



# Fostering a Healthy and Engaged City for Newcomers

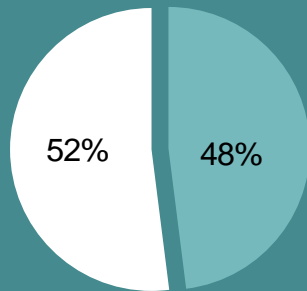
Vancouver Immigration Partnership/  
City of Vancouver

Pathways to Prosperity  
Conference  
December 2016

# Vancouver's Immigrant Population

## foreign born

48% of Vancouver residents were born outside of Canada



## language



8%

of population

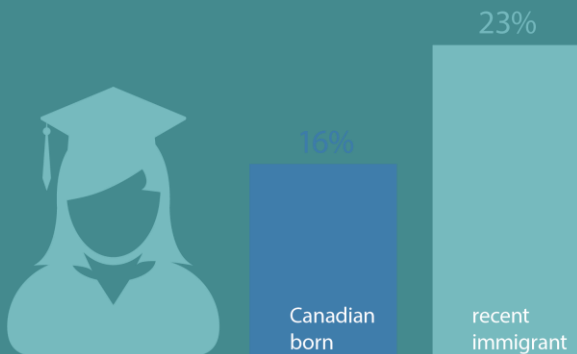
46,000

people in Vancouver

cannot converse in English or French

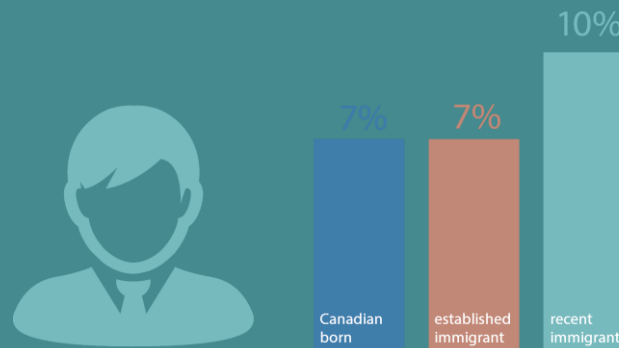
## education

EDUCATION ABOVE BACHELOR'S DEGREE



## unemployment

Recent immigrants experience higher unemployment rate than established immigrants and Canadian born individuals.



Source: 2011 National Household Survey, Statistics Canada

Note: Recent immigrants are people born outside of Canada who immigrated to Canada between 2006-2011

# **THE CITY OF VANCOUVER IS:**

- 1. Building on a Strong Foundation**
- 2. Increasing Access to City information, services and programs**
- 3. Supporting Social and Cultural Development**
- 4. Providing Financial Support**
- 5. Building Facilities**
- 6. Optimizing Strategic Partnerships**
- 7. Supporting Strategic Policy Directions**
- 8. Convening the Vancouver Immigration Partnership**

# BUILDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

- City's Multicultural Relations Policy
- Hastings Institute/Equal Employment Office
- City's Mentorship Program
- Cultural Communities Advisory Committee
- Mayor's Working Group on Immigration, 2005-present



# INCREASING ACCESS

- Published Newcomer's Guides
- 311 Information and Referral Services – language access
- Leisure Access Program – for low income families/individuals
- Doors Open Vancouver
- Pop Up City Hall
- Engaged City Task Force Report



## Pop-Up City Hall

VISITED OVER

**50 LOCATIONS**

AND HAD

**OVER 8,600 INTERACTIONS**

IN ENGLISH, CANTONESE,  
MANDARIN, PUNJABI,  
TAGALOG AND VIETNAMESE



# SUPPORTING SOCIAL and CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Community needs assessment
- Social research
- Arts and cultural development projects
- Awards and annual commemorative events



# PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Community Services Grants
  - organizational, neighborhood houses, food, social enterprise, social innovation
- Childcare Grants
- Green Grants
- Social Infrastructure Grants
- Cultural Grants





# BUILDING FACILITIES

- Community Amenities Contributions (CAC) Capital Plan – supports capital projects such as neighborhood houses, family places, immigrant service agencies
- Supportive housing

