



# A8

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: October 6, 2009  
Contact: Baldwin Wong  
Contact No.: 604.871.6637  
RTS No.: 08358  
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20  
Meeting Date: October 20, 2009

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Deputy General Manager, Community Services Group

SUBJECT: Application for Provincial Grant to Support Demonstration Project entitled "*Dialogues between First Nations, Urban Aboriginal and Immigrant Communities in Vancouver*"

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- A. THAT Council authorize the General Manager of Community Services to enter into a contractual agreement with the Provincial Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development to conduct a Demonstration Project entitled "*Dialogues between First Nations, Urban Aboriginal and Immigrant Communities in Vancouver*" between November 2009 and April 2011, with terms and conditions acceptable to the General Manager of Business Planning & Services and the Director of Legal Services.
- B. THAT Council approve an overall budget for this Project of \$594,000, source of funding to be:
- a grant in the amount of \$395,000 from the Province;
  - services from the University of British Columbia valued at \$45,000;
  - City funding of \$60,000 from the existing Social Policy operations budget to support program administration and oversight;
  - \$94,000 to be raised from other levels of government, the private sector and foundations.

### **GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

The General Manager of Community Services RECOMMENDS approval of the foregoing Recommendations.

### ***CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS***

The City Manager RECOMMENDS approval of the foregoing Recommendations.

### ***COUNCIL POLICY***

In 2007, City Council adopted recommendations from the Mayor's Task Force on Immigration which includes a "Vision and Value Statement Concerning Immigrants and Refugees". The Statement includes the following preamble: "...It is therefore increasingly important that cities play an integral role in advocating for the inclusion of newcomers in Canadian society. This goal of inclusion is understood to be consistent with our existing commitment to honour and value the role of First Nations as the initial occupants of Canada..."

### ***PURPOSE***

This report seeks Council's approval for Social Policy Division to obtain a Provincial grant, under the B.C. Welcoming and Inclusive Communities and Workplaces Program, to undertake a citywide initiative entitled "*Dialogues between First Nations, Urban Aboriginal and Immigrant Communities in Vancouver*". The Project aims to increase understanding, awareness and communication between all the affected communities with the goal of fostering robust inter-community relations and collaboration. The Project will be implemented over a period of eighteen months. The Project's work will be guided by a Project Steering Group (PSG) comprised of representatives from First Nations, Urban Aboriginal and immigrant-serving organizations, and interested stakeholder groups.

This Demonstration Project will support Council's priority on building Strong, Safe and Inclusive Communities especially in regard to enhancing civic engagement and addressing immigration-related issues.

### ***BACKGROUND***

In July of 2009, the Social Policy Division of Community Services, in consultation with members of the former Mayor's Task Force on Immigration, community partners and stakeholders, submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) proposal to the Provincial Welcoming and Inclusive Communities and Workplaces Program (WICWP). The proposal is for the City to convene and facilitate a demonstration project which will bring together First Nations, Urban Aboriginal and immigrant communities to discuss issues and perspectives of common interest and concern, with the goal of fostering stronger inter-community relations. The EOI proposal was approved by the Province in August.

In September 2009, Social Policy submitted a final Project proposal to the Province. On September 28, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development announced that the City's proposal was approved, including the City's requested funding of \$395,000 towards the Project.

Pending Council's approval, staff will begin the process of finalizing a contractual agreement for the Project with the Ministry. The projected timeline for the Project is eighteen months, and the Project completion date will be April 2011.

## ***DISCUSSION***

Over the years, there has been an increasing recognition, both within the community and throughout various City initiatives, of the importance of relationships between First Nations, Urban Aboriginal and Immigrant communities.

This Project supports the Mayor's Task Force on Immigration "Vision and Value Statement" which recognises the importance of honouring and valuing First Nations in the context of the City's commitment in being inclusive for everyone including newcomers. The Mayor's Task Force recommendations and their implementation is a Council priority.

