

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 22, 2026

TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

PLACE: Council Committee Room
Coquitlam City Hall
3000 Guildford Way
Coquitlam, BC

CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. **Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, November 19, 2025**

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 be approved.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

2. **Committee Orientation Review (Presentation by Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk)**

7:05 – 7:10 p.m. (5 minutes)

3. **2026 Work Plan (Introductory Comments by Victoria Elahi, Planner 1)**

7:10 - 7:30 p.m. (20 minutes)

Recommendation:

That the Committee recommend to Council to approve the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee 2026 Work Plan.

4. **Update on Cultural Services and Art in Public Spaces (Presentation by Hilary Letwin, Manager Culture Services)**

7:30 - 7:50 p.m. (20 minutes)



5. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)

7:50 - 8:20 p.m. (30 minutes)

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE - Thursday, March 5, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, November 19, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee convened on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at 7:01 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

**Indicates virtual attendance*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Matt Djonlic, Chair

Councillor Brent Asmundson, Vice Chair

Parmis Bagher Zadeh, Citizen Representative*

Leo Chen, Citizen Representative

Carolina Echeverri, Citizen Representative

Honore Gbedze, Citizen Representative

Nikki Kasravi, Citizen Representative*

Edgar Sanchez, Citizen Representative

Lucie Wee, Citizen Representative

ABSENT:

Tina Balachandran, Citizen Representative (regrets)

Ann Johannes, Citizen Representative (regrets)

Bita Rezaei, Citizen Representative

Bibi Singh, Citizen Representative (regrets)

STAFF:

Caresse Selk, Senior Manager Environment

Peer-Daniel Scheer, Manager Housing and Social Policy

Shanna Killen, Sustainability Programs Specialist

Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and provided an Indigenous territorial acknowledgement.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, September 17, 2025

The Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS**2. Climate Action Plan Update**

The Senior Manager Environment gave a presentation entitled “Climate Action Plan” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Suggestions on communication with youth about climate action including using Instagram and LinkedIn; engaging through Youth Council, schools, and college and university cultural clubs; and creating targeted messaging for the audience.
- Suggestions on communication with cultural and linguistic groups about climate action including collaborating with community organizations that may host workshops or help with translation; using WeChat, Line, WhatsApp, and Telegram; participating in City events and festivals that newcomers attend; including information in welcome packages for newcomers; and using simple language, translation technology, and cultural storytelling.
- Suggestions on communication mechanisms about climate action including installing City information boards throughout the community, advertising on the transit system, collaborating with businesses, recruiting community leaders as champions, and establishing clear branding for the Plan.
- Suggestions on promoting culturally relevant and informed climate action including leveraging knowledge of agricultural workers, hosting low barrier events, encouraging festivals to adopt traditional sustainable practices, and collaborating with local Indigenous peoples.

The Senior Manager Environment and Sustainability Programs Specialist left the meeting at this time and did not return (7:43 p.m.).

3. 2025 Year-End Review / 2026 Work Plan Development

The Manager Housing and Social Policy gave a presentation and referred to slides found in the agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Suggestion to explore reestablishing a Welcome to Coquitlam event.
- Suggestion to collaborate with the BC Youth Council and BC Youth Parliament on multicultural issues and events related to youth.
- Suggestion to address potential language barriers in the Emergency and Disaster Management Act Implementation Strategy.

- Suggestion to incorporate issues of newcomer employment and changes in economic immigration in the Talent and Retention Strategy.
- Suggestion to review the impact of Spirit of Coquitlam grants.
- Suggestion to have presentation(s) from the RCMP or Community Safety regarding relationships with cultural communities and on hate crime reporting and response.