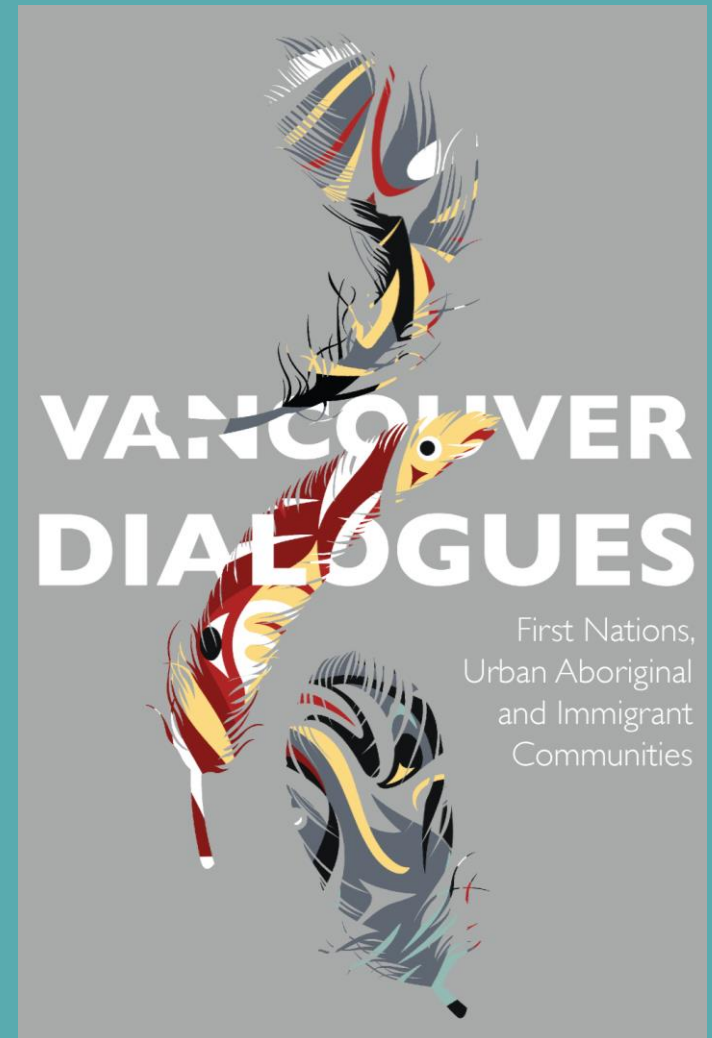


ISSofBC - Welcome House for Refugees



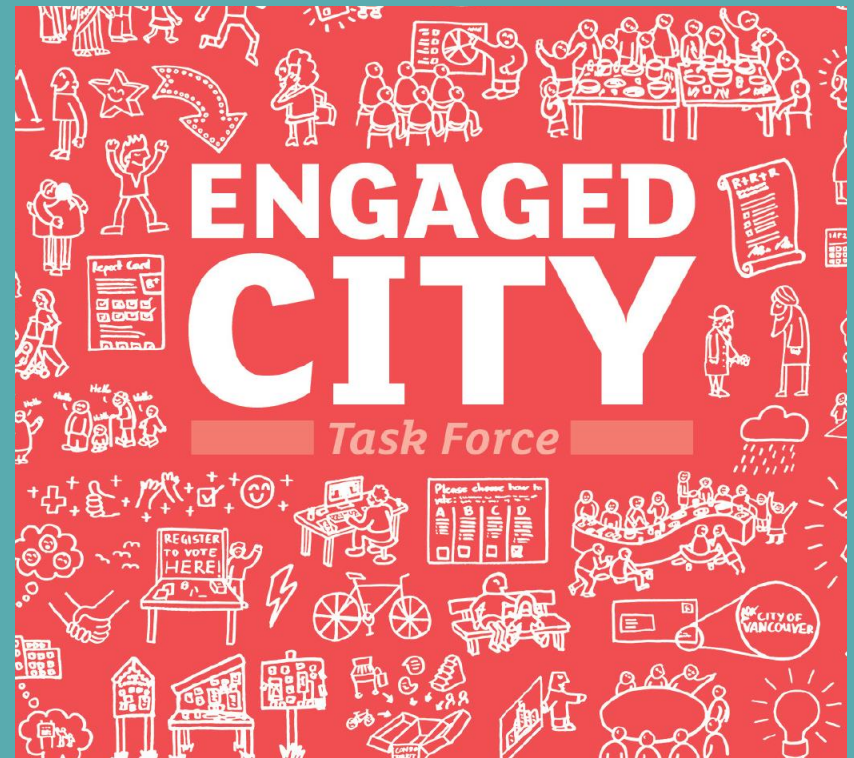
# OPTIMIZING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- Federal; Provincial Governments
- Foundations; United Way
- Business (BIAs, Board of Trade & others)
- Universities: research/internships
- Community initiatives
- First Nations
- Healthy City Strategy
- Vancouver Immigration Partnership