Between 2003 and 2006, the City's Social Planning and Cultural Services Departments supported the launching of Storyscapes. This was a community-led initiative working to increase the visibility of Aboriginal stories, images and perspectives in Vancouver through story-telling, public art video and multi-media installations. This initiative included an exploration of the historical relationships between Chinese and First Nations/Aboriginal communities up to the present time.

In 2007, Social Planning published the 'Inventory of Aboriginal Services, Issues and Initiatives in Vancouver'. It was recommended that the City take an active role in fostering and building partnerships between Aboriginal and other community groups and organizations.

Demographically, it should be noted that Aboriginal and immigrant populations are two of the fastest growing groups within the City of Vancouver. In 2006 census, 46% of Vancouver residents were immigrants. Local Aboriginal community estimates the Greater Vancouver Aboriginal population to be between 30,000-60,000.

This Project will build on existing partnerships and relationships between the City, First Nations, Urban Aboriginal organizations, immigrant-serving agencies and concerned stakeholders. The purpose is to increase understanding, awareness and communication among all the parties, with the goal of creating robust inter-community relationships and joint legacy projects.

### **Project objectives:**

The Project has the following key objectives:

- a) To create greater awareness of the histories and contributions of First Nations, Urban Aboriginal and immigrant communities and people;
- b) To produce and distribute a key document, based on research and interviews with community members, which will reflect histories, perspectives and issues of the communities;
- c) To create better connections between First Nations, Urban Aboriginal peoples and immigrant communities;
- d) To engage both youth and elders in the process;
- e) To create neighbourhood-based legacy project;
- f) To host celebratory events to mark the initiative;
- g) To document the process for broader community learning/sharing and create best practices.

## Proposed Project Program

There are five program modules planned under the initiative:

- 1) Action research - recruit and train youth from Aboriginal and immigrant communities to conduct a community survey and to interview key community members. The findings from this process will inform the writing of a "Story" document.
- 2) Dialogue Circles - to host Dialogue Circles, hosted by various agencies or groups, to meet and reflect on various topics. Topics may include: 1) a dialogue to remember history; 2) a dialogue to reflect on the present; 3) a dialogue to map out community assets and share future visions; 4) a dialogue to solidify future priorities or plans and ways of moving forward. Issues and perspectives arising from the Dialogue Circles will inform the writing of the "Story" document.
- 3) Cultural exchange visits - planning for up to ten cultural exchange visits among all stakeholder groups. This will lay the foundation for the closing celebratory event. Community members will learn more about the cultural practices and ceremonies of different communities.
- 4) Youth and Elder Program- building on existing resources, to further engage both youth and elders to reach out and make presentations to diverse communities, act as liaison, find common interests and develop joint projects.
- 5) Legacy projects - web-based and youth driven communications legacy project, and a neighbourhood-based project which will be highly visible and have longer-lasting impact on local residents.

The project will also be digitally documented and shared with media and interested communities and groups, including on the City's and community partners' websites. Ongoing liaison with diverse media will be a key part of the Project's communication plan.

For a more detailed Project Action Plan and timeline, please see Appendix A.

The Project has received significant support from many groups and individuals. So far, the following individuals have agreed to serve on the Project Steering Group:

1. Elder Larry Grant - Musqueam First Nation
2. Leah George Wilson, former Chief, Tseil Waututh First Nation
3. Professor Henry Yu, UBC, Faculty of Arts
4. Professor Linc Kesler, Director - UBC First Nations House of Learning & Senior Advisor to the President on Aboriginal Affairs
5. Winnie Cheung, Director of Community Engagement - UBC
6. Melissa McDowell - Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of B.C.
7. Susan Tatoosh, Executive Director - Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre
8. Tung Chan, CEO - SUCCESS
9. Eyob Naizghi, Executive Director - MOSAIC
10. Patricia Woroch, CEO and Chris Friesen, Director of Settlement - Immigrant Services Society of B.C.
11. Mabel Tung & Ken Tung - Civic Education Society
12. Barbara Ash, Dean of Student Services, Laara Mixon, Director of Aboriginal Education, Michael Yue, Co-ordinator, Special Projects - Vancouver Community College
13. Leslie Murray, President - Native Education College
14. Lynda Gray, Executive Director - Urban Native Youth Association
15. Simon Neame, Assistant Director - The Irving K Barber Learning Centre, UBC

