

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, June 18, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee convened on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 7:00 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
Tina Balachandran, Citizen Representative (arrived at 7:11 p.m.)
Leo Chen, Citizen Representative
Honore Gbedze, Citizen Representative
Ann Johannes, Citizen Representative
Nikki Kasravi, Citizen Representative (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)
Bitra Rezaei, Citizen Representative*
Edgar Sanchez, Citizen Representative
Bibi Singh, Citizen Representative
Parmis Bagher Zadeh, Citizen Representative

ABSENT: Carolina Echeverri, Citizen Representative
Lucie Wee, Citizen Representative

STAFF: Victoria Elahi, Planner 1
Miryana Heath, Planning Data Analyst
Bryan Leung, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and provided an Indigenous territorial acknowledgement.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

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

The Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Presentation on Immigration Canada

The Planning Data Analyst gave a presentation entitled “Immigration British Columbia” and referred to slides in the Agenda package.

Nikki Kasravi entered the meeting at this time (7:05 p.m.).

Tina Balachandran entered the meeting at this time (7:11 p.m.).

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The proportionality of economic migration to other types of migration.
- Concerns about permanent residency application delays and different avenues of immigrant advocacy.
- Opportunity for an open-dialogue City event focusing on the storytelling of permanent residency application delays and using the event to connect new immigrants with community services.
- Opportunity for community organizations and the City to share stories of immigrant residents awaiting their permanent residency status with local Members of Parliament.

Bitia Rezaei left the meeting at this time and did not return (8:15 p.m.).

The Planning Data Analyst left the meeting at this time and did not return (8:16 p.m.)

3. Canada Day Update and Volunteer Sign-up

The Planner 1 provided introductory comments relative to the Canada Day Update and Volunteer Sign-up.

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

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Committee members informing their respective networks about the Canada Day festivities in Coquitlam.
- Status of the volunteer Spanish Speaking Club at Glen Pine Pavilion.
- Initiatives for emergency relief funds or peer support groups due to rising global conflicts.
- Distress in the non-profit settlement community due to lack of funding

assistance for in-person English classes, the general unpopularity of moving English classes online to support demand, and the long waitlists for English classes.

- Concerns about moving diverse ability caretaker teachers from high schools to middle schools, resulting in no diverse ability teachers in high schools.
- Opportunity to restart the Welcome to Coquitlam event.
- Opportunity to re-scope the mandate of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee for future iterations.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Wednesday, September 17, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Councillor Matt Djonlic, Chair

Bryan Leung, Committee Clerk