

CLIENT: Let's Talk Richmond

PROJECT: Let's Talk Social Planning: FORUM

PROJECT SUMMARY

ID	TOPIC	BY	ADDED ON	COMMENTS	VOTES	AGREE/ DISAGREE
1	Affordable Housing: What role do you think the city should have?	Richmond Administrator	15 Jun 2010	0	0	0
2	Intercultural Harmony: What can the city do to help immigrants to better integrate into the community?	Richmond Administrator	15 Jun 2010	6	2	5
3	Older Adults - Are Richmond service providers prepared to meet the future needs of our aging population?	Richmond Administrator	15 Jun 2010	0	0	0
4	Social Planning: What does Richmond do well that should be preserved as a Social Planning Strategy is discussed?	Richmond Administrator	15 Jun 2010	1	0	1
5	Youth - ?????	Richmond Administrator	15 Jun 2010	0	0	0
6	Supporting Families: How can the city best help?	Richmond Administrator	15 Jun 2010	2	2	2
7	Community Social Services: How can the city help ensure that needed services are available to Richmond residents?	Richmond Administrator	16 Jun 2010	4	3	1
8	Over the next 10 years, what social issues will Richmond need to address?	Richmond Administrator	18 Jun 2010	5	5	7
9	How could Richmond residents feel more engaged and included in community life?	Richmond Administrator	14 Oct 2010	0	0	0
10	What can you do as residents to make Richmond a safer place?	Richmond Administrator	14 Oct 2010	0	0	0
11	Is there any aspect of life in Richmond that has helped or hindered you or your family to successfully meet life's challenges?	Richmond Administrator	14 Oct 2010	0	0	0
12	Imagine that you have a chance to support one social cause or group to improve the quality of life in Richmond. What would that cause or group be?	Richmond Administrator	14 Oct 2010	0	0	0
13	How can technology or social media be used to better connect and engage with this generation of youth?	Richmond Administrator	14 Oct 2010	0	0	0
14	What would you do to make the community more welcoming and inclusive for our youth?	Richmond Administrator	14 Oct 2010	0	0	0
15	Does Richmond deserve a reputation of being the most accessible city in Canada?	Richmond Administrator	14 Oct 2010	0	0	0
16	What opportunities can be created to connect older adults to their community?	Richmond Administrator	14 Oct 2010	0	0	0
17	What do you think we should do to ensure that older adults are well informed about services available to them?	Richmond Administrator	14 Oct 2010	0	0	0

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INTERCULTURAL HARMONY: WHAT CAN THE CITY DO TO HELP IMMIGRANTS TO BETTER INTEGRATE INTO THE COMMUNITY?

Traditionally other levels of government have had the main responsibility for supporting the settlement of new immigrants. In Richmond, where a majority of residents are first generation immigrants, are there things that the City should do to help immigrants to become more fully engaged in the community? Would an increased City role result in improved intercultural harmony?

ID	COMMENT DETAILS	COMMENT	AGREE	DISAGREE
38	By: Mr Tubs On: 16 Jul 2010	the fact is that municipalities like Richmond do do immigrant settlement work...in the broader sense of the concept. staff must spend hours introducing immigrants to city services and dealing with daily concerns that immigrants have. Other levels of government don't acknowledge that role or fund it and many municipalities like Richmond are in denial about having this role...in case they have to take on unfunded duties that are seen as federal and provincial responsibilities...odd really as are already doing the work?	0	0
42	By: Fisherman49 On: 21 Jul 2010	I feel that one of the basic needs new immigrants struggle with is language. There are numerous ESL classes in the community offered by a variety of organizations/institutions. We should work to maximize the efficiency of these ESL classes as well as offering them in our local community centers.	1	0
56	By: Geodetic On: 25 Jul 2010	A major obstacle to integration is lack of a common language. In Richmond where many immigrants are only able to speak one more more dialects of Chinese, walls are erected in the community when immigrant shopowners are unable to communicate with residents and visitors who are not from China. The Asian malls along Three Road are a delight to visit and I enjoy spending time there, but I have the benefit of being able to speak Cantonese. I regularly see non-Chinese speakers hesitate to explore these malls and when they do, they are unable to converse with the shopowner or his/her staff. Canada has two official languages, and I think it's important to integration that all businesses are able to serve the public in at least one of these languages. This applies to more than just the Chinese of course. All immigrants must learn English if they are to integrate with the rest of Metro Vancouver.	2	0
57	By: Geodetic On: 25 Jul 2010 In Response To: 56	Now that I have posted the principle of the matter, I would suggest that perhaps the City could find ways to encourage immigrant residents to take ESL courses. I don't know that we need to be heavy-handed about language, such as by legislating English on all signs, even in (for example) Chinese stores, but there does need to be some type of incentive to remove the walls created by different languages. Our many cultures do just fine living next to each other, intermixed with each other. I don't want to see ethnic enclaves ("ghettos" is too strong a word) taking root in Richmond. We are all Canadians first.	1	0
117	By: Sparrow On: 09 Oct 2010 In Response To: 56	Yes, I fully agree - language is the key! Bean04 - I have come to Canada 27 years ago and gone through the same as your parents. We do have a lot of services to help with settlement, unfortunately many of them offer everything in Mandarin or Cantonese, making it not necessary for the new immigrants to learn our language. At the time I came to this country, and Richmond, we did not have all these programmes but there was the necessity to learn the language - in hindsight, it was the best "help" we could get to become part of the community.	0	0

