

## Update: Multiculturalism

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	Multiculturalism
<b>City Council Sponsor(s):</b>	Mayor D. Iveson / Councillor B. Esslinger
<b>Supporting Department and Lead Staff:</b>	Community Services, Lyall Brenneis / Jennifer Fowler / Mike Chow

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### BACKGROUND:

- According to the 2011 Federal Census, Edmonton was identified as one of Canada's fastest growing cities. The growth in the city's population is one that is diverse. Shifts in immigration patterns from European countries toward Asian, South East Asian, Latin American and more recently African countries are changing the face of Edmonton. In Edmonton, 165,145 people (14.5 per cent of the population) speak a language other than English, French or one of the many Indigenous languages. Tagalog, Punjabi and Chinese are most common.
- In 2007 City Council declared its membership in the Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD) and in 2009 Council helped launch the Racism Free Edmonton (RFE) initiative. A coalition of 16 institutional and community partners, their collective efforts is to bring awareness, educate and take action to confront racism and discrimination in Edmonton.

### DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- Creating a *socially inclusive* Edmonton, where newcomers and other citizens are able to be involved in all aspects of the economic, social, political, and cultural dimensions of civic life. By being engaged and interconnected with many diverse peoples the development of a community of shared values, shared challenges and equal opportunities in Edmonton, based on a sense of trust, hope and reciprocity will create a *socially cohesive* city. Three focus areas will be targeted to bring together various communities; Multicultural Centres, Local Immigration Councils, and Social Inclusion Initiatives.

Focus #1 – Spaces for gathering, programming, and activities

- Support communities in accessing and developing new or using existing spaces.

Focus #2 – Development of a Local Immigration Partnership Council

- Bringing together a broad sector of agencies, institutions, businesses and communities to create a community plan and setting priorities to assist with welcoming and settling newcomers in Edmonton.

Focus #3 – Social Inclusion Initiatives

- In collaboration with allies, supporters and a broad number of communities, this third focus would bring together groups that experience discrimination, marginalization, and other various forms of prejudice towards the creation of a common platform for shared advocacy, education and collective action. Also, where necessary and when identified by the communities, mediation, reconciliation and restorative justice initiatives would be supported.

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC DIRECTION:**

- The Way We Live | Goal #1 - Edmonton is a vibrant, connected and engaged welcoming city. Meets objective 1.4 The City of Edmonton connects individuals, families, groups, cultures and communities to the services they need to thrive and realize their potential.
- The Way We Live | Goal #2 – Edmonton is a caring, inclusive and affordable city. Meets objective 3.2 The City of Edmonton increases opportunities to improve the lives of its vulnerable population.

**START-UP BUDGET REQUIREMENTS:**

- Existing internal resources will be used to create detailed project plan.

**TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION OF PROJECT PLAN:**

- Fall 2014