

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, June 16, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee convened on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 7:02 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Brent Asmundson, Chair
Simin Ahmadian
Adrienne Ahn (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)
Leticia Pamela (Pam) Garcia
Honore Gbedze
Ann Johannes
Jessica Liu
Priti Shah
Iris Sun
Zahra Zaker

REGRETS: Councillor Bonita Zarrillo, Vice Chair
Andrea Kwasnicki

ABSENT: Carolina Echeverri

STAFF: Genevieve Bucher, Manager Community Planning
Torill Gillespie, Social Planner
Miryana Heath, Planning Data Analyst
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. **Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, May 19, 2021**

The Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. **Census and Demographic Presentation**

The Chair introduced the Planning Data Analyst to the meeting. The Planning Data Analyst spoke to the overall usefulness of demographic data collection and provided a three-part presentation, with on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Coquitlam Demographic Structure and Immigration – June 16, 2021

- Three Parts of this Presentation
- Part One: Demographic Trends Related to Multiculturalism
- Why Immigration?
- What is Coquitlam's Demographic Structure?
- Canada's Population Pyramid – Population: 35,121,730
- Other Types of Population Pyramids
- Why is Canadian Population Declining?
- 2016 Canada's Generations
- Fertility Rates
- 1921-2021 Canada's Total Fertility Rate
- BC Historical Population Pyramid
- What Is the Trend in Coquitlam?
- 1921-2015 Total Fertility Rates: Canada and Coquitlam
- 1921-2015 Total Fertility Rates: Canada, Coquitlam, and Abbotsford
- 2017 Fertility Rates in Metro Vancouver
- Coquitlam's Generations
- 2017 Canada's Population Pyramid / 2016 Coquitlam's Population Pyramid
- 2016 Abbotsford's Population Pyramid / 2016 Coquitlam's Population Pyramid
- 1991 to 2016 Coquitlam: Percentages of Total Population
- Metro Vancouver Population Projections
- I Can't Support Them!
- Part Two: Coquitlam's Multicultural Demographic Overview
- Coquitlam's Multicultural Diversity is Evident in a Number of Census Categories
- 1. Immigrant Population by Census
- Definitions
- 1. Coquitlam's Area Plans
- Characteristics of Immigration in Coquitlam
- Immigration Period (%)
- Immigration Period (#)
- Total Number of All Immigrants by Area Plan
- Recent Immigration Place of Birth
- Recent Immigrants by Area Plan
- 2. Language Most Often Spoken at Home
- Coquitlam Top 80% of Non-Official Languages Spoken at Home
- Top 5 Non-Official, Non-Aboriginal Languages Spoken at Home
- English Most Often Spoken at Home by Community Profile Area
- Mandarin Most Often Spoken at Home by Community Profile Area
- Cantonese Most Often Spoken at Home by Community Profile Area
- Korean Most Often Spoken at Home by Community Profile Area
- Persian (Farsi) Most Often Spoken at Home by Community Profile Area
- Tagalog Most Often Spoken at Home by Community Profile Area
- Spanish Most Often Spoken at Home by Community Profile Area
- Arabic Most Often Spoken at Home by Community Profile Area
- Russian Most Often Spoken at Home by Community Profile Area
- 1. Ethnic Origin
- Ethnic Origins in Coquitlam and British Columbia (%)
- Ethnic Origins (%) by Area Plan
- Coquitlam Top 80% of Declared Ethnicities

- Immigration by Intended Destination and Country of Origin
- Canada – Admissions of Permanent Residents by Province/Territory of Intended Destination and Immigration Category, January 2015 – April 2021
- British Columbia – Admissions of Permanent Residents by Province/Territory of Intended Destination and Immigration Category, January 2015 – April 2021
- Canada – Admissions of Permanent Residents by Province/Territory and Census Metropolitan Area of Intended Destination, January 2015 – April 2021
- Top 10 – Admissions of Permanent Residents by Country of Citizenship, January 2015 – April 2021
- Part Three: Impact of COVID-19
- Methodology
- Economic Difference Between Immigrant and Non-immigrant Population Before COVID-19
- Economic Difference Between Immigrant and Non-immigrant Population Before COVID-19 – Poverty Rates (%)
- Economic Difference Between Immigrant and Non-Immigrant Population After COVID-19
- Self-reported Employment and Financial Impact of COVID-19 and Use of Federal Income Support Among Crowdsourcing Participants by Visible Minority Groups, 2020
- In Conclusion
- References

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation for the excellence of the data presented
- The belief that it would be interesting to see how the yet to be released Statistics Canada census information would compare to the data presented
- Whether staff could provide links of the data sources used to prepare the presentation to the Committee
- The potential impact of COVID-19 on Canada's population pyramid, as presented
- Whether the impacts of social determinants on fertility rates were considered by statisticians
- Whether or how non-binary people are included within fertility rate projections
- That to make population projections, statisticians only consider the female sex (child-bearing women) and not gender
- The belief that immigration is key to the growth of Canada
- The belief to ensure the future of Canada, all Canadian governments must partner together to give people an opportunity to grow
- Past beliefs regarding over-population of the world and how those beliefs impacted birth rates in North America
- The desire for a future presentation to include a graphic regarding pandemics and their effect on birth and death rates, including COVID-19's impacts on Canadian seniors 60-69 years of age
- That immigration is the purview of the federal government and federal assistance to municipalities relative to housing and other social factors is limited
- The understanding that the need for federal funding assistance may vary widely from one municipality to another and one province to another
- Quebec's program to support immigrants, the federal assistance provided for that program, and how immigrants leaving Quebec could skew the program's figures

