


Welcoming City Strategy

Presentation to the Committee of the Whole

October 21, 2021




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Context

- Strategic Plan 2019-2022 action under *Health, Well-Being and a Welcoming City* Objective to develop a Welcoming City Strategy
- The Strategy was created by the community, for the community, by an external Task Force, co-chaired by Mayor Helps and C. Dubow
- Purpose of the Strategy is to bridge the gaps between newcomers and long-term residents
- Strategy was developed by the community, for the community

A companion report to continue the Welcoming City Task Force as an Advisory Committee to is included in today's COTW Agenda



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Introductions

Welcoming City Task Force

- Bayanihan Community Centre
- Société francophone de Victoria
- Greater Vitoria Chamber of Commerce
- Victoria Police Department
- Victoria Immigrant & Refugee Centre Society
- Intercultural Association
- Songhees Nation
- International Student
- Esquimalt Nation
- Member at Large
- Here in Canada Magazine
- Greater Victoria Public Library
- Chinese Community Services Society
- George Jay School PAC
- Kulea Culture Society
- Victoria Silver Threads



Patricia Quinn – Neuquinn Consulting

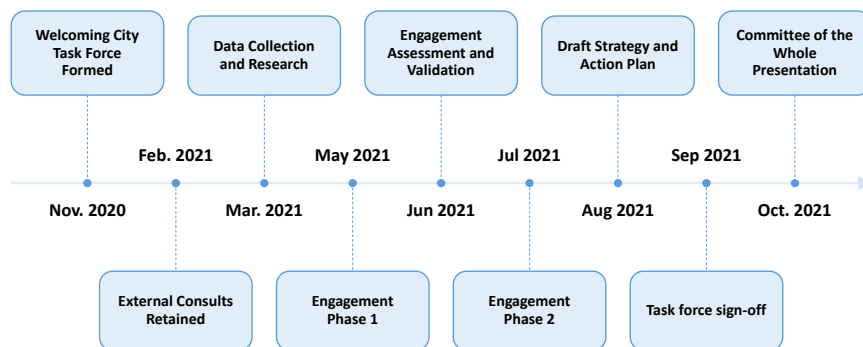


Rachael Seupersad– Neuquinn Consulting



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How we got Here...



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Welcoming City

- Community specific roadmap to develop stronger and more inclusive communities
- Canada joined *Welcoming City International* in 2020
- Victoria is the first Canadian City to adopt welcoming standards under the following categories:
 1. Government Leadership
 2. Civic Engagement
 3. Equitable Access
 4. Education
 5. Connected Communities
 6. Economic Development
 7. Safe Communities

The Action Plan will evolve and be further refined through further community conversations and the Welcoming City Advisory Committee



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NEUQUINN CONSULTING
Caring-Connected-Communities

City of Victoria
Committee of the Whole Report
For the Meeting of October 21, 2021
Patricia Quinn & Rachael Seupersad

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DREAM IN COLOUR

A journey from where we are to where we need to be...

The Welcoming City Strategy and Action Plan are the result of input and feedback from the Welcoming City Task Force, community experts, and a cross-section of both newcomers-to-Victoria and long-time residents.



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A Different Strategy

- This Strategy and Action Plan were developed by the community, for the community, with the City.
- While the City has taken a leadership role, success depends on the collective impact of partnerships and individual actions.



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Three Main Areas of Opportunity



- Ease of access to information for newcomers.
- Harnessing the economic benefits of diversity.
- Holding ourselves individually and collectively accountable to a better future.

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Task Force
Meetings

21
additional small group
working sessions with
Task Force members

Community Engagement



1. Task Force and City Staff assessment questionnaires
2. Six virtual workshops and one virtual community forum
3. *Have Your Say* online poll, shared stories and ideas from the community
4. *Have Your Say* public online survey

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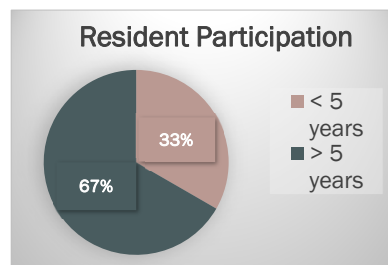
The Welcoming Standard Key Outcome Areas

- Government Leadership
- Equitable Access
- Civic Engagement
- Connected Communities
- Education
- Economic Development and
- Safe Communities



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6 Virtual Workshops

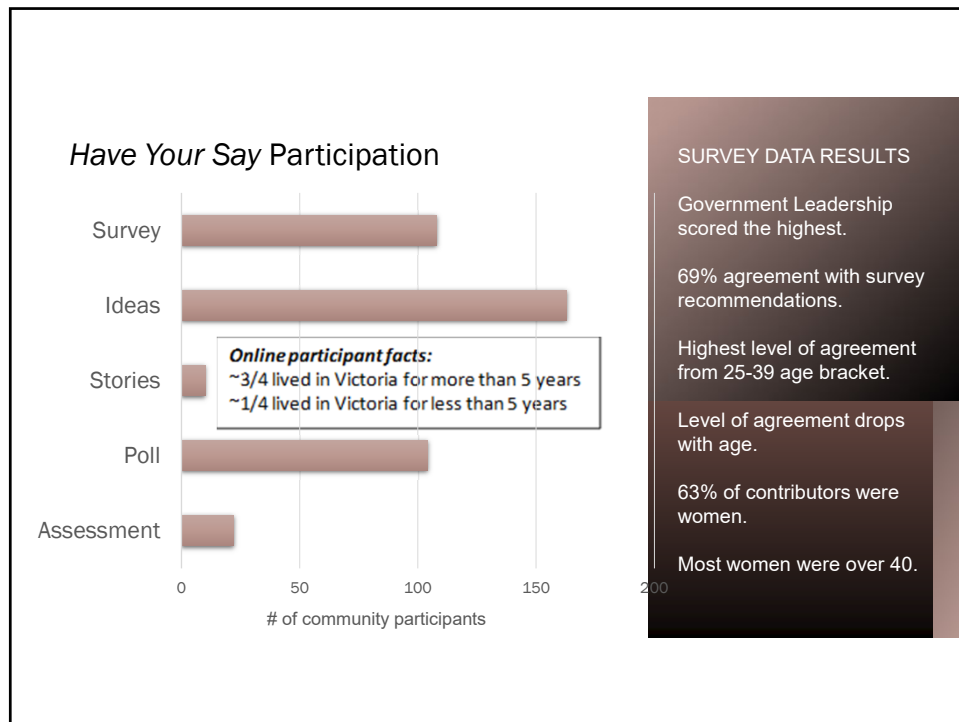


~ 75% were immigrants



1 Community Forum

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Community Indicators

- Frustration with lack of access to information.
- Desire for more diverse representation.
- Desire for more community conversations.
- Acknowledgement of City's efforts and intention to be a more welcoming city.

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- Coordination and dissemination of information
- Representation & mentorship
- Ongoing education, communication & advocacy

Community-defined requirements across all the categories



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Victoria as a Welcoming City

- Engage long-term residents
- Set goals, monitor impact, and adjust strategy as needed
- Design for equity and inclusion
- Implement in partnership.

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Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorse the Welcoming City Strategy and Action Plan
2. Direct staff to work with the community to develop community-driven implementation plans



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