



## Standing Committee on Policies and Strategic Priorities

# April 6, 2016



# Staff Recommendations

- A. That Council approve the Access to City Services Without Fear for Residents with Uncertain or No Immigration Status and direct staff to implement initiatives as outlined in the policy;
- B. That Council encourage the boards of Parks and Recreation, the Vancouver Police, and the Vancouver Public Library to adopt a similar policy.







# Background and Timeline

- 2007** Mayor's Working Group on Immigration's "Vision and Value Statement"
- 2014** Convened Sanctuary City Workshop  
Healthy City Strategy Adopted
- 2015** Consultations with key stakeholders:
  - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
  - Vancouver Police Department
  - Vancouver Public Library
  - Vancouver Coastal Health
  - Vancouver School Board
- 2016** Community Forum on draft Access to City Services Without Fear policy



# Policy Rationale – status

- The majority of people enter the country through authorized channels
- Their residency status changes if their:
  1. work/study permits have expired;
  2. sponsorship has broken down;
  3. refugee claim is denied;
  4. relationship with their employer is severed.





# Policy rationale: issues

- Mental / physical health impacts due to the chronic stress of living with the fear of being reported and deported
- Precarious employment and poverty: low wages, unsafe work conditions, exploitation by employers
- Domestic violence usually goes unreported
- Isolation and exclusion from the community



# Policy Rationale – impact

- Immigration status is a social determinant of health
- Fear of harm, detention and deportation prevents people from seeking help
- Currently, the City is not aware of any City services that require immigration status information
- City leadership can help to inform and influence others





# Other jurisdictions

## **In the United States:**

- San Francisco passed a Sanctuary Ordinance
- Los Angeles Police Department passed resolutions to prevent victimization of undocumented workers

## **In Canada:**

- City of Hamilton adopted Access to Services initiatives (2014)
- City of Toronto passed resolutions on “Access to City Services for Undocumented Torontonians” (2014)



# Policy framework

- Policy Statement
- Context
- Principles
- Limitations
- Policy Framework
- Implementation







# Policy Statement

## Purpose:

- To support access to City services by Vancouver residents with uncertain or no immigration status and who fear detention or deportation when they access services.
- To enable these residents to use municipal services without fear that the City of Vancouver will pass information about their immigration status to other institutions or orders of government unless required by law.



# Policy Statement, continued

- Applies only to services provided by the City of Vancouver
- Consistent with the City's core value of inclusion and safety for all residents.
- Government of Canada has jurisdiction over immigration policies and regulations, including law enforcement activities related to border management and immigration control.
- This policy relates only to the area of access to municipal services under the jurisdiction of the City.



# Scope & Limitations

- Will guide the actions of the City (elected officials & staff)
- The 3 civic agencies will be asked to adopt similar policies
  - Vancouver Police Board
  - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
  - Vancouver Public Library board
- Limitation: Only applies to services directly provided by the City



- a. Access to City services is not dependent on immigration status
  - Status of individuals will not be asked when seeking services
  
- b. Privacy of Information
  - No collection or sharing (unless required by law) of immigration status information





- c. Relationship with Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)
- City staff are not responsible for the enforcement of immigration laws and regulations
  - City staff are not permitted to disclose personal information except in accordance with the law





# Implementation

1. Create Guidelines for City staff
2. Align with existing City's existing review and complaint mechanism
3. Provide opportunities for City staff and community organizations to learn about the policy and guidelines





