



Message from the Chair

On behalf of the Surrey Local Immigration Partnership, I am honoured to introduce our Community Plan for the next five years. This Plan encapsulates our joint aspiration to foster a city that epitomizes diversity, inclusion, and equity at its core.

This plan emerges from consultations with newcomers representing diverse backgrounds, ages, and genders alongside invaluable input from community leaders and partners. Informed and guided by the experience and expertise of the Community Planning Working Group and the LIP Committee, this plan embodies the collective efforts and dedication of all involved. Their generous contribution of time, experience, and insight reflects a profound commitment to shaping Surrey into a genuinely welcoming and inclusive city.

Surrey welcomes individuals from all over the world with open arms. Our immigrants and refugees arrive with aspirations and a sincere desire to shape their new surroundings positively. While we understand that barriers to integration and complete community engagement still exist, we firmly believe in our collective ability to dismantle them and create a city where every resident can flourish.

At the heart of this Plan lies our commitment to cultivating a community where every individual feels a profound sense of belonging and all reap the dividends of diversity, inclusivity and equity – residents, businesses, or institutions.

I extend a heartfelt invitation to you to partake in this shared endeavour. Together, let us forge a city where the richness of diversity is celebrated and where every voice, every talent, and every perspective contribute to the tapestry of Surrey, rendering it an even more remarkable place to call home.

Neelam Sahota
CEO, DIVERSECity
Community Resources Society



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On the ancestral, traditional and unceded territories of the SEMYOME (Semiahmoo), ḡícəy̓ (Katzie), kʷikʷəłəḡ (Kwikwetlem), ḡʷa:ńłəń (Kwantlen), qiqéyt (Qayqayt), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) and s̓cəwaθən məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen) First Nations. The knowledge and traditions of these communities are significant in providing context to the work we do, and the Surrey Local Immigration Partnership recognizes the importance that reconciliation has in building truly inclusive and strong communities.

If you are interested in the work of the Surrey Local Immigration Partnership, please visit our website.

www.surreylip.ca

And, follow us on Facebook or X



If you like to discuss how to become involved, please send a message to:

surreylip@dcrs.ca



SURREY
LOCAL IMMIGRATION
PARTNERSHIP

Surrey LIP Community Plan 2024 – 2029

A SETTLEMENT STRATEGIC
PLAN FOR SURREY

Funded by:

Financé par :



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada



Let's do our part to protect our planet. Please recycle or forward this plan to someone you think might be interested.

www.surreylip.ca

Strategic Priorities, Goals and Objectives

Through comprehensive community and stakeholder consultation and engagement, the following five priorities were identified as critical for the Surrey LIP to address over the next five years. Annual action plans will be developed by Surrey LIP working groups with the guidance of the project team which will aim to achieve the goals and objectives articulated here.

Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles

Vision

Surrey is a community where diversity is valued; social, economic, and cultural opportunities are accessible to all; and new and longer-term residents work together to build a more welcoming and inclusive city.

Mission

We increase the capacity of Surrey to integrate and support immigrants and refugees by assessing and addressing evolving community needs and sharing information and leading change.

Guiding Principles

The work of the Surrey LIP is guided by the following principles:

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Expertise and Collective Commitment
- Engaging the Community
- People Centred
- Evidence-based Decision-making

1 Accessible Services

Ensuring access to vital settlement and community services stands as a cornerstone of our commitment to supporting immigrants, refugees, and those assisting them in their journey towards successful integration and empowerment. In the case of some service types, there are limited or no services available.

GOAL

Surrey has a robust and fully resourced settlement and community services infrastructure where immigrants and refugees and those assisting them have ready access to the services, supports and information they need.

OBJECTIVES

1. Conduct an assessment to gain a full understanding of the current settlement and community services infrastructure.
2. Determine the capacity and the demand for immigrant and refugee programming in Surrey to inform service planning and articulate community needs.
3. Develop, promote, and disseminate information tools and resources to enhance referrals and service coordination.
4. Improve access to education, training and healthcare services for immigrants and refugees by working with member agencies and other planning tables and coalitions to address cultural, linguistic, and systemic barriers.

2 Engaged Community

Engaging the community in this work is a testament to our collective commitment to fostering a welcoming and inclusive city for all residents.