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ID	COMMENT DETAILS	COMMENT	AGREE	DISAGREE
95	By: Bean04 On: 23 Aug 2010	<p>Richmond has to be more creative in order to successfully address the integration of immigrants into the community. 23 years ago, my parents moved to Canada from overseas, and they struggled tremendously. Juggling time to find a job, learn a new language and integrate your children into the schools can be a daunting task. Many parents moving from overseas do not have the time to attend ESL classes, as their main priority is to find a job, find a place to stay, and learn about the new school system for their children. If we want to successfully integrate immigrants, we need to have a tiered approach - offering not only ESL classes, but other resources to help them in all aspects of life. Think about what you would be looking for, if you picked up and moved yourself to another country with a different language. Some examples would be work internships to provide Canadian work experience, ESL classes offered at night or during the weekend, mentoring programs, workshops, buddy systems (offered for those looking to volunteer), etc.</p> <p>There are a lot of ways we can help integrate immigrants into our community - we just need to be creative!</p>	1	0

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SOCIAL PLANNING: WHAT DOES RICHMOND DO WELL THAT SHOULD BE PRESERVED AS A SOCIAL PLANNING STRATEGY IS DISCUSSED?

What do you like about the community services currently available in Richmond? As we move forward, are there aspects of our current community service system that should be preserved? How should Richmond continue to support community social service agencies?

ID	COMMENT DETAILS	COMMENT	AGREE	DISAGREE
87	By: Michael On: 17 Aug 2010	I think that the RCSAC needs to be given a more significant contributory role, through its executive committee, in the the emerging social planning issues. The RCSAC used to be viewed as a "go to" organisation for this. My concern is that it is now seen as a "nod to" function. While recognising the "expertise" of staff Richmond Council and staff also need to continue to recognise the "expertise of experience" in the community.	1	0

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SUPPORTING FAMILIES: HOW CAN THE CITY BEST HELP?

The City supports families in a number of ways, including provision of community centre activities, establishment of parks, facilities and programs, negotiation of child care facilities in new developments, and provision of grants to family-serving agencies. Which of these approaches are most important to you? What suggestions do you have for the City regarding future initiatives to support families?

ID	COMMENT DETAILS	COMMENT	AGREE	DISAGREE
85	By: Michael On: 17 Aug 2010	The City staff and politicians need to remain mindful that at times discussion and action on family, community and social development needs should not be deferred simply by stating that it is a federal or provincial mandate not municipal. Richmond can show leadership by assisting Richmond based service agencies in advocating for services and fundings and, yes, sometime providing funds to demonstrate and establish need.	2	0
94	By: Olga On: 19 Aug 2010	Parks are very important for me and if City would simply stand by its established norms it would be good, but it does not feel that way, it rather feels that corners are cut and the developments are given go ahead when it is not known yet where will be the park land located - half norm in the City Center and the additional half elsewhere - so where? Families living within the City Centre area have the same right to go for a walk with the kid or a dog or play sports within walking distance.	0	0

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COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES: HOW CAN THE CITY HELP ENSURE THAT NEEDED SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO RICHMOND RESIDENTS?

Richmond residents are served by a number of non-profit agencies that provide needed social services to the community, including parenting programs, employment and skills training, child care, immigrant settlement, professional counseling and peer support programs. The City assists some agencies by leasing City-owned premises for a nominal rate, and provides grants to assist agencies with operating or program costs.

