



## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: April 29, 2014  
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Meeting Date: May 13, 2014

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: General Manager of Community Services  
SUBJECT: Vancouver City Local Immigration Partnership

### *RECOMMENDATION*

THAT Council authorize the General Manager of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services, to enter into a contribution agreement with Her Majesty The Queen in right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, whereby Citizenship and Immigration Canada ("CIC") will provide funding for the City to undertake a Vancouver City Local Immigration Partnership initiative between June 2014 and March 2016.

### *REPORT SUMMARY*

This report seeks Council's approval for the City to enter into a contribution agreement with CIC to undertake a citywide initiative entitled "Vancouver City Local Immigration Partnership" ("VCLIP"). This two year initiative will establish a coalition of leaders and organizations from governments, institutions, non-profits and businesses to work together to strengthen the integration of newcomers in Vancouver.

VCLIP's activities will align with Council's priority of creating strong, safe and inclusive communities, and VCLIP actions will support the goals and targets of the Healthy City Strategy.

### *COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS*

There is no applicable Council Authority or previous decisions relevant to this report.

## *CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS*

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

## *REPORT*

### *Background/Context*

In 2005, a Vancouver Mayor's Working Group on Immigration ("MWGI") was established with the mandate of providing input on immigration policy and issues. Over the past nine years, MWGI has worked with community partners to support various initiatives in the City including establishing the City's Newcomer's Mentorship Program. The MWGI is currently co-chaired by Councillor Geoff Meggs and Professor Dan Hiebert.

Between 2010 and 2013, the Community Services Department convened the Vancouver Dialogues Project which fostered stronger relations between Aboriginal and newcomer communities. Funded by the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation, the project successfully involved thousands of Vancouverites and created strong partnerships between the City and the Aboriginal and immigrant communities. Some of the participating organizations continue to partner with the City on new relation-building initiatives.

In 2013-14, the Community Services Department obtained funding from the provincial Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training to undertake a Welcoming Communities initiative aimed to increase the capacity of local communities to support the integration of new immigrants. On March 4th, 2014, the initiative hosted a project-end summit event attended by council and 250 guests. Highlights of the event included the launching of two innovative digital publications: *Growing Roots: A Newcomer's Guide to Vancouver* and *First Peoples: A Guide for Newcomers*

In the summer of 2013, the federal government announced the repatriation of settlement funding from the province back to CIC. The renewed settlement program in B.C. includes a funding stream for 'Local Immigration Partnership' ("LIP") initiatives that build coalitions of partners and sectors to strengthen immigrant settlement & integration. With support from local community partners, Community Services put forward a proposal which was accepted by CIC and this resulting agreement with CIC will be entered into by the City upon Council's approval.

### *Strategic Analysis*

Regionally, the foreign-born population has more than doubled in the past twenty five years. Vancouver is the largest municipality in the metropolitan area, has the largest population of longer-term and recently arrived immigrants, and was the destination of over 28 per cent of newcomers arriving in the region between 2001 and 2006.

In recognition of this growing diversity, the City has developed policies and initiatives which address and respond to the opportunities and challenges that this diversity brings. Recent initiatives undertaken by the Mayor's Working Group on Immigration, the Vancouver Dialogues Project, the City Newcomer's Mentorship Program, the Engaged City task Force and the Healthy City Strategy, are strategic efforts by the City and community partners to engage with diverse residents and newcomers.

### *Vancouver City Local Immigration Partnership (VCLIP) Structure and Program*

MWGI has agreed to act as VCLIP's Leadership Council and provide strategic oversight and advice to the initiative over the next two years. VCLIP will also establish advisory committees and working groups to assist with the initiative. To date, twenty eight community organizations have agreed to participate as partners and are listed in Appendix A. It is expected that more organizations will join as partners as the initiative moves forward.

Proposed activities for VCLIP will include research, stakeholder engagement, project implementation, and a citywide symposium in 2016 to highlight results.

### *Four Areas of Focus*

Building on the Welcoming Communities initiative, VCLIP will develop strategies and collaborative work in four focus areas:

- 1) **Enhancing Newcomers Access to Services and Programs** - examine and address issues which will improve service co-ordination across immigrant service organizations and mainstream service sectors;
- 2) **Strengthening Intercultural and Civic Engagement** - VCLIP will propose and co-ordinate civic engagement activities among newcomers and longtime residents with the purpose of strengthening social relations and community cohesion;
- 3) **Creating Welcoming and Inclusive Workplaces** - building on successful pilot projects with small businesses and local BIAs, VCLIP will continue seek ways of partnering with small businesses to foster welcoming and inclusive workplaces for all. A special emphasis will be on workplace language literacy.
- 4) **Governments and Public Institutions Addressing Needs** - public sectors and governments play key roles in supporting newcomers integration. This area will examine how governments and public institutions can respond to newcomers needs including housing, health and access to local/municipal services.

### *Indemnification*

The standard form of contribution agreement as drafted by CIC includes an indemnity to be provided by the City in favour of CIC for any losses related to the performance by the City of its obligations under the contribution agreement, which is typical of many funding agreements. As there is low risk associated with undertaking this project, in these circumstances, staff recommend that the City provide this indemnity.

*Implications/Related Issues/Risk (if applicable)**Financial*

The federal government will provide approximately \$600K towards the VCLIP initiative. This funding will cover direct costs of approximately \$370K for staffing and \$230K of program costs, for the period from June 2014 to March 2016.

The City's contribution will be in-kind, in the form of office and meeting space and supervision of the project staff, valued at approximately \$143K in staff time, and \$49K in administration and overhead expenses.

The City's in-kind contribution will be funded from within the approved Community Services Operating Budget.

In addition to the federal and City contributions, project partners (see Appendix A) will be providing approximately \$130K of in-kind contributions towards the VCLIP initiative.

*Legal*

Legal Services will review and approve the contribution agreement.

*CONCLUSION*

The City of Vancouver has played a significant role in immigrant integration issues for many years. The Vancouver City Local Immigration Partnership initiative will enable the City and key stakeholders to find new ways to enhance existing services for newcomers, provide opportunities for collaboration amongst sectors, engage more newcomers through projects and research activities, and ultimately build stronger capacity among diverse sectors to better understand and respond to the needs, talents and challenges of newcomers. With concerted efforts by all, Vancouver will continue to be one of the most welcoming cities in Canada for all newcomers.

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List of Participating Agencies (as of March 2014)

- Association of Neighbourhood House
- Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House
- Collingwood Neighbourhood House
- DTES Neighbourhood House
- Family Services of Greater Vancouver
- Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House
- Gordon Neighbourhood House
- Immigrant Employment Council of B.C.
- Immigrant Services Society of B.C.
- Kitsilano Neighbourhood House
- Kiwassa Neighbourhood House
- LISTN ( Language Instruction Support and Training Network)
- Little Mountain Neighbourhood House
- Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House
- MOSAIC
- Musqueam representative
- Native Education College
- Pacific Immigrant Resources Society
- Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society
- South Vancouver Neighbourhood House
- Social Planning and Research Council of B.C.
- S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
- YMCA of Greater Vancouver
- Women Enterprise Centre
- Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Society
- Vancouver Board of Education
- Vancouver Community College
- Vancouver Public Library