- The desire to see information regarding income levels and income groups for households living in Coquitlam
- The economic impacts of COVID-19 on Canadian communities and the understanding that some communities are more vulnerable than others
- The possibility of receiving future presentations about pressing local, regional, and national topics of interest to the Committee
- The belief that the only way to solve local immigration issues is to raise the profile of the issues at the federal level
- Whether the collection of data from immigrant services groups in Coquitlam and the provision of that data to the City could help inform the federal government regarding the need for greater local funding and supports for immigrants
- The understanding that the need for additional funding and supports for immigrants and refugees had previously been raised with the federal government by the Union of BC Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities

The Planning Data Analyst undertook to determine whether a study had been done regarding what affects fertility rates in Canada, and endeavored to provide information regarding income levels and income groups by households living in Coquitlam.

In response to a question from a Committee member, the Planning Data Analyst confirmed that she could make future presentations detailing pertinent information and available studies that could be of interest to the Committee, such as the correlation between language level and income level.

The Planning Data Analyst thanked the Committee members for their questions and feedback. She noted that Committee members were welcome to email her directly with any further questions.

At the request of the Chair, the Committee Clerk undertook to provide a copy of the presentation to the Committee by email.

3. Disaggregated Demographic Data Collection Sub-Committee Update – Proposal Review and Discussion

The Social Planner thanked the Sub-Committee members for their time, effort and expertise. She referred to the proposal titled “Sub-Committee Findings - Disaggregated Demographic Data” previously circulated to the Committee by email, and noted her belief that it provided a practical introduction to disaggregated demographic data and how it could be used to identify and adjust disparities within the local community. She further noted that next steps for the Committee’s consideration were provided on the last page and the Sub-Committee could answer any questions that the Committee might have.

At the invitation of the Social Planner, the Sub-Committee Leader spoke. She thanked the Sub-Committee and staff for their work on the proposal and spoke to its purpose, process, highlights, and next steps.

The Chair invited questions and/or comments from the Committee regarding the proposal.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The potential purchase, timing, and relevance of Statistics Canada data
- That the Planning Data Analyst would be attending an upcoming workshop and could report back regarding the potential purchase of Statistics Canada data
- The understanding that the BC Office of the Human Rights Commissioner report titled "Disaggregated Demographic Data Collection in British Columbia: The Grandmother Perspective" was the framework for the Provincial government, however, to date there had been no such data collected
- The Data Community Portal available to municipalities and the variables provided within it that were available for analysis
- That Statistics Canada has studies with statistically valid samples available for extraction
- That the City, through its surveys, collects a small amount of disaggregated data
- The fundamental desire to do no harm and be very thoughtful relative to the collection and analysis of disaggregated data
- The desire that any demographic data collection take hidden or indirect crises into consideration, including the opioid crisis
- The agreement that it is essential to be very thoughtful about where and how disaggregated data would be used
- The desire for the City to receive the proposal and incorporate it into the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiative currently underway as part of the 2021 Business Plan
- That those working on the front lines in settlement services understand that systemic barriers exist in large ways
- The belief that the collection of disaggregated data provides important fact-based evidence to support advocacy and promote equity work
- The purpose of the Sub-Committee to identify sources of disaggregated data for the City to use
- That the DEI initiative would be coming to the Committee for input at various points as it evolved
- The belief that demographic data is not 100% accurate because some people are not comfortable or willing to provide personal information

The Chair expressed that the Sub-Committee had done a good job of identifying the uses, both positive and negative, of disaggregated data and noted that the proposal could be given to staff and the consultants working on the DEI initiative so that it could be used as a process reference tool.

The Sub-Committee Leader asked the Committee whether it had any amendments, questions or concerns relative to the proposal/next steps, and whether it could see the proposal moving forward. A Committee member noted his belief that since the City was currently undertaking the DEI initiative, the next steps should be to leave the proposal with the City and to provide input to staff when the DEI initiative was presented to the Committee during a future meeting. The Chair agreed and provided some further details regarding the process and timing that could be followed relative to presentation of the DEI initiative to the Committee for input.

The Chair requested that the Manager Community Planning report back at the next meeting

regarding the proposed timeline for the DEI initiative.

The Chair thanked the Sub-Committee for its work. He noted that systemic racism was one issue of multiculturalism and spoke to the past ways that the City had focused on breaking down barriers and helping new immigrants understand the resources and services available in Coquitlam.

4. Multicultural Communities and Emerging Issues Updates (Standing Agenda Item)

The Chair requested that the document titled "Cross-Cultural Dialogues: Intentional Multiculturalism – Draft Project Charter" be recirculated to the Committee by email, and asked the members to please read it and be prepared to discuss it during the next meeting for consideration as an addition to the Committee's 2022 Work Plan.

The Chair invited the Committee to share items of information and emerging issues from their communities. The following was shared:

- That links would be provided by email regarding two upcoming events: a Metropolis North American (MNA) Migration Policy Forum, and a S.U.C.C.E.S.S. BC program titled "How to Talk to Your Kids About Race and Racism".

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, July 21, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

CHAIR



Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk