

Pathways to Understanding

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Indigenous Initiatives & Partnerships

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER



**“EDUCATION
IS THE MOST
POWERFUL
WEAPON
WHICH YOU
CAN USE TO
CHANGE THE
WORLD.”**

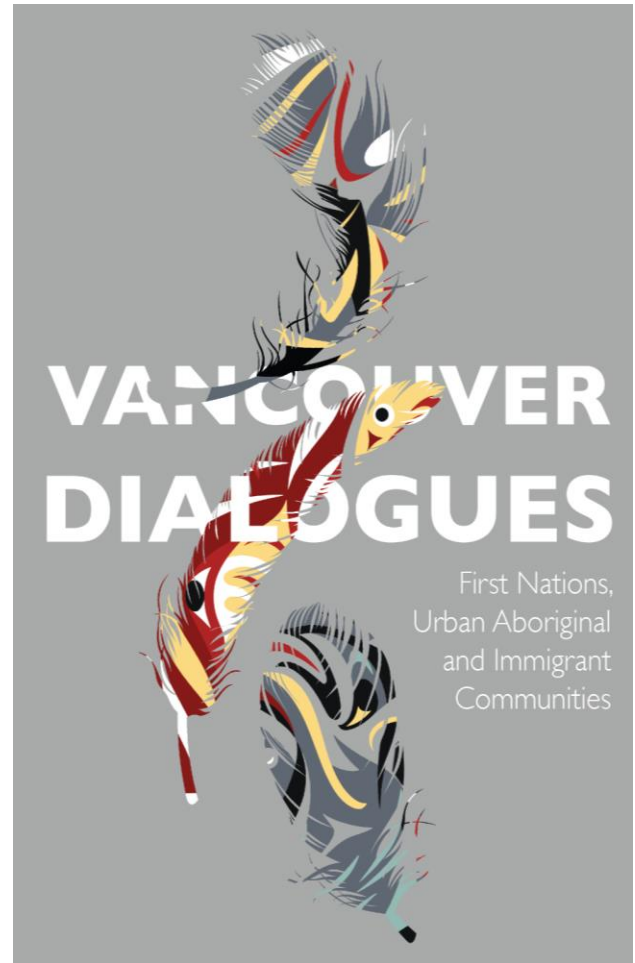
NELSON MANDELA

“How can there be peace without people understanding each other; and how can this be if they don’t know each other?”

- *Lester B. Pearson, former Prime Minister & Nobel Peace Prize Winner*

DIALOGUE PROJECT

- Increase understanding & strengthen relations between Indigenous & Immigrant communities
- 27 Community Partners
- January 2010 to March 2013
- Recommended by the Mayor's Working Group on Immigration