4. Committee Members' Roundtable / Multicultural Communities and Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)

The Chair invited Committee members to share emerging issues and information regarding events occurring in their communities.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Report that Immigrant Services Society of BC has availability in free English classes for permanent residents and refugees.
- Concern that online hate speech is increasing.
- Report that the Volunteer Recognition Event will be held in the spring of 2026.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – 2026

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Councillor Matt Djonlic, Chair

Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk



City of Coquitlam – Legislative Services 2026 Advisory Committee Orientation

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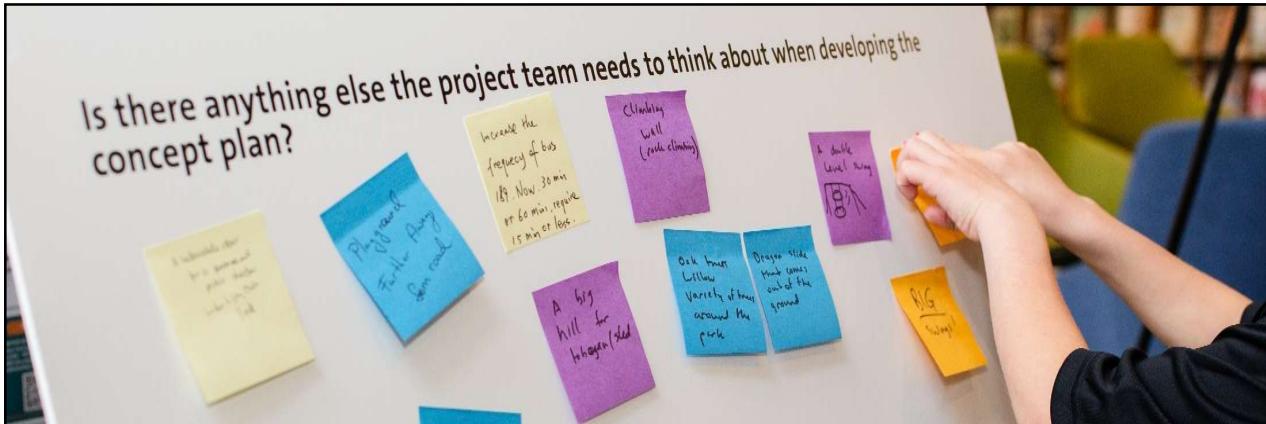
Agenda: Our Work

1. What
 1. Purpose
 2. Plans and Mandate
 3. Roles and Responsibilities
2. How
 1. Meetings
 2. Other Activities
3. When
 1. 2026 Meeting Schedule
4. Where
 1. Access
 2. Facilities
 3. Safety



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1



What

Purpose | Plans and Mandates | Roles and Responsibilities

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2

Purpose

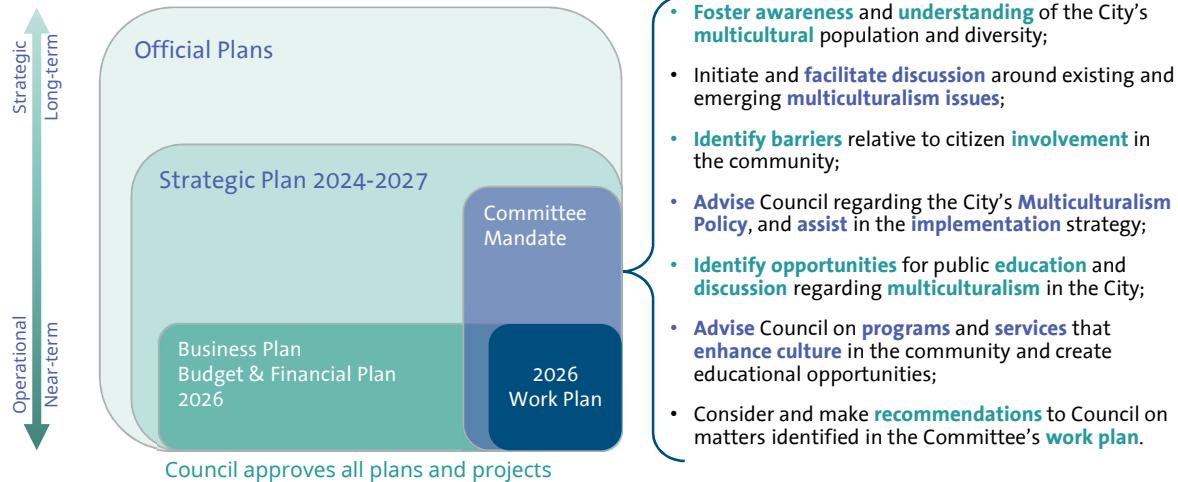
- Established by Council as **dedicated stakeholder groups**
- An organized forum for community **engagement** in the City's **planning** process
- **Mandates** are established by Council to **direct** the **topics** brought forward
- Provide **perspectives, advice** and **recommendations** to Council



