

NORTH SHORE INCLUSIVE INQUIRY CONVERSATIONS PROJECT

NORTH AND WEST VANCOUVER,
2015 - 2016



NSIIP

NORTH SHORE
IMMIGRANT INCLUSION
PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNITY CONTEXT



- Three relatively affluent municipalities
- Rapid demographic change (44.6% foreign born in West Van in 2016, up from 36.7% in 2006)
- 80% of newcomers are economic class
- Community preoccupations: traffic congestion, property prices, trees and views, social cohesion
- “Four+ solitudes”

INCLUSIVE INQUIRY CONVERSATIONS PROJECT

Goal:

- Create safe spaces for people to share aspirations and fears
- Build appreciation for shared values

Method:

- 20 facilitated conversations led by multiple LIP partners using “Harwood Model” of Inclusive Inquiry



INCLUSIVE INQUIRY CONVERSATIONS PROJECT

Method Cont'd:

- Initial open public sessions – flop! 😞
- Subsequent sessions with pre-existing book clubs, social circles and willing newcomers – success! 😊



INCLUSIVE INQUIRY CONVERSATIONS PROJECT

What we asked (Round 1):

- What kind of community do you want to live in?
- Why is that important to you?
- How is that different from how you see things now?
- What are some of the things that need to happen to create that kind of change?



INCLUSIVE INQUIRY CONVERSATIONS PROJECT

What we asked (Round 2):

- What does friendship across cultures look like to you?
- Do you have any friends from other countries?
- How did it happen? What is it like?
- Why is it important to you?
- Where do you see your place in creating deeper and more meaningful friendships across cultures?



INCLUSIVE INQUIRY CONVERSATIONS PROJECT

Some Key Outcomes:

- Lots of transformative moments for participants (e.g. “I didn’t realize that people from _____ felt that way too...”)
- Deepened understanding of inclusion issues by “mainstream” LIP facilitators
- Increased trust among both participants and LIP partners



INCLUSIVE INQUIRY CONVERSATIONS PROJECT

What we did next:

- Public “Weaving our Humanity” Celebration Event

Where we’re heading now:

- Planning more conversations targeting youth and employees, as well as reconciliation focused conversations between newcomers and First Nations
- Writing endless funding applications...



THANK YOU!

North Shore Immigrant Inclusion Partnership

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