KEY INITIATIVES

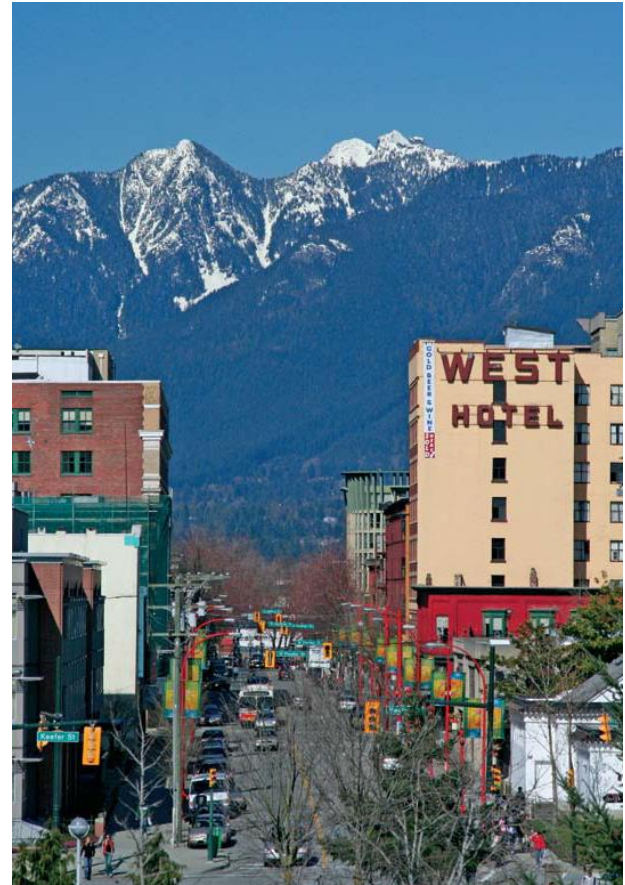
Dialogue Circles

Community Research

Cultural Exchange visits

Youth & Elders

Storytelling Project



DIALOGUE CIRCLES

- Facilitated groups of up to 15 people
- Share their 'stories'.
- Safe space
- 120 participants

“Stories build community and create understanding. They are the memories and oral histories of peoples who have taken different journeys to create a home in Vancouver”

COMMUNITY RESEARCH

500+ people responded
& said that Vancouver is:

- A Welcoming City (85%)
- Welcoming towards immigrants (73%)
- Welcoming towards Indigenous People (39%)



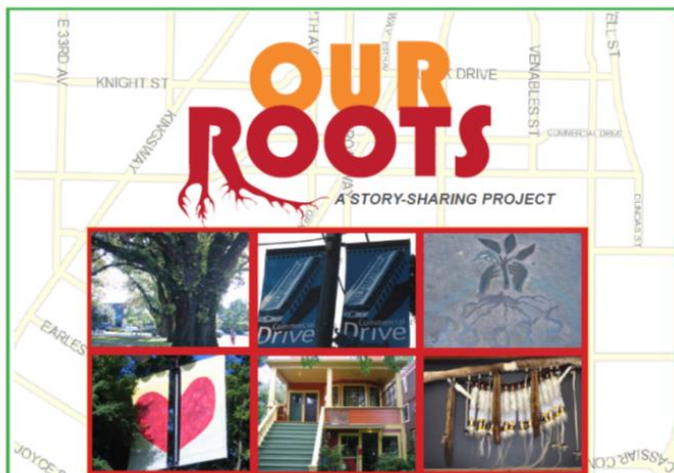
CULTURAL EXCHANGE VISITS

- 15 cultural exchanges
- Over 750 people participated
- ½ day on site visits
- Sharing stories & engaged in dialogue
- Sites were places such as local First Nations, Ismaili Centre, Chinatown, Immigrant organizations etc

ELDERS & YOUTH PHOTOVOICE PROJECT



STORYTELLING PROJECT



This exhibit celebrates the launch of the *Our Roots* project, a collection of the Aboriginal and immigrant experiences of the Grandview-Woodlands area. See and hear the diverse voices of this community. Witness the rich history that makes this neighbourhood so unique and vibrant.

Come share our stories.

Our Roots is supported by MOSAIC, Britannia Community Centre and the Vancouver Dialogues Project. It is funded by the City of Vancouver's 125th Anniversary Grants Program.

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Karen Fong, City of Vancouver
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Raylene

Growing up here, hopefully when [my daughter Kathryn] grows up she'll turn out to be a good listener, a helpful person, kind, I would like for her to grow up kind, to have a good sense of humour, just to grow up to be well-rounded and respectful to other people. You know, be respectful to all people. To treat people like she's being treated today. People are good to us, and we're new, so when other people are new, then she'll be just as helpful to them.

[Kathryn] won't lose her Aboriginal culture growing up in the city. She's learning a city Aboriginal culture. Here we have a Friendship Centre, ten minute walk away. We have an Urban Native Youth Centre, same about ten minutes away. We have an Aboriginal Mother's and Children food program right next door and then she goes to a school that offers Aboriginal culture and parents are welcome to attend.

