



Surrey Local Immigration Partnership (LIP)

In March of 2014, the City of Surrey entered into an agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to establish the Surrey Local Immigration Partnership (LIP), a two-year project with the goal of assessing and enhancing the City's community building capacity to intake and settle new immigrants and refugees. Surrey LIP is a council comprised of 30 community organizations (including Surrey RCMP), and has an end goal of building a strategic action plan to create a more welcoming and inclusive community for immigrants and refugees.

The importance of Surrey RCMP's participation in such an initiative and focus on diversity cannot be understated, especially when considering that Surrey is one of the fastest growing cities in Canada. Approximately 40% of Surrey's population were born outside of the country and it is estimated that every month, the City becomes home to 800 new residents. Additionally, from 2010-2013 Surrey received 29% of all Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) in BC, the most of any city in the province. Such published statistics support forecasts that Surrey is fast becoming one of the most multicultural cities in Canada. Involvement in the Surrey LIP council allows Surrey RCMP to work with other community stakeholders to effectively identify barriers to integration that are faced by new immigrants and refugees. Focusing on sample populations composed of both adults and youth and utilizing various research methodologies, Surrey LIP has conducted focus groups, consultations and sent out surveys to identify both ethnic enclaves that exist in the City and factors that contribute to both a sense of belonging and perceptions of discrimination. By working together with community partners, Surrey RCMP has gained more insight into:

- *Demographic trends*
- *Perception of law enforcement among various cultural groups*
- *Factors that contribute to barriers in reporting crime*

The Surrey LIP project is fast approaching its two year deadline and as of now, has:

- *Taken part in 3 research and integration projects*
- *Hosted 3 public consultation events and 4 stakeholder consultation workshops, seeing participation from over 500 residents and stakeholders*
- *Produced numerous newsletters and fact sheets*
- *Identified 5 priority areas of focus for creating a more inclusive community*
- *Launched the Surrey LIP webpage inclusive of a settlement service map*



Moving forward, Surrey RCMP will continue to participate in the council and community consultation sessions to discuss the development of the Strategy and Action Plan – a set of recommendations which is scheduled to be completed by spring 2016.

For more information, visit www.surrey.ca



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