



The Future Lives Here

Exploring innovative approaches
to increased immigration in
BC's fastest-growing city

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DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society



Our work takes place ...

On the ancestral, traditional and unceded territories of the SEMYOME (Semiahmoo), ǫ́icǫ́y (Katzie), k^wik^wəłəm (Kwikwetlem), ǫ́wɑ:ńłəń (Kwantlen), qiqéyt (Qayqayt), x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam) and sǫ́waθən məsteyəx^w (Tsawwassen) First Nations. The knowledge and traditions of these communities are significant in providing context to the work we do, and DIVERSEcity recognizes the importance that reconciliation has in building truly inclusive and strong communities.





About DIVERSEcity

- Registered charity based in Surrey for 45 years
- Serving Surrey, Langley, Delta, White Rock & more
- The first immigrant service provider in Surrey
- Offers free programs and services in settlement, language, employment, community engagement, mental health and gender-based violence
- Services are trauma-informed and provided in first languages and with cultural safety by staff with lived experience

Immigration and BC



89%

Rate of population growth in BC due to immigration

104,000

New residents in 2022 due to immigration

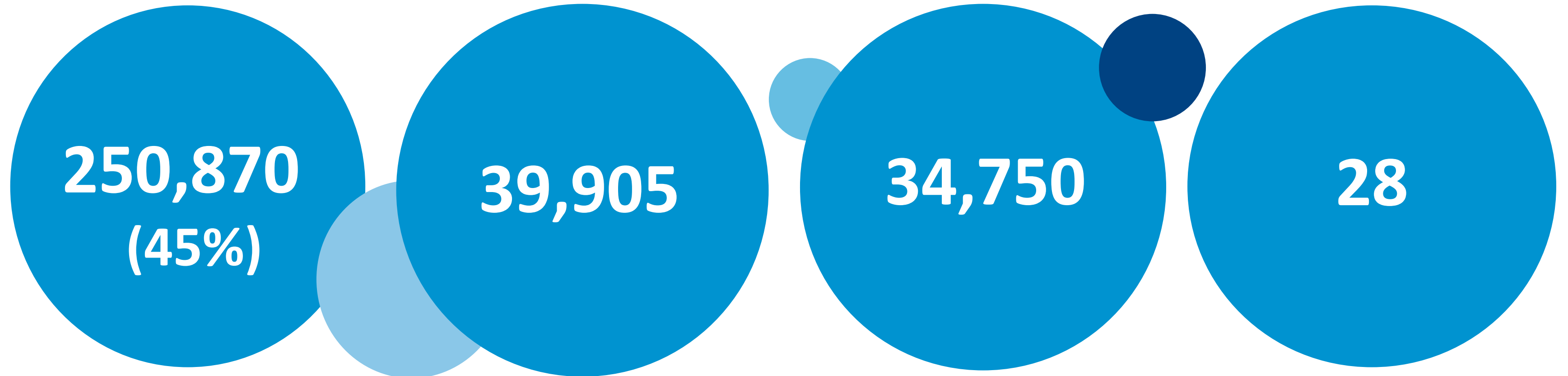
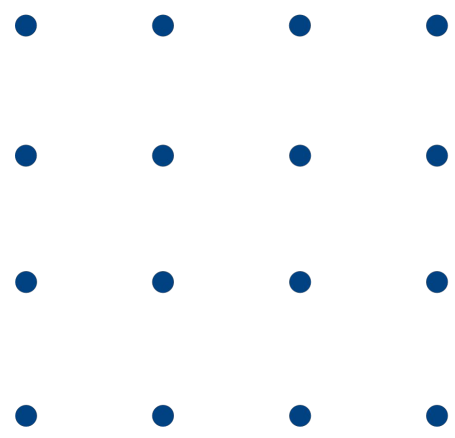
1,004,000

Job openings forecast through to 2031 in BC

Surrey is the fastest-growing city in BC



Surrey statistics



**Total immigrants
in Surrey**

**New immigrants
in Surrey in
2016–2021**

**Non-permanent
residents in Surrey**

**New residents in
Surrey every day!**

Surrey demographics



63%

Of recent arrivals in Surrey are aged 25-54

67%

Identified as a member of a racialized group in Surrey compared to 55% in Metro Vancouver

80,000

Students in Surrey schools for 2023-2024 due to population growth

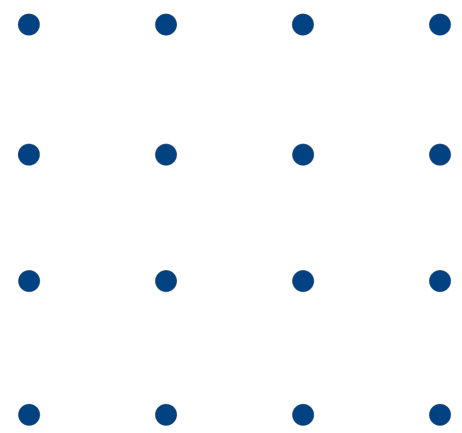


Housing & affordability:

- Need for 17,900 affordable renting housing units in 2021
- Fewer housing starts in Surrey than Greater Vancouver
- Average incomes for immigrants are lower
- Average Surrey households are larger and more have children



Employment data



- Immigrants accounted for half or more of Surrey's workforce
- Surrey residents earned slightly less than Vancouver counterparts
- 387,000 newcomers to enter the BC workforce over the next decade – 38% of job openings

Innovative approaches to serving BC's fastest-growing city and beyond



Innovation starts with people





Innovation starts with people

- *Ask them* what they want and need
- Meet people where they are at
- Integrated Assets and Needs Assessment
- Create connections for their ongoing journey





Quotable

“Being a single mom, the Community Garden has given me a transformative experience from my cocoon. It got me friends, knowledge and a sense of purpose. It is good that our community garden not only grows plants but also the unity between different cultures and a sense of belonging.”

— Community Garden participant



Differentiating approaches

- Use data to inform our approach
- Create tailored, responsive programming
- Hire specialized positions to address in-demand, often-overlooked needs
- Identify gaps and create customized pathways



Quotable

**“I feel like I became a family member to the DIVERSEcity team member who supported me. I was reborn as I had lost hope of settling in Canada. I learned effective ways of parenting and supporting my children and I am much happier, confident and hopeful in my future.”
—Early Years Services participant**



Differentiating approaches

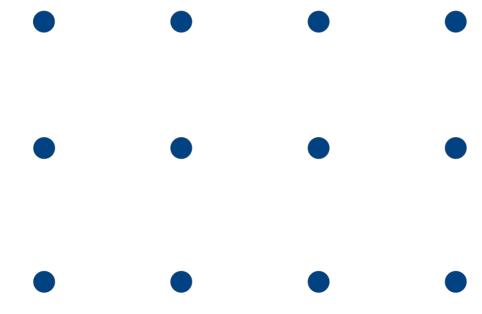
- Social enterprises create opportunities for development of new ideas, services and social impact

Partnering in the community

- Program development with social-purpose-minded corporate funders
- Referrals to partners outside of the settlement sector



Partnering in the community



- Coast Capital Credentialing Program for Women





Partnering in the community

- Collaborations with grassroots organizations and building their capacity
- Scaling best practices across the province



Photo from Surrey LIP Community Stakeholder Forum.

Thanks for your contributions



Surrey LIP Community Stakeholder Forum with representation from LIPS across BC.



DIVERSE*city*
community resources society

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