CITY OF RICHMOND

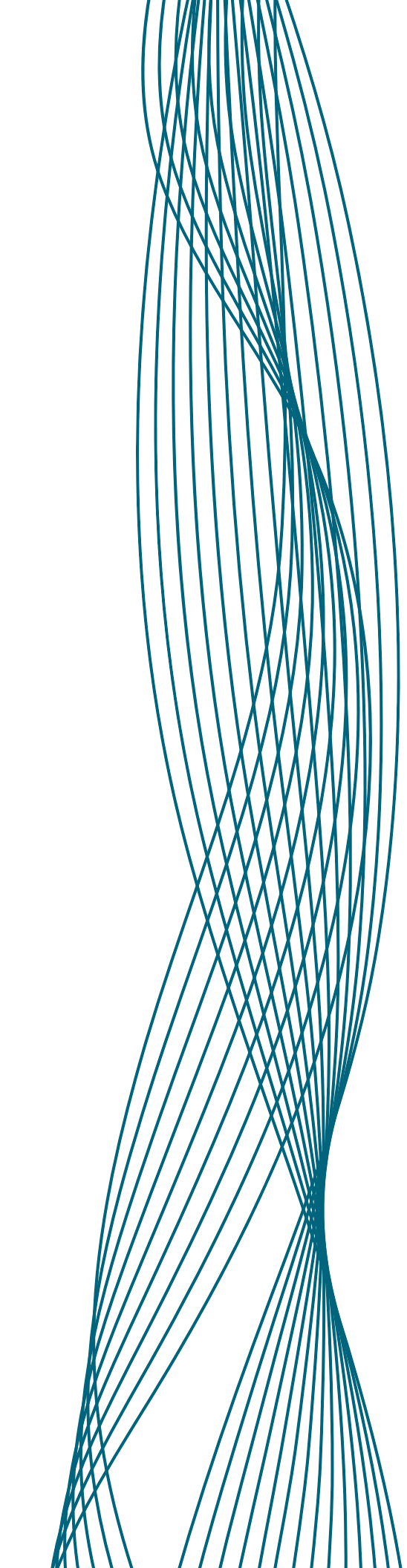
DRAFT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

2025–2035



Community Social Development Department

Richmond



Acknowledgement

The draft *Social Development Strategy (2025–2035)* reflects the collective contributions of many individual Richmond community members, government agencies, social service organizations and City departments. The City of Richmond would like to thank everyone who shared their time, expertise and experiences.

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Executive Summary

The City of Richmond (the City) has a well-established history of investing in the social needs and priorities of the community. The *Social Development Strategy (2025–2035)* reaffirms the City's commitment to planning for Richmond's future, while continuing to be responsive to current community social needs. Its aim is to enhance the social well-being of all community members, so that everyone can fully participate in the social, economic, political and cultural life of the community.

The *Strategy* leverages the progress made from the previous *Building Our Social Future – A Social Development Strategy for Richmond (2013–2022)* and the City's efforts in advancing social development over the last decade. It was developed using a multi-stage process that included a jurisdictional scan of best practices and in-depth analysis of Canadian Census and community-level data. A comprehensive consultation process with community members, including equity-deserving groups, community organizations and public partners, was also conducted to understand the community's vision for a more inclusive and thriving Richmond.

The *Strategy* outlines five strategic directions and 66 priority actions that will guide and inform the City's planning and response to Richmond's diverse social needs over the next 10 years. It is intended to serve as an overarching framework that aligns with and reinforces other City Council-adopted plans and strategies that address specific areas of social development, ensuring a comprehensive and collective approach.

The *Strategy* is organized into five strategic directions:

1. Improve Access to Basic Needs:

Ensuring residents can meet their basic needs, such as food and shelter, is essential for building an inclusive, thriving community. The priority actions under this strategic direction outline how the City can support Richmond residents in meeting these needs and increase access to services and resources that promote well-being and help individuals build more stable futures.

2. Enhance Inclusion and Belonging:

Fostering inclusion and connections among community members, cultural communities and age groups is vital to social well-being. The priority actions outlined in this strategic direction focus on celebrating diversity, building cross-cultural understanding and intergenerational connections, and encouraging mutual respect among Richmond's diverse population.

3. Foster a Safe, Resilient and Accessible Community:

Building a safe and accessible community means designing welcoming parks and open spaces, connected and secure neighbourhoods, and inclusive gathering places for all community members to enjoy. The priority actions in this strategic direction focus on creating inclusive public spaces and transport options, while strengthening community networks and collaboration to foster resiliency in responding to emergencies and climate change.

What is your vision for a more inclusive and thriving Richmond?

"There is an inclusive, welcoming, and supportive multi-cultural community that supports one another to thrive … housing, health, and community services have the capacity to keep up with the needs of low- to moderate-income households…there are [ ] middle [income] housing and secured affordable housing options to keep our workforce, families, and individuals through all life stages in Richmond."

