

**MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, July 15, 2020**

A Regular Meeting of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee convened on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 7:04 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

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| COMMITTEE MEMBERS: | Councillor Trish Mandewo, Chair<br>Councillor Teri Towner, Vice Chair<br>Simin Ahmadian (arrived at 7:12 p.m.)<br>Adrienne Ahn<br>Honore Gbedze<br>Andrea Kwasnicki<br>Priti Shah<br>Iris Sun<br>Zahra Zaker |
| REGRETS:           | Carolina Echeverri<br>Ann Johannes   |
| ABSENT:            | Pamela Garcia  |
| STAFF:             | Genevieve Bucher, Manager Community Planning<br>Kathleen Vincent, Manager Corporate Communications<br>Torill Gillespie, Social Planner<br>Miryana Heath, Planning Data Analyst<br>Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk |

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**1. Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, June 17, 2020**

The Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 were approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2. Census and Demographic Presentation**

At the invitation of the Chair, the Planning Data Analyst introduced herself to the Committee and gave introductory remarks regarding the purpose and the two-part format of the information that would be shared. She provided the first part of the presentation, with on-

screen slides titled as follows:

- Coquitlam Demographic Structure and Immigration – July 15, 2020
- Two Parts of this Presentation
- National Trends Related to Multiculturalism
- Global News (Poll by IPSOS)
- There is a Cross-Over of Concerns Regarding:
  - Refugees
  - Permanent Residents
  - Irregular Border Crossing
  - Total
  - 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
- Canada's Total Fertility Rate
- BC Historical Population Pyramid
- What Is the Trend in Coquitlam?
- Total Fertility Rates: Canada and Coquitlam
- 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
- The Only Child
- In Conclusion
- References

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether population projections for the 2016 Census could be compared to the most current projections provided by Metro Vancouver
- The significant differences between the population ages and labour forces of the District of West Vancouver and the City of Vancouver
- What the decline in fertility rates captured in the 2016 Census are attributed to
- The understanding that Immigration Services Canada is now allowing applications under "humanitarian" grounds and whether that demographic is being captured by Statistics Canada
- That Immigration Services Canada was the source of the data regarding refugees and permanent residents in the presentation
- How demographers are projecting COVID-19 could impact population pyramids, especially birth rate increases, and the desire that the 2021 presentation include that information if possible
- The impact of COVID-19 on world populations and the challenges that the

municipality and higher levels of government will face relative to comprehensive governing and pandemic response strategies

- The belief that governments need to engage young people to provide information regarding actions they could take post-pandemic to help ensure a better future
- The desire for statistics about undocumented and temporary workers relative to their labour and taxation contributions in Canada
- The understanding that temporary workers are currently documented through the proper government channels
- The understanding that BC provides medical coverage (after a two-month waiting period) for anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms regardless of whether they are Canadian or not
- The understanding that in response to COVID-19, the Province of Ontario has changed its medical coverage so that immigrants can qualify for immediate coverage
- The impact of the pandemic on social costs, including everyday living expenses, and whether that statistical information could be provided in future
- That the Immigrant Refugee Citizen of Canada (IRCC) website has an open data section that provides refugee and humanitarian statistics
- Statistics relative to inter-municipal and interprovincial population growth
- Whether Coquitlam has enough young people to serve as an experienced labour force and considerations relative to ways for the City to retain that segment of the population going forward
- Whether Statistics Canada collects gender information as part of the Census
- Whether data is available regarding the settlement location of those who initially cross into Canada illegally and are later accepted by Immigration Canada
- The challenges that undocumented newcomers can face including the understanding that for an individual to access food banks documentation is required

The Planning Data Analyst provided the second part of the presentation, with on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Multicultural Make Up of Coquitlam – July 15, 2020
- Coquitlam's Multicultural Diversity is Evident in a Number of Census Categories
- 1. Immigrant Population by Census
- 1. Coquitlam's Area Plans
- Definitions
- 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
- Economic Effects of COVID-19 on Immigration Population
- Methodology
- Economic Difference Between Immigrant and Non-Immigrant Population BEFORE COVID-19
- Economic Difference Between Immigrant and Non-Immigrant Population AFTER COVID-19

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether the City had local census data available and, if so, whether it could be shared publicly
- Whether the City has local data publicly available regarding the economic differences between immigrant and non-immigrant populations pre- and post-COVID-19
- Whether it could be worthwhile for the City to aggregate the data of Tri-Cities' municipalities in order to provide a well-rounded picture of the areas' demographics
- Corporate Communications' desire to direct its communications messaging to various cultures and demographics within Coquitlam
- Appreciation for the information provided in the presentation and how the information could be used effectively
- How the Community Planning division utilizes demographic information regarding the makeup of Coquitlam communities to inform and support policy recommendations
- How demographic data could be utilized by the various levels of government to support those living below the poverty line
- Whether the City captures data relative to the socio-economic status of its population to accurately determine who is living in poverty
- The understanding that capturing socio-economic data could also be an effective tool to root out systemic racism
- The availability of a national study previously conducted by Statistics Canada that demonstrated the differences in earnings between genders and sexes relative to managerial and lower level positions
- Socio-economic statistics pre- and post-COVID-19 and that impacts appear to be highest on recent immigrants

The Planning Data Analyst thanked the Committee members for their questions and feedback. At the request of the Committee, staff undertook to circulate a copy of the presentation PowerPoints to the members.

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

The Chair invited the Committee to share information updates regarding emerging issues occurring in their communities. Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The demographic information available through the Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership (TCLIP) website
- The wealth of emerging issues in the community and the desire to ensure that items raised are relative to the City's jurisdiction and the Committee's mandate and work plan
- Whether the City could post a promotional video on the City's website to let newcomers and established residents know that Welcome to Coquitlam was rescheduled from the fall of 2020 to the spring of 2021

In response to a question from the Chair, the Committee expressed support for the idea that staff investigate options relative to providing advance promotion of the 2021 Welcome to Coquitlam event on the City's website.

The Manager Community Planning and the Manager Corporate Communications undertook to work together and report back to the Committee on the tools that could be utilized to provide virtual and in-person participation opportunities for the 2021 Welcome to Coquitlam event.

The Committee members offered to share further information and event links with the Committee Clerk for dissemination to the group via email.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

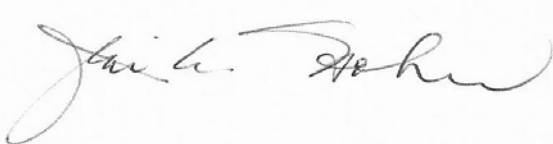
**NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, September 16, 2020**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

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CHAIR



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Jeri Hohn  
Committee Clerk