GOAL

Surrey is a welcoming and inclusive city that supports immigrants and refugees to make community connections, and actively participate in all that Surrey has to offer.

OBJECTIVES

1. Encourage and support the delivery of programs, services, and activities to assist immigrants and refugees to make connections with Indigenous Peoples, established residents, and longer-term immigrants.
2. Increase awareness of the specific needs of immigrant and refugee populations to inform adjustments to current programming and the development of new or additional programming.
3. Increase awareness of and promote anti-racism issues and initiatives in Surrey to reduce incidents of discrimination and racism.
4. Collaborate to ensure the increased involvement of immigrants and refugees in community and civic planning processes and bodies (committees, boards, advisories, etc.) to ensure their voices contribute to community development.

3 Meaningful Employment

Recognizing the critical role that meaningful employment plays in the lives of immigrants and refugees, this priority embodies our collective commitment to ensuring equitable access to economic opportunities and pathways to success.

GOAL

The community has the knowledge and tools needed to support immigrants and refugees to meaningfully contribute to the labour market.

OBJECTIVES

1. Establish partnerships with business, industry, and government to increase understanding of Surrey's labour market and the employment service needs of specific immigrant populations (women, youth, diverse abilities, etc.)
2. Facilitate networking amongst immigrant serving organizations, immigrant job seekers, employers, and industry groups to create connections and expedite the integration of immigrants and refugees into the local job market.
3. Support employers to increase mentorship, co-ops, work experience and volunteer programs for immigrants and refugees to increase options for gaining local experience and building a sense of belonging.
4. Encourage and support businesses in developing and implementing diversity and inclusion policies that actively promote the hiring, training, and advancement of immigrants and refugees in the workplace.
5. Develop, distribute and promote information related to the local labour market and immigrant and refugee employment services.

4 Learning and Embedding Indigenous Perspectives

In recognition of the rich cultural heritage and profound contributions of our Indigenous communities, the Surrey Local Immigration Partnership has committed itself to fostering a meaningful and collaborative relationship with local Indigenous groups.

GOAL

The Surrey Local Immigration Partnership has a meaningful relationship with local Indigenous communities and through listening and collaboration we have integrated Indigenous knowledge, culture, and perspectives into our work.

OBJECTIVES

1. Continue to build collaborative and respectful partnerships with Surrey's Indigenous communities, organizations, and leaders to increase awareness and understanding of Truth and Reconciliation and the Calls to Action, Indigenous cultures, histories, and perspectives among the project team, LIP members and advisories, immigrants, and the broader community.
2. Integrate Indigenous perspectives and considerations into the policies, procedures, and decision-making processes of the Surrey Local Immigration Partnership to ensure inclusivity and cultural sensitivity.
3. Support and promote community-led events and initiatives that celebrate Indigenous cultures, traditions, and art to provide opportunities for training, cultural exchange and dialogue.
4. Create platforms and resources that share Indigenous knowledge, stories, and cultural practices to encourage learning and appreciation.

5 Inspiring Humanitarianism

This priority stands as a beacon of compassion and solidarity within the City of Surrey. With a steadfast commitment to fostering empathy and support for immigrant and refugee resettlement, this priority area encapsulates the essence of Canadians' humanitarian values and the spirit of inclusivity that defines our nation.

GOAL

Surrey residents understand and value Canadian humanitarian efforts in immigrant and refugee resettlement and are motivated to support and engage in these efforts.

OBJECTIVES

1. Increase awareness and understanding of our humanitarian commitments among residents to reduce discrimination and increase active involvement in these efforts.
2. Cultivate empathy and foster connections by creating opportunities for Surrey residents to hear directly from immigrants and refugees about their journeys, challenges, and contributions to Canadian society.
3. Advocate for and contribute to policies that uphold Canadian humanitarian values to ensure the fair and compassionate treatment of immigrants and refugees.
4. Identify and partner with other organizations doing aligned work to collectively advocate for and support refugee resettlement initiatives.
5. Create, amplify and promote avenues for Surrey residents to volunteer, donate, or offer support to immigrant and refugee resettlement agencies or programs, encouraging direct involvement and tangible assistance.