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3

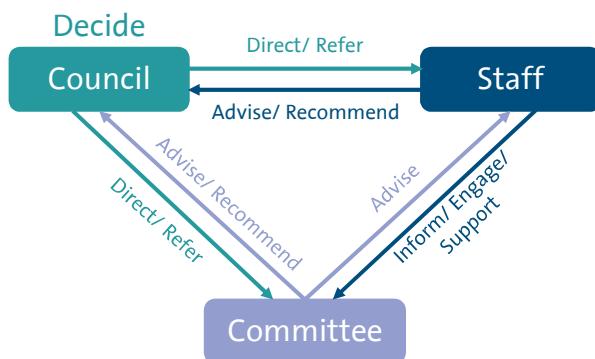
Plans and Mandate



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4

Roles and Responsibilities



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Roles and Responsibilities

Committee Members

- Review agendas in advance
- RSVP and regularly attend meetings
- Observe rules of debate
- Consider public interest above all
- Treat others with respect
- Adhere to standards of ethics

Chair and Vice Chair

- Approve agendas
- Lead meetings (focus and time)
- Maintain rules of/ supports debate
- Seek engagement and consensus
- Provide and encourage respect
- Maintain standards of ethics

Roles and Responsibilities

Staff Liaison(s)

- Prepare agenda items/ activities
- Provides information/ advice
- Manages Work Plan progress
- Manages Committee advice and recommendations

Committee Clerk

- Prepares/ distributes agenda package
- Supports process/ procedure
- Manages/ communicates meeting logistics, attendance, administration
- Records Committee minutes



How

Meetings | Other Activities

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8

Meetings

- Public
 - **Schedule** and **agendas** are posted
 - Public may **observe** not participate
 - Chair may allow to speak, but not to make motions or to vote
 - Must sit in gallery; only Committee members or invited speakers may sit at the table
 - **Streamed** by Zoom Webinar
 - **Minutes** are posted



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9

Meetings

- Agendas and Attendance
 - Packages distributed one week in advance for your **review**
 - Confirm your attendance by **RSVP**
 - **Quorum** required to hold a meeting
- Minutes
 - **Official record** of previous meeting
 - In agenda package for your **review** and **feedback**



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10

Meetings

- Electronic Participation (Zoom)
 - **Exceptional** option to be used only when in-person attendance is not possible
 - Indicate need for electronic participation in **RSVP** or **ASAP** in unforeseen circumstances
 - A **Panelist link** will be provided to join the Zoom Webinar
 - Ensure you have an **appropriate space** and **audio** equipment to listen and be heard clearly



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11

Meetings

- Decorum and Debate
 - Council **Procedures Bylaw** and Roberts **Rules of Order**
 - **Guidance** of Chair and Committee Clerk
- Decisions
 - **Advice** given through **discussion** – may be incorporated in staff recommendations
 - **Recommendations** must be made by making and voting on a formal “**motion**”



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12

Other Activities

- Special Meetings
 - May be called by the Chair, Mayor, or Council
- Sub-Committees
 - May be established by the Committee to undertake investigation, research, or project planning for Committee consideration
- Events
 - Requests for volunteers may be made by staff
- Site Visits
 - May be organized to provide in-person understanding of a facility or program



