

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