16. Jill Baird, Curator of Education and Public Programmes - UBC Museum of Anthropology
17. Cecily Nicholson, Co-ordinator - Downtown Eastside Women's Centre
18. Anne Nickerson, Executive Director - Hastings Institute, City of Vancouver

The Project has engaged both Musqueam and Tseil Waututh First Nations representatives and it will seek their councils' support. As the Project moves forward, other significant groups will also be identified and invited to participate, including City departments and groups such as Planning, Cultural Services and the Vancouver Public Library.

This Project brings together organizations and communities which have not previously engaged with each other with the focus on building relationships. The process will engage a significant number of individuals and organizations, and may also influence public discourse on the subject of inter-community relation-building beyond the immediate scope of this project.

This Project will also offer the opportunity to further explore the relationship between "urban social sustainability" and "welcoming and inclusive" communities. The learning from this process can inform future discussions on this topic. Further, from a community development perspective, this Project will also provide key learning opportunities on public engagement strategies and the challenges, particularly as it tries to engage with two distinct and unique communities.

#### *FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS*

The Project's budget is as follows:

Revenue/Contributions	Confirmed/Requested	Total
Province WICWP	\$395,000 (confirmed)	\$395,000
City of Vancouver (in kind)	\$ 60,000 (pending Council's approval)	\$60,000
UBC ( services and in kind)	\$ 45,000 (confirmed)	\$45,000
Foundations	\$ 70,000 ( requested)	\$70,000
Private sponsorship	\$ 24,000 ( requested)	\$24,000
	TOTAL:	\$594,000

Expenditure	Estimated Cost
1. Staff & consultant (equivalent of 1.6 FTE )	\$234,000
2. Project administration ( Social Policy)	\$60,000
3. Trainers & Facilitators	\$20,000
4. Facilities, supplies and honoraria	\$12,600
5. Research and Information Package	\$70,000
6. Cultural Exchange Visits	\$12,400
7. Youth and Elder Program	\$30,000
8. Documentation and video	\$25,000
9. Legacy projects (2)	\$80,000
10. Opening and Closing Events	\$20,000
11. Communication	\$15,000
12. Project Evaluation	\$15,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$594,000</b>

The total costs for the project is estimated to be \$594,000. The Province has confirmed \$395,000 towards the Project. Social Policy will provide in kind administrative support totalling \$60,000. The University of British Columbia will contribute services valued at \$45,000. The balance of Project funds will be raised, with assistance from the Project Steering Group, from diverse sources including other governments, private sectors and foundations, for a total of \$94,000. If the \$94,000 cannot be raised, the neighbourhood legacy projects will not be implemented, which will reduce overall costs by \$80,000 (program) plus reduced staff time of \$14,000, for a total of \$94,000. There will be no additional costs incurred to the City.

The City's share of the funding in the amount of \$60,000 in kind is included in the Social Policy Division Operation Budget. There is no financial impact to the City.

In the event that the Province cannot provide the requested level of funding towards this Project, the City will not be able to proceed with the proposed initiative.

### ***CONCLUSION***

This Dialogue initiative will build on existing partnerships between the City, First Nations, Urban Aboriginal groups and immigrant communities. It aims to increase understanding, awareness and communication among these groups and to create more robust inter-community relationships and collaboration. The Project is innovative and ground-breaking through employing diverse community engagement strategies, engaging youth and elders, promoting and providing opportunities for personal and group interaction among diverse communities, creating legacy projects and convening celebratory gatherings. By articulating common ground and aspirations, and supporting community alliances and connectedness among these communities, the Project will contribute towards stronger social cohesion and community engagement, and a welcoming and inclusive Vancouver for all.