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13



When

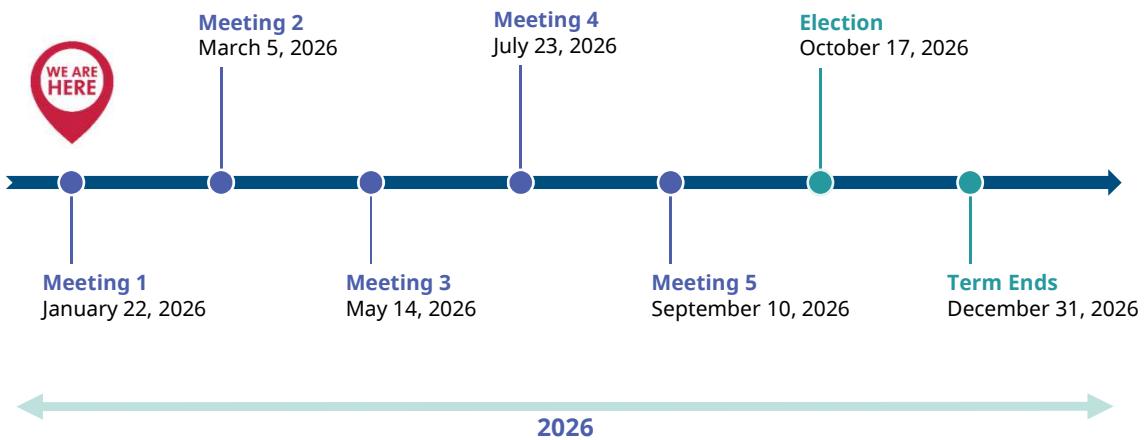
2026 Meeting Schedule

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14

2026 Schedule

All meetings are held in the Council Committee Room



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15



Where

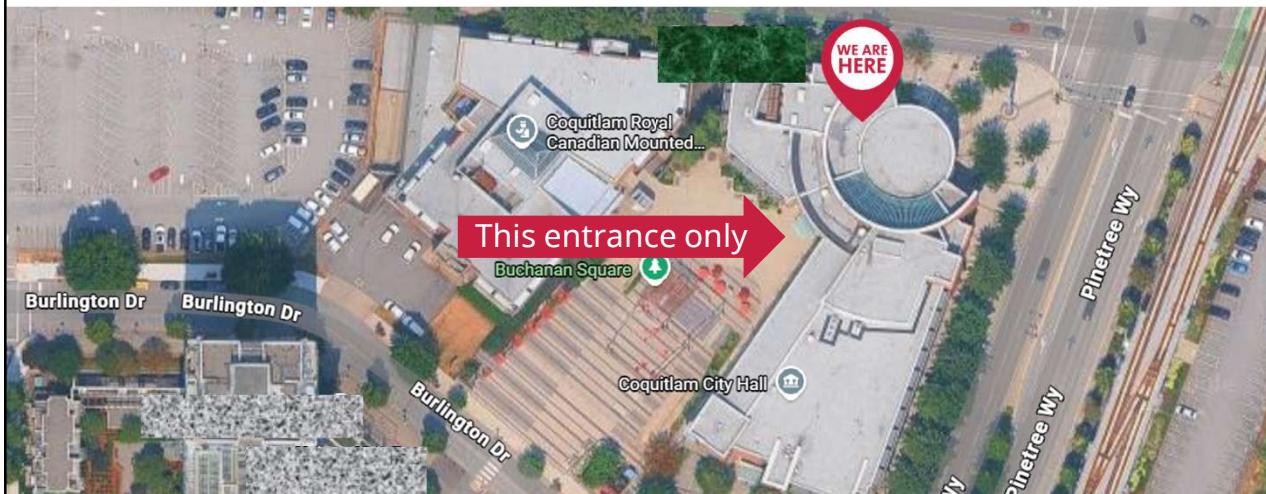
Access | Facility | Safety

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16

Access

One point of access after business hours



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17

Facility

Contact the Committee Clerk regarding any accessibility requirements/ concerns



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18

Safety

In case of an emergency, follow the directions of the Committee Clerk



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19

Questions?

Alex McLellan

Committee Clerk

committeeclerk@coquitlam.ca

Legislative Services

604-927-3010

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20



Your service is appreciated!

Thank you

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Committee Mandate

The mandate of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee (MAC) is to provide a local perspective and advice to Council with respect to achieving the City's strategic goals and accompanying strategic directions. The Committee will:

- Foster awareness and understanding of the City's multicultural population and diversity;
- Initiate and facilitate discussion around existing and emerging multiculturalism issues;
- Identify barriers relative to citizen involvement in the community;
- Review and provide input to Council regarding the City of Coquitlam's Multiculturalism policy;
- Assist in the development of a multiculturalism policy implementation strategy for the City of Coquitlam;
- Identify opportunities for public education and discussion regarding multiculturalism in the City;
- Provide input into the development and implementation of programs and services that enhance the culture of the community and create educational opportunities; and,
- Consider and make recommendations to Council on matters identified in the Committee's work plan.