Sam

We had the first Italian Days [in the 1970s]. The first year I was the president. We invited many associations from different parts of Italy. We invite them to bring their culture and their food. People were strolling, buy food, buy some wine and some beer. Our object was to introduce Commercial Drive to Vancouver. And we succeeded. After that, it was well known as Italian part of Vancouver. Certain things you still have to come to Commercial Drive to buy. Like in the springtime, they come from all over to buy particular seeds like rapeseed and radish. Everybody seems to come up to Commercial Drive to get them. We create that sense of community.



Peggy

The [Aboriginal Friendship Centre] means a lot to me because I have so many different friends here now. I get really lonely sitting at home all by myself. People from all different places they come here. Métis people, Cree people, and people from all up and down the coast. I just seemed like I fit right in and started doing everything that I'm doing right now.

I belong to a dance group. We're called Rainbow Creek Dancers and we go all over the place. We really love dancing. I use it as a part of my healing with the residential school issue. It helps us a lot. It's kind of like prayer. We try to cook traditional foods, but a lot of time we wouldn't be able to get traditional foods. Smoked salmon and our smoked cod. [Without the Aboriginal Friendship Centre.] I think some of the elders might just live in a room downtown and some of them might not have a place to have their food even, I'm not sure. But I know that the traditional foods are very important for the elders for their strength.

Da

It's the one area where I have least had to worry about how I behave. Who am I here? I don't have to be self-conscious. There's no judgment around. I can dress the way I like. I can be with my friends and partner the way I want without having to second-guess. "Oh, is this okay?" Is this appropriate? Will I get into trouble? None of that. Some people might not think of the Drive as the safest area. But I do. I feel totally safe and at home here.

I sing with the Cultural Medicine Cabinet, a choir that's largely composed of people who live in the neighbourhood. It's a healing space for people who don't particularly fit into the mainstream. We sing political songs, union songs, gospel, South American activist songs, and African songs. When I sing I enter a zone where other concerns just drop away. You're just with the music and people. You're singing in harmonies, joining your voices together. That's an amazing way of connecting, heart to heart. I feel nourished and connected to a wider community after every session.



With support from the City of Vancouver's 125th Anniversary Grants Program



YOUTH SUMMIT

Highlights:

- 2 ½ day event
- 120 youth participants
- 28 workshops
- Showcased youth initiatives
- Built alliances
- Documentary video

hi:ya'yəs

A **Dialogues** Summit on
Strengthening Relations

SFU Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue
580 West Hastings Street, Vancouver
Coast Salish Territories, BC



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- 9,000 participants over 3 years
- 49 organizations/partners contributed & collaborated
- 3 books published & one in Chinese
- 2 documentary videos
- Youth engagement
- Celebratory Events
- Led to and continues to lead to more initiatives

CITY OF RECONCILIATION 2014

“We will form a sustained relationship of mutual respect & understanding with local First Nations and the Urban Aboriginal Community”




THE GUIDE



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AWARENESS MODULES FOR STAFF



CITY OF
VANCOUVER

Menu


- Decolonization
 - Where Do The Myths Come From?
 - Stereotypes
- ▶ Micro-Aggressions
- Cultural Appropriation
- Taking Back Control
- Aboriginal Rights & Title, Self-Deter...
- Aboriginal Resistance
- ▶ Idle No More
- ▶ Decolonization is Every Canadian's ...
- ▶ Reconciliation

Module 3: Decolonization

Module 3: Decolonization

"Each day that Indigenous rights are not honoured or fulfilled, inequality between Indigenous peoples and the settler society grows."