\* \* \* \* \*

Appendix A

# Dialogues between First Nations, Urban Aboriginal, and Immigrant Communities in Vancouver

Project Action Plan & Timeline

---



**Project Modules:**  
 1. Action research  
 2. Dialogue Circles  
 3. Cultural Exchanges  
 4. Legacy Projects  
 5. Youth Ambassador Program



<b>Project Steering Group</b>	<b>Meeting 1</b> Review and finalize Action plan & timeline, terms of reference, budget. Confirm community partners.	Host and attend project launch.	<b>Meeting 2</b> Project and budget update. Discuss legacy projects and funding.		<b>Meeting 3</b> Project and budget update. Update on interim report. Discuss 'Story' document. Discuss and confirm legacy projects and funding.		<b>Meeting 4</b> Project and budget update. Share project mid-point evaluation. Update on 'Story' document. Update on legacy projects.
<b>Program Initiatives</b>	Hire facilitators. Recruit youth interviewers. Start designing survey and interview tools.  Identify host groups and organizations for Dialogue Circles.	Hold orientation and training for youth interviewers.	Distribute surveys and conduct interviews.  Dialogue Circles (Jan-Mar): 3 or more hosted with participation by Aboriginal members 3 or more hosted with participation by immigrants; 1 hosted with both Aboriginal and immigrant participation.	Start discussing cultural exchange visits/tours.	Compile and analyze preliminary results of surveys/interviews. Develop overall design and content of 'Story' document..  Compile preliminary Dialogue Circles proceedings.	Start discussing Youth Ambassador Program.	Launch legacy projects: • Neighbourhood legacy project • Web-based youth community joint project  Cultural exchange visits (invite Dialogue Circle participants).
<b>Evaluation and Video Documentation</b>	Hire evaluator. Hire videographer.		Capture video footage of Dialogue Circles and interviews. Evaluator attends Dialogue Circles and interviews.		Complete project mid-point evaluation.		Capture video footage of exchange visits.
<b>Media and Publicity</b>	Develop Project communication plan. Hire communication consultant.	Project media launch.	Media update (after PSG meeting).		Media update (after PSG meeting).		Media update (after PSG meeting).
<b>Secretariat</b>	Responsible for overall Project implementation and deliverables. Liaises with PSG, community groups, City, and funder(s). Also responsible for raising additional funds if needed and overall budget management.						





- Project Modules:**
- 1. Action research
  - 2. Dialogue Circles
  - 3. Cultural Exchanges
  - 4. Legacy Projects
  - 5. Youth Ambassador Program



**Project Steering Group**

Finalize 'Story' document.

**Meeting 5**  
Project and budget update. **Update on legacy projects.**

**Meeting 6**  
Project and budget update. **Update on legacy projects.** Begin planning for closing event. Discuss communiqué on future partnerships.

PSG hosts Project closing celebration event.

**Project Initiatives**

Translate 'Story' document.

Print 'Story' document.

Complete legacy projects.

Prepare for closing event.

Project closing celebration event: Unveiling of 'Story' document, video, website, mapping, and neighbourhood legacy project.

Communiqué on future partnerships.

Legacy projects in progress

Launch Youth Ambassador Program.

Youth Ambassador Program continues

**Evaluation and Video Documentation**

Complete video.

Final evaluation report.

**Media and public**

Media update (after PSG meeting).

Media update (after PSG meeting).

Publicize Project closing celebration event.

**Secretariat**

Responsible for overall Project implementation and deliverables. Liaises with PSG, community groups, City, and funder(s). Also responsible for raising additional funds if needed and overall budget management.