Are there any social services needed in Richmond that are not available now? Do you face challenges in accessing particular services because of wait lists or other barriers? While social services are the responsibility of senior levels of government, how can the City best support this sector?

ID	COMMENT DETAILS	COMMENT	AGREE	DISAGREE
25	By: 1975 On: 11 Jul 2010	Hello, I am from and in Romania for the moment but I hope to be a resident in Richmond soon. Best regards and congratulations for your work.	0	0
43	By: Lulu On: 22 Jul 2010	Does CHILD CARE include a service to make sure children under 6 years of age are adequately fed. I believe there is a breakfast program in some schools, meals on wheels for shut-ins and occasional church dinners for the impoverished BUT how are younger kids identified and cared for?	0	0
86	By: Michael On: 17 Aug 2010	It is imperative that Council and City management recognise that locally based service organisations are those most likely to be involved in community engagement processes. Richmond based services also have a strong history of supportive infrastructure. When identifying needs, we need to build our own service delivery system that is committed to Richmond. To those who raise the issue of duplication be mindful we do have a Richmond School Board, Richmond Parks and Recreation etc. and we need to see locally based family and community service organisations as preferred contractors and build on their strengths to ensure programs are locally developed and services for Richmond are the primary goal. I repeat from a previous comment that service should be based on locally identified needs.	1	0
116	By: Sparrow On: 09 Oct 2010	I think we do have many good programs but the immigration services need to be more accessible to all immigrants - not only in theory.	0	0

OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS, WHAT SOCIAL ISSUES WILL RICHMOND NEED TO ADDRESS?

Are you concerned about homelessness, poverty or other social issues in the community? Do you feel safe in your neighbourhoods? Will gambling and other addictions increase? How will growth and development in the City affect quality of life? Will affordable housing be available?

ID	COMMENT DETAILS	COMMENT	AGREE	DISAGREE
24	By: Bernie On: 08 Jul 2010	<p>In reading the overview regarding Social issues, one thing shocked me - the total lack of reference to "people with disabilities" - shame on the person who wrote it.</p> <p>There are a number of issues that need to be addressed for people in this population group.</p> <p>The need for accessible & affordable housing as well as the need for sufficient income to maintain a healthy diet and cover the cost of maintaining assistive equipment for everyday life, to name just two.</p> <p>I will make sure we discuss this issue at the next RCD meeting - and bring to your attention additional items to add to this list.</p> <p>General population needs apply equally to PWDs, but some requirements may apply to this population more than others.</p>	4	0
77	By: seniorC On: 12 Aug 2010	<p>The questions here and in the printed survey reflect a "fixed" attitude that growth will continue in Richmond and that we must make plans to accommodate this growth.</p> <p>It is apparent that we all work within limits; increased building of homes and apartment complexes seems to indicate no thought being given to limiting growth, or at least the rate of growth; in other words, we are forced to plan for sustainability with an ever-increasing population because we accept "free market development". Is this what we want? Is an increase in our population (growth) what is needed in order to keep Richmond a desirable place to live? Is "growth" a necessary element of "sustainability"?</p>	2	0
84	By: Michael On: 17 Aug 2010	<p>Richmond is a community of families that need support and assistance navigating the "challenges" of family and community life. This goes beyond recreational facilities and physical health. Richmond must advocate for funds to address these issues relative to us in the community not some social cause that minimally affects us here</p>	0	1
93	By: Olga On: 19 Aug 2010	<p>The unsustainable growth of the city will create multiple problems in the future. New OCP plans for the increase in the population in the City Centre *3 times but only plans for the increase in the number of the jobs *2 times, that will make finding job harder, more people will have to drive to work, no major parks or recreational facilities in the City Center will also force people to drive to reach them in other parts of the town, there are no school planned in the City Center to support this growth either, we already do not have enough family doctors that accept new patients etc.</p> <p>It is obvious that OCP was created under the pressure of the pro-development forces, before the recession, and now it has to be revised or at least the system of the checkpoints has to be implemented when after addition, let say, 10,000 new people the services/infrastructure have to be checked for capacity - if there is still any land for the parks and schools is avail. to accommodate the growth further.</p>	0	0
96	By: Norm On: 23 Aug 2010	<p>what are Social Issues?</p> <p>The matters of concern when people interact or choose not to interact with one another.</p> <p>In Richmond how are people interacting, along what lines and with whom, under what circumstances, where and how?</p> <p>What is working well and what is not working so well?</p> <p>Social Issues - a very complicated topic. across a walks of life all cultures and communities and all economic standings. Much to think about.</p>	0	0