



Background:

As part of the preparation for the development of its Strategic Settlement Plans, the Surrey Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) Committee determined that it would hold a series of community stakeholder consultations based on each of the LIP's key research elements. **Youth were identified as a priority population that should be consulted.** A consultation for immigrant and refugee youth was held in partnership with the Fresh Voices from Long Journeys Initiative of the Vancouver Foundation.

The Fresh Voices Initiative was contacted because of their role engaging immigrant and refugee youth in the province. The Initiative offers a way for immigrant and refugee youth from across B.C. to engage in dialogue and action and to identify and remove barriers to their success. This initiative places the leadership of immigrant and refugee youth at the centre of decisions. Young people involved with this initiative often hold conversations with their peers in order to advance policies and programs, at the same time aiming to increase civic engagement among their peers.

The space for consultations was donated by SFU-Surrey.

Consultation Approach and Purpose:

Planning for the consultation was initiated in November 2015. It was determined by the City of Surrey staff and the facilitation team that it would be an interactive and participatory conversation with young people. It was also agreed to hold the consultation early in 2016 (January 23rd).

The stated objectives for the Youth Consultation were:

1. Share findings from the Surrey LIP relevant research with diverse immigrant youth.
2. Seek input from young people into Surrey LIP findings and help to identify key actions to benefit young people.
3. Provide an opportunity for young people from diverse immigration journeys to come together and learn about public policy.

The Fresh Voices team who supported the consultation with the participation of the Fresh Voices Project Manager; two young adults who are part of the Fresh Voices Youth Advisory Team (one youth and one youth worker), and a graphic facilitator/recorder. This team hosted the conversation with



Surrey youth with support from the City of Surrey. The Fresh Voices members who joined the facilitation team were residents of Surrey or worked in Surrey. This directly linked the discussions that young immigrants living in Surrey were bringing forward to the conversation space.

As guiding posts for the conversation, the facilitation team also selected five broad themes. Three themes were selected from what LIP Surrey has found to be consistent across other consultations. Two additional themes were selected from what Fresh Voices found to be consistent in its work with young people. These five themes are:

1. Education
2. Family & Inter-Generational Relationships
3. Access to Services
4. Community Engagement and
5. Inter-cultural Connection and Employment.

The City of Surrey staff also developed an interactive (and fun) activity to share the findings of the research done by the time of the event. Young people were able to learn about the research and about the experiences of other consultations.

Finally, participants worked in large and small groups to provide input and identify priorities. Priorities were then chosen through “dotocracy” (an exercise for attendees to rank) on images developed by graphic facilitator.

Registration and attendance:

Registration and outreach was prioritized for Immigrant and refugee youth who are residents of Surrey and have been in Canada for 5 years or less, Staff working with immigrant and refugee young people in Surrey. However, everyone was welcome to join in the conversation if space allowed. The City of Surrey managed registration through a series of “save the date” announcements, email invitations and an online registration system.

Vancouver Foundation also supported outreach through social media and email invitations to their networks. The consultation received 65 total registrations and 50 individuals excluding project staff, facilitators and presenters participated in the event. The following table lists the participating organizations represented at the consultation.

Avia Employment Service

City of Surrey

DIVERSEcity *

Enver Creek Secondary

Fleetwood Park Secondary *

Frank Hurt Secondary *

Fraser Heights Secondary *

Guilford Park Secondary *

Invergarry Adult Education Centre *

Kwantlen Polytechnic University

LIP- IAR *

Pacific Community Resource Society *

Simon Fraser University

SUCCESS

Windermere Secondary

* Indicates organizations with more than one staff member or student in attendance

Participants were asked to provide their feedback and share basic demographic information. In total, 36 participants provided this information. Below is a breakdown of their gender and age characteristics.

Age	#	%
Younger than 14	5	16%
14-19	15	48%
20-24	1	3%
Over 24	7	22%
Missing	3	9%

Gender	#	%
Female	19	61%
Male	11	35%
Missing	1	3%

Consultation Results – Priorities and Actions:

PRIORITIES:

Actions and Strategies that make life better in Surrey for immigrant and refugee youth.

Note: The facilitation team decided that it was most important to harvest as many ideas as possible. While participants were able to think of priorities, it was not a process of selection. All ideas were documented; through our “dotcracy exercise” some ideas were prioritized. For this report, if more than three people thought an idea should be a priority, it has been identified here.