- Community member

4. Strengthen Community Voice and Engagement:

Cultivating a more connected city involves removing participation barriers, increasing access to information and offering diverse engagement opportunities so all community members can participate in and contribute to the community in a meaningful way. The priority actions outlined in this strategic direction focus on creating more opportunities for everyone to become engaged in the community and take part in local decision-making processes.

5. Build Community Capacity:

Promoting collaboration across all sectors and all levels of government and with community members is essential to developing effective solutions that respond to the complexity of today's social issues. The priority actions outlined in this strategic direction focus on fostering collective action, strengthening community capacity and advocating to senior levels of government for sustainable funding to address the community's social needs, now and in the future.

Understanding that local decisions greatly influence quality of life, the City is dedicated to addressing inequities to ensure better social outcomes for all community members. The *Strategy* focuses on strengthening the City's and community's capacity to respond to social issues, while fostering strategic partnerships that promote shared responsibility in shaping a future where equity, opportunity and social well-being are accessible to all.

Introduction

The *Social Development Strategy (2025–2035) (Strategy)* reflects the City's ongoing commitment to improving the well-being of Richmond residents and fostering a more inclusive and thriving community. The *Strategy* is intended to guide the City's approach, in collaboration with community partners, to advancing social development in Richmond over the next 10 years. The aim is to ensure that everyone who lives, works, plays and learns in Richmond can thrive and participate fully in the community.

Richmond has a strong track record in prioritizing and investing in the social well-being of the community. The City's first social development strategy, *Building Our Social Future – A Social Development Strategy for Richmond (2013–2022) (2013–2022 Social Development Strategy)*, was adopted in 2013 and provided strategic direction in advancing social development in the community. The new *Strategy* builds on this work and presents further insights into Richmond's current and future social needs and progress that can be advanced within the municipal context. When combined with other City Council-adopted strategies and plans that address specific areas of social development, such as accessibility, homelessness and cultural harmony, the *Strategy* provides a comprehensive approach to addressing the evolving needs of Richmond's diverse population.

To advance the strategic directions and priority actions set out in the new *Strategy*, collaboration is essential. The *Strategy* works to strengthen the capacity of the City and its partners to develop and implement new approaches to social

development. By strengthening engagement with senior levels of government, partners across different sectors and members of the community to respond to priority social issues, the City continues to provide leadership and support in building a community where everyone can thrive. This in turn, contributes to advancing the City's vision of being "the most appealing, livable and well-managed community in Canada."

Understanding Social Development

Social development can be defined as the process of improving the quality of life for all members of society and involves the sharing of community resources, commitments and responsibilities, with the aim of achieving a better state of society for all. Social development aims to improve a broad range of personal, social, economic and environmental factors that affect individual and community well-being. Individual well-being is impacted by the quality of community members' daily lives. This includes their ability to meet basic needs, maintain physical and mental health, connect with each other and access opportunities that build stronger futures, such as education and employment. Community well-being is affected by overall livability, community participation and connections, sense of belonging, safety and community resiliency.

These factors that influence individual and community well-being are interconnected and overlap. They are also influenced by an individual's unique identity, background and experiences. Today, there is growing recognition that for some individuals and groups, systemic and historical barriers have limited their full participation in all aspects of community life. The City recognizes the importance of removing these barriers and is committed to working with its partners and the community to build a more equitable Richmond.

The Importance of Equity

Equity can be defined as a condition where "everyone [is] treated according to their diverse needs in a way that enables all people to participate, perform, and engage to the same extent."[1] Equity considers people's unique identities and experiences, and the ways oppression and discrimination affect each person's access to power, opportunities and resources. In Richmond and across Canada, inequities disproportionally affect Indigenous Peoples, racialized groups, 2SLGBTQI+ communities, newcomers and refugees, people living in poverty, people with disabilities, women, children, youth and seniors, who are often referred to as equity-deserving groups.

As the level of government most directly connected to residents, decisions made at the local government level can have a profound impact on people's standard of living and quality of life. The City acknowledges its responsibility in addressing social inequities through its planning and service delivery as well as across its physical and social infrastructure. This involves reducing and removing systemic barriers and fostering inclusion for all community members. It also involves working with partners and community members to collectively develop and implement responses to social issues that consider the gaps and barriers experienced by equity-deserving groups in the community.

> "By embedding intersectionality and equity lenses in institutional policies, practices and processes, equity efforts ensure that those who are not getting a fair share of access, influence and resources are not excluded from services and opportunities, but rather are systematically prioritized."
>
> - Government partner

HONOURING THE PAST

"You can't really know where you are going until you know where you have been."