- Idle No More



◀

NEXT ▶

CANADA 150+

Engaging communities under the umbrella of
“Strengthening Our Relations”:

- Gathering of Canoes
- 10-day festival in downtown Vancouver
- Walk for Reconciliation – over 50,000 people
- Presence and partner in other events

WALK FOR RECONCILIATION

- Over 50,000 people walked for the second time
- Vancouver Immigration Partnership & member agencies very actively involved



Canada



OTHER INITIATIVES

- Citizenship ceremonies held at the Musqueam First Nation
- New teaching materials for BC LINC instructors
- Aboriginal Advisory Committee
- Immigrant/First Nations community visits

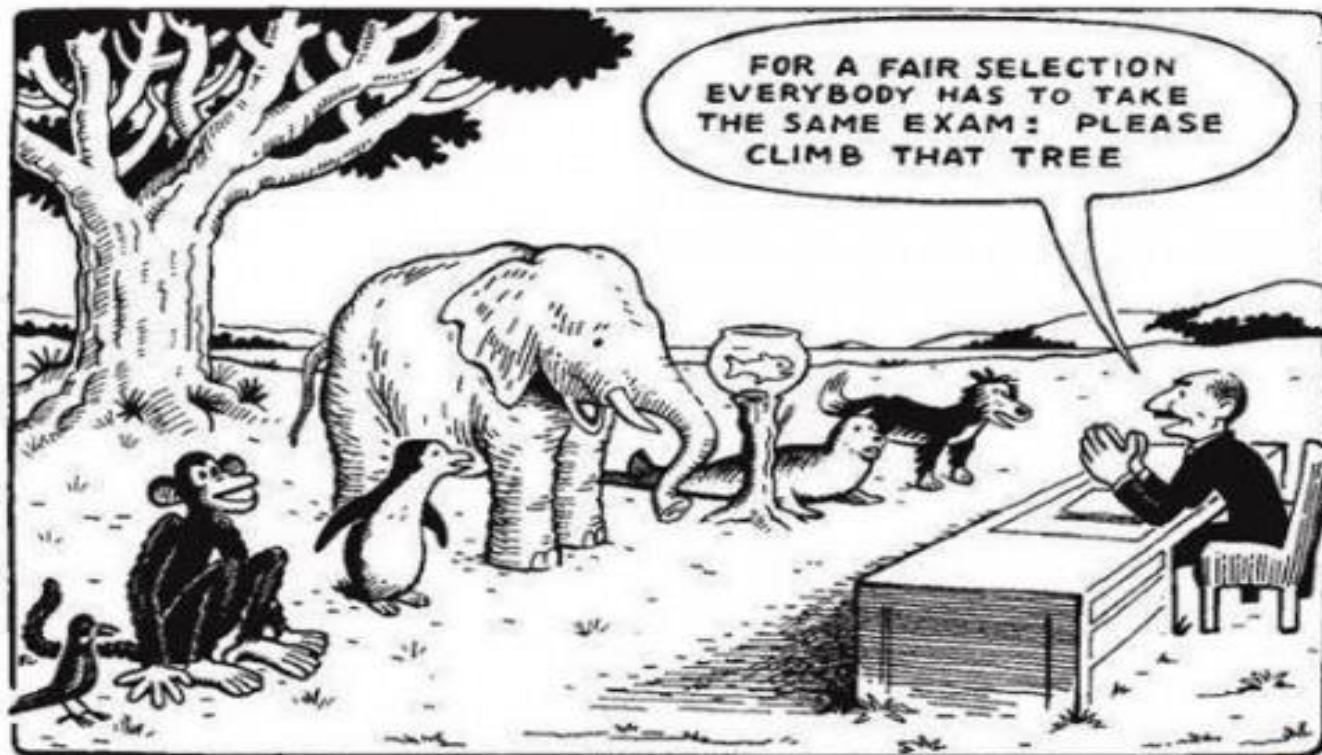
CHALLENGES

- Lack of time & funds
- Lack of buy-in on all sides
- Overcome bias, myths & stereotypes
- Very time consuming
- *Why should we do this?*
- Frustrating
- Size of groups & diversity of Indigenous people
- Politics
- Forget that it is about relationship-building

HOW

- Listen
- Be intentional & authentic
- Indigenous 4 R's: Respect, Relevance, Reciprocity & Responsibility
- Must always include those with “*lived experience*”
- Legitimate priority
- Be open and transparent
- Sustainable
- Give
- Communicate, communicate, communicate

UNCONSCIOUS BIAS



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RECOGNISE YOUR PRIVILEGE