EDUCATION:

1. Surrey Schools to adopt the approach of a “mini school” after school program.
2. Allocate more funding for staff.
3. Offer more classes for ELL for ages 18 and up.
4. Give students the option of a learning block.
5. Offer free ELL classes in the summer with a better curriculum.
6. Schools to have more interpreters for parent teacher interviews.
7. Schools and teachers to engage students through social media.
8. Schools to give students more freedom to choose courses.
9. Schools to offer more courses/programs for students to choose from (i.e.: IB, AP, Math Honours, etc.).
10. Increase competency of teachers and school counselors to address the needs of diverse student bodies.
11. Schools to make students feel more welcomed.

BELOGNING & INCLUSION:

1. Increasing the opportunities to learn about how to apply to universities regardless if student was Canadian or foreign born.
2. More ELL classes are needed with adequate flexibility for those who arrive as young adults wanting to advance to College or University.
3. It is important to have teachers, counselors and special education staff to be reflective of the diversity of the student population. Furthermore, it is also important the school staffs receive adequate training to work with immigrant communities.
4. Parents need more support to communicate with teachers.
5. Use social media for communication with newcomer youth and the general population.



6. **Students should receive volunteer hours and credits for translating for their parents or for families that speak the same language when communicating with school staff and other service providers.** *(this priority had the most dots)*

EMPLOYMENT:

1. Offering youth volunteer opportunities to expand their networks and improve communication skills.
2. Educating employers that immigrants are able and willing to do as much as a Canadian-born employee and that they can be trusted equally.
3. Offering programs and resources to help with job readiness for youth and young adults.
4. Programs to offer job placements and for youth to gain experience
5. Schools to put more emphasis on technology training programs.
6. Schools to make students more aware of the services they offer.
7. Encourage employees to ask for directly relevant experience in relation to a particular job, as this is different than asking for "Canadian experience".
8. Provide more opportunities for building on professional networks
9. Promote and provide employment services open in the evenings and some weekends.

INTER CULTURAL CONNECTIONS:

1. For the City of Surrey to hold frequent events for people to get together (i.e.: Fusion Festival or In the Loop).
2. Develop campaigns in different languages around opportunities to engage with different cultures.
3. Hold sports events that are attractive to different cultural communities.



4. Engage mainstream and ethnic media outlets to discuss cultural connectedness within their respective communities.
5. Schools to engage their staff about different cultures.
6. Schools to have volunteer support staff in different languages.
7. Schools to observe significant days of different cultural communities where they will feel included and welcomed.
8. For the City of Surrey to offer and engage spaces (i.e.: Museums) where people can learn from different cultural groups.
9. Engaging the public by organizing events and activities and promoting them through periodic newsletters.
10. Lack of understanding or knowing the language is not the problem, inclusion and engagement efforts need to address deeper issues.
11. Organize high profile events where youth can engage with government officials and voice their concerns.
12. For the City of Surrey to lead cultural appreciation day where all residents have the opportunity to engage with each other.



Appendix 1. Consultation Agenda



Surrey LIP Stakeholder Consultation Series Immigrant & Refugee Youth in Surrey

WHEN January 23, 2016
9:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

WHERE SFU Surrey, 250-13450 102 Ave, Surrey
5th Floor, Room 5140

AGENDA

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|----|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Registration, Breakfast, Networking | 9:30 – 10:00 |
| 2. | Welcome, Acknowledgement, Energizer
Jorge / Aftab | 10:00 – 10:30 |
| 3. | Getting to Know Each Other activity
Nada | 10:30 – 11:00 |
| | BREAK | 11:00 – 11:15 |
| 4. | Surrey LIP Research Findings Game
Fresh Voices / City staff | 11:15 – 12:15 |
| | LUNCH | 12:15 – 1:00 |
| 5. | Introduction to Policy Development
Reyna and Nada | 1:00 – 1:20 |
| 6. | Identifying Strategies/Actions – Small Group activity
Jorge | 1:20 – 2:50 |
| 7. | Reporting back and Discussion
Jorge | 2:50 – 3:30 |
| 8. | Prioritizing Strategies/Actions
Nada | 3:30 – 3:45 |
| 9. | Closing and Sharing
Reyna | 3:45 – 4:00 |

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ABOUT SURREY LIP: Established in 2014, Surrey LIP is led by the City of Surrey and governed by a Committee drawn from 30 community organizations. The Surrey LIP Consultations will inform the development of the Surrey Immigrant and Refugee Settlement Strategic Plans.