# SUPPORTING STRATEGIC POLICIES & PLANS

- Healthy City
- Engaged City Task Force Report
- City of Reconciliation



# Vancouver Immigration Partnership:

1. Welcoming Communities Program to LIP
2. LIP Overview
3. Strategy Highlights
4. Next Steps



# FROM WCP to VIP





# Context (cont'd):

In April 2014, Council approved for staff to sign a contribution agreement with the Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to undertake a Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) Initiative.



# Context

The New Start Strategy corresponds to the Healthy City Strategy goals of:

- access to human services
- making ends meet
- feeling connected and included
- collaborative leadership



# Context (cont'd):

The Mayor's Working Group on Immigration (MWGI), co-chaired by Councilor Geoff Meggs and Professor Dan Hiebert, oversees the project, and the Strategy development is guided by the MWGI Vision and Value Statement :

- Cities are playing an increasingly important role in advocating for the inclusion of newcomers;
- The goal of inclusion is consistent with the City's commitment to reconciliation by honoring and valuing the role of First Nations;
- Vancouver is proud of its cultural diversity and is committed to fostering an open, welcoming and safe environment to people of all cultural backgrounds.

# VIP's Approach

**120**

*Partners invited  
from seventy two  
organizations*

**4**

*Theme Areas*

**28**

*Priority Actions to  
address needs\**

*\* Plus other actions for consideration*



# **VIP's Approach** (Cont'd):

## **New Start Strategy's Four Theme Areas:**

**Access to  
Services**

**Intercultural  
and Civic  
Engagement**

**Welcoming  
and Inclusive  
Workplaces**

**Governments  
and Public  
Institutions  
Addressing  
Needs**

# New Start Strategy's Priority Actions Highlights



# Access to Services Priority Actions



- **Mapping and assessing key service systems which support immigrant settlement and integration;**
- **Enhance collaboration between immigrant serving and broad-based community service organizations;**
- **Propose public awareness campaigns to promote newcomers' services;**
- **Recommend initiatives to enhance ESL learning opportunities.**

# Intercultural and Civic Engagement Priority Actions



- **Develop Initiatives to engage immigrants with long-time residents including First Nations;**
- **Build on initiatives recommended by the Engaged City's Task Force and Canada 150;**
- **Continue the City's work on reconciliation and addressing historical injustices;**
- **Conduct inter-community dialogues involving youth and other groups.**

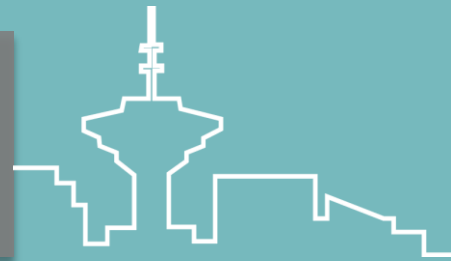


# Welcoming and Inclusive Workplaces Priority Actions



- **Conduct an employer's survey;**
- **Build on the Healthy City Strategy's recommendations on social procurement;**
- **Assess and recommend sectoral mentorship programs;**
- **Convene networking events with business, employers and skilled immigrant professionals.**

# Government and Public Institutions Addressing Needs Priority Actions



- **Create a data and information sharing structure among key stakeholder groups;**
- **Identify a collaborative leadership model that advocates and promotes the well-being of immigrants and refugees at a systemic level. E.g. by working with other cities and local LIPs**



Together,  
WE  
STRENGTHEN  
each other.

[vancouverimmigrationpartnership.ca](http://vancouverimmigrationpartnership.ca)  
[nadia.carvalho@vancouver.ca](mailto:nadia.carvalho@vancouver.ca)