# Implementation

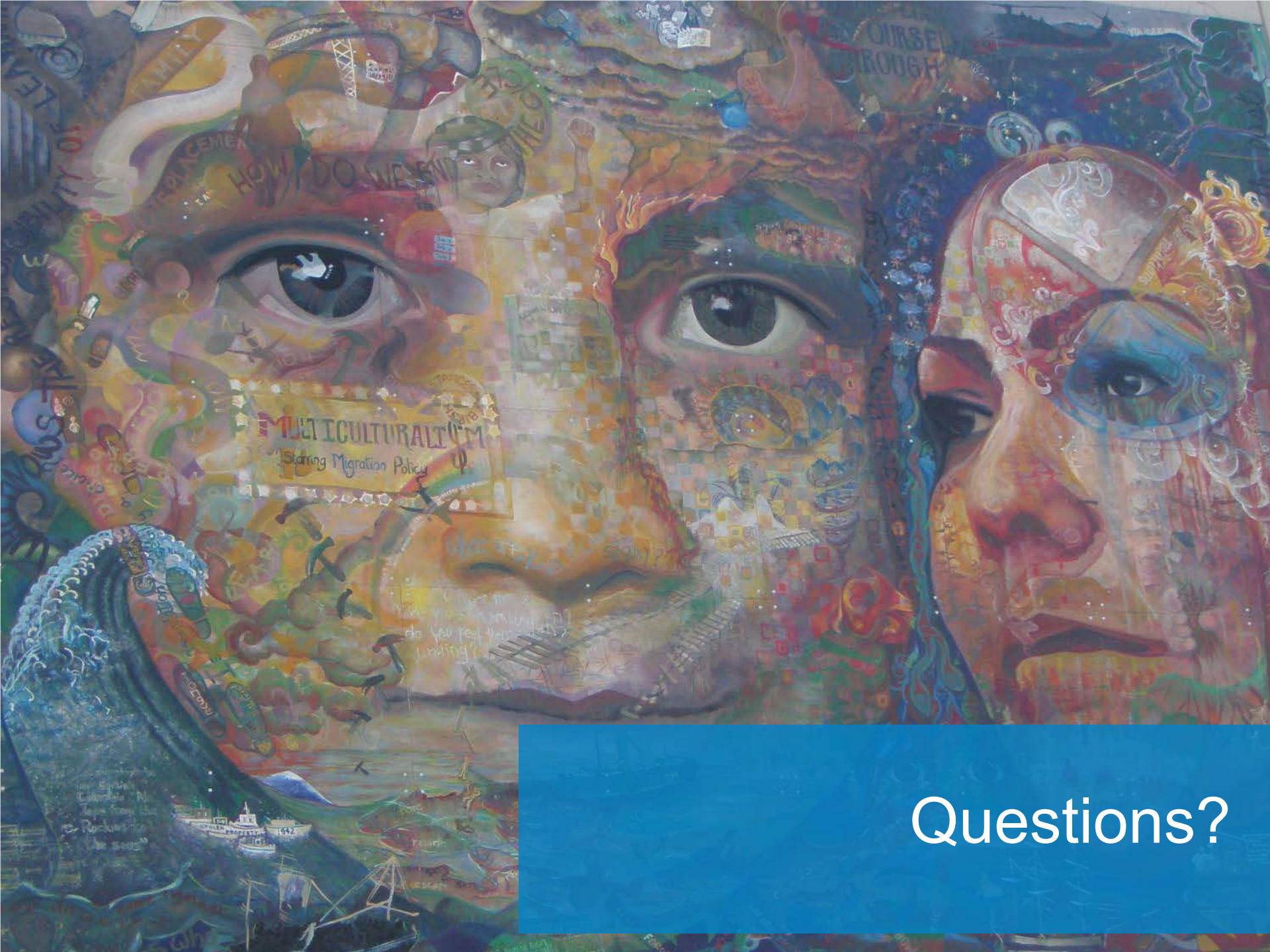
4. Implement a communication strategy to inform stakeholders and the community on the policy
5. Support the provision of services to Vancouver residents, regardless of immigration status
6. Annual reporting and evaluation



- The policy addresses some key concerns facing individuals with uncertain or no immigration status
- The policy aims to improve the health and well-being of these residents
- The policy enables these residents to use municipal services and to do so without fear
- The policy only applies to services provided by the City of Vancouver



- Mayor's Working Group on Immigration
- Community workshop - 30 participants (2014)
- Community forum - 60 participants (2016)
- Vancouver Coastal Health
- Vancouver School Board
- City Advisory Committees
- City agencies and departments:
  - Vancouver Police Department
  - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
  - Vancouver Public Library
  - Legal Services, Community Services, Housing, Fire and Rescue Services, Human Resources, Finance, Corporate Communications



Questions?