlement and integration experience

1.

Establish a Local Settlement Strategy

2.

Conduct Research on Newcomer Needs

3.

Identify community assets and gaps

4.

Raise awareness with partner groups and the broader community

5.

Build a broad and representative partnership council

6.

Develop action plans, implement, report on results

The first five objectives were completed between 2014-2016, including the New Start Strategy. Implementation of the actions will begin in 2016 and beyond.

VIP's Approach (Cont'd):

120

*Partners invited
from seventy two
organizations*

4

Theme Areas

28

*Priority Actions to
address needs**

** Plus other actions for consideration*

VIP's Approach (Cont'd):

New Start Strategy's Four Theme Areas:

**Access to
Services**

**Intercultural
and Civic
Engagement**

**Welcoming
and Inclusive
Workplaces**

**Governments
and Public
Institutions
Addressing
Needs**

Vancouver Immigrant Survey Responses (2015)

Top 3 services needed

- health and wellness
- finding a job
- English language programs

Top 3 ways to make new friends

- at workplaces
- at English language schools/centres
- community centres

Top 3 resources used to find jobs

- websites
- family and friends
- professional connections

Top 3 civic services used

- public libraries
- parks and gardens
- community centres and recreation facilities



Are you an immigrant living in Vancouver?

We would love to hear your story!



New Start Strategy's Priority Actions Highlights



Access to Services Priority Actions



- Mapping and assessing key service systems which support immigrant settlement and integration;
- Enhance collaboration between immigrant serving and broad-based community service organizations;
- Propose public awareness campaigns to promote newcomers' services;
- Recommend initiatives to enhance ESL learning opportunities.

Intercultural and Civic Engagement Priority Actions



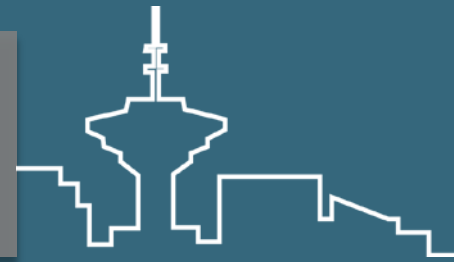
- Develop Initiatives to engage immigrants with long-time residents including First Nations;
- Build on initiatives recommended by the Engaged City's Task Force and Canada 150;
- Continue the City's work on reconciliation and addressing historical injustices;
- Conduct inter-community dialogues involving youth and other groups.

Welcoming and Inclusive Workplaces Priority Actions



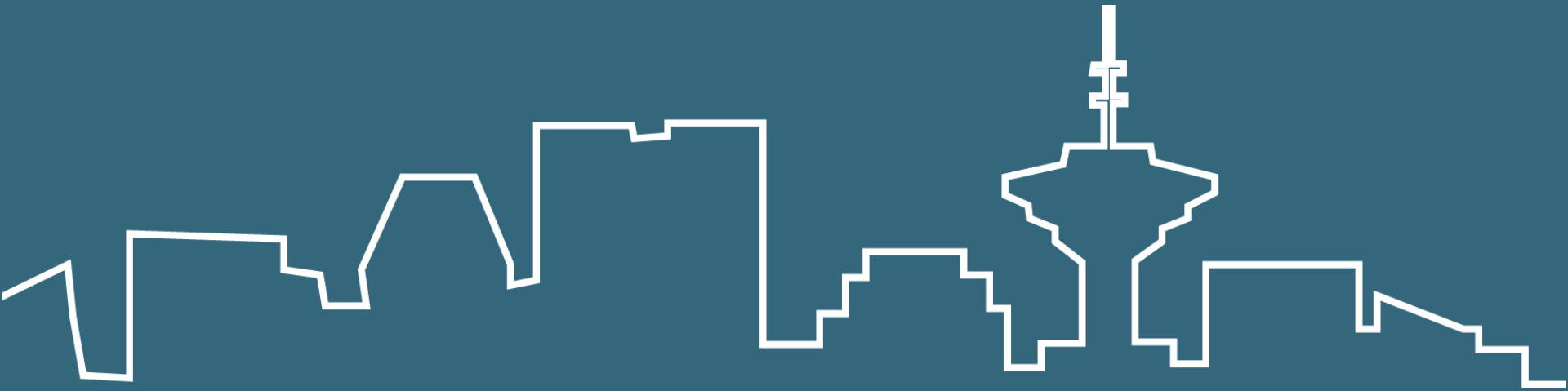
- Conduct an employer's survey;
- Build on the Healthy City Strategy's recommendations on social procurement;
- Assess and recommend sectoral mentorship programs;
- Convene networking events with business, employers and skilled immigrant professionals.

Government and Public Institutions Addressing Needs Priority Actions



- Create a data and information sharing structure among key stakeholder groups;
- Identify a collaborative leadership model that advocates and promotes the well-being of immigrants and refugees at a systemic level. E.g. by working with other cities and local LIPs

NEXT STEPS



Strategy launch - Fall 2016

1. Develop action plan – identify project partners, resources and other supports
2. Identify actions which can be implemented through existing programs and approaches (e.g. Healthy City Strategy, Engaged City Task Force)
3. Identify new partners/funders
4. The LIP model requires leveraging support and funding from partners and community for implementation
5. Some priority actions are underway
E.g. Networking event for skilled professionals



Photo Courtesy of IEC-BC

VIP will monitor and assess progress and report back to IRCC and City Council.

vancouverimmigrationpartnership.ca