– Maya Angelou

Background

The City has a strong history of planning for and responding to the social needs of the community. Since the early 1980s, Richmond has successfully introduced and implemented a number of City Council-adopted policies and strategies to advance social development in the community. These include the City's *Multiculturalism Policy* (1991), the *Affordable Housing Policy* (1989) and the *Senior Services Policy* (1982). Over the past three decades, as Richmond's population has grown, the social needs of the community have become more complex and diverse. In response to the evolving social landscape, the City began developing specialized strategies to respond to specific social issues, including the introduction of the City's first *Youth Strategy* in 1995 and the *Affordable Housing Strategy* in 2007. See Appendix B for a timeline of the development of the City's social development policies and plans.

In an effort to provide an overarching strategy to respond to the social needs of the community, in 2013, City Council adopted Richmond's first social development strategy, *Building our Social Future – A Social Development Strategy for Richmond (2013–2022)*. This strategy aimed to advance Richmond as "an inclusive, engaged and caring community – one that considers the needs of its present and future generations, values and builds on its diversity, nurtures its social capital and treats its citizens with fairness and respect."[2] Through the implementation of its nine strategic directions and 53 corresponding actions, the *2013–2022 Social Development Strategy* created the foundation for a more coordinated and sustainable approach to social development in Richmond.

Highlighted Achievements from 2013–2022

Between 2013 and 2022, the City made significant strides in improving the social well-being of Richmond residents through the implementation of the *2013–2022 Social Development Strategy*. By the end of this 10-year period, the City advanced or completed all 53 term-related or ongoing actions. Central to this success was the City's partnerships and collaborations with community organizations and residents.

Achievements spanned the range of social development areas and addressed the diverse and complex needs of various population groups, demographics and communities. These include, but are not limited to, the highlighted achievements presented in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Highlighted Achievements from the *2013–2022 Social Development Strategy*

Eight new City-owned child care facilities were opened (from 2013–2022), providing a combined **483 new licensed child care spaces** in the community:



- West Cambie Children's Centre (2013)
- Cranberry Children's Centre (2014)
- Willow Early Care and Learning Centre (2017)
- Gardens Children's Centre (2018)
- Seasong Child Care Centre (2018)
- River Run Early Care and Learning Centre (2020)
- Sprouts Early Childhood Development Hub (2022)
- Seedlings Early Childhood Development Hub (2022)

Four **affordable housing** developments and an **emergency shelter** were opened (from 2013–2022), in partnership with BC Housing and a number of non-profit community organizations:



- Kiwanis Towers (2015)
- Storeys (2017)
- Alderbridge Supportive Housing (2019)
- Richmond House Emergency Shelter (2019)
- Aster Place Supportive Housing (2022)

835 affordable housing units were secured and approximately **$15 million in cash-in-lieu contributions** were made to the Affordable Housing Reserve Fund under the City's Low-End Market Rental (LEMR) program (from 2013–2022), to support future affordable housing developments in Richmond





The first **annual Diversity Symposium** was hosted (2015); a free event that aims to equip professionals, volunteers and community members with the knowledge, skills and tools to build diverse, equitable and inclusive communities

A **permanent rainbow crosswalk** was installed on Minoru Boulevard across from the Richmond Cultural Centre (2019) to recognize Pride Week and the City's ongoing support and acceptance of the 2SLGBTQI+ communities



The City was designated as an **Age-Friendly BC Community** (2015) by the Province of BC for its commitment to developing initiatives that increase access to services, programs and opportunities for people as they age and promote inclusion and participation of seniors in all aspects of community life





City Council adopted the **Richmond Food Charter** (2016) as a key step towards supporting urban agriculture, strengthening the local food system and increasing access to affordable and healthy food in Richmond

An updated and more inclusive **Recreation Fee Subsidy Program** was implemented (2018) with expanded eligibility from children and youth to include Richmond residents of all ages who are experiencing financial hardship



City Council adopted the **City's Enhanced Accessibility Design Guidelines and Technical Specifications** (2018) to assist City staff and the development community in incorporating accessibility features in City-owned or City-leased infrastructure



The **Youth Civic Engagement Program** was launched (2019) to create opportunities for youth to learn about and discover the inner workings of the City and City Council's decision-making process that helps to shape the Richmond community



The City launched its first **Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Group** in Seafair (2019), funded partly by an Age-Friendly Communities Grant, to engage seniors and plan for aging population needs at the neighbourhood level–an initiative that has since been expanded to other Richmond neighbourhoods



City Council adopted the **Non-Profit Organization Replacement and Accommodation Policy** (2020) to ensure replacement space is provided to non-profit organizations leasing space in buildings that are subject to demolition to make way for new development

The **Emergency Response Centre** (ERC) was opened (2020), in partnership with BC Housing and Turning Point Recovery Society, to provide **40 temporary shelter spaces** and basic supports, including daily meals, showers and access to community services, for people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic





A mandatory online **staff training program** was initiated (2021) about the history and culture of **Indigenous Peoples and communities in Canada**, including the history and legacy of residential schools, in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 94 Calls to Action

$3.35 million in provincial funding was secured through the Strengthening Communities' Services grant (2021), implementing a number of projects to **support individuals experiencing homelessness