ITEM	DEPARTMENT / LEAD	INITIATOR / RATIONALE
1) Committee Welcome	Legislative Services / Committee Clerk	Staff / Administrative
2) Review and Approve 2026 Work Plan	Community Planning / Staff Lead	Staff / Terms of Reference
3) Accessibility and Inclusion Plan Update	Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion / Kate Brown; Manisha Dutta	Staff / Business Plan

2026 Work Plan
Multiculturalism Advisory Committee

ITEM	DEPARTMENT / LEAD	INITIATOR / RATIONALE
4) Festival & Events Strategy update	Economic Development / —	Staff / Business Plan
5) Engagement with RCMP and Fire	RCMP; Fire / __	Staff / External Engagement
6) Emergency and Disaster Management Act Implementation Strategy update	Emergency Management / —	Staff / __
7) Talent and Retention Strategy update	Corporate Services / __	Staff / __
8) Welcome to Coquitlam – 2026 For discussion - event planning and review	Committee / Staff Lead	Committee / __
9) Cultural Understanding Project Update	Committee / Staff Lead	Committee / __
10) Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership (TCLIP) presentation	TCLIP / TCLIP Manager	Committee / __
11) Canada Day 2026 event planning and review	Committee / Staff Lead	Staff / __
12) Immigration data and statistics	Community Planning / __	Staff / __
13) Community Safety Strategy update	Community Safety / __	Staff / Business Plan
14) 2026 Year-end Review / Identify potential items for the 2027 Work Plan – Committee feedback/input	Community Planning / Staff Lead	Staff / Terms of Reference
15) Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)	Committee / Chair	Committee / Terms of Reference

**City of Coquitlam
Community Services**

Update on Cultural Services and the Art in Public Spaces Plan

Multiculturalism Advisory Committee

January 22, 2026

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Music in the Streets and Paint in the Park



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Streetscape Enhancement Program

- Completed two multi-faceted installations
- Completed benches in Austin Heights and City Centre
- Completed two new murals in South Coquitlam and Burquitlam

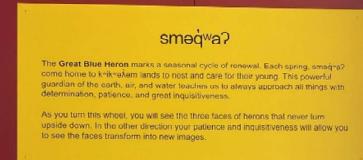


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Art in Public Spaces Plan

- Public Art
 - Artist-designed, place-specific
 - Sculptures and murals
- Place-Making Elements
 - Commercially-fabricated
 - Street furniture
- Cultural Recognition
 - Territorial acknowledgment



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Why is it Important?

- Enhances and beautifies public space
- Educates
- Commemorates
- Supports Reconciliation
- Fosters sense of belonging
- Creates unique sense of place reflecting shared history, values and culture

4

Collection Overview

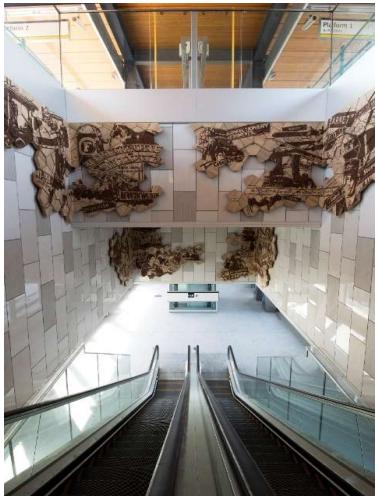
- 56 works of art
 - Aged 1-39 years
- Value of Collection: \$2.35M
- *Public Art Policy and Program Plan (2011)*



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5

Evergreen Line



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7

Streetscape Enhancement Program



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Next Steps

- Update the Plan
- Engage with the community
- Make proactive maintenance plans



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Guiding Vision

Plan for future Art in Public Spaces:

- Geographic equity
- Larger, more impactful projects
- Opportunities for funding, partnerships, donation and sponsorship
- Diversify themes to reflect unique sense of place, shared history, values and culture
- Art as an economic driver of cultural tourism



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Question

- How can the Art in Public Spaces Collection and Plan support multiculturalism in the City?



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11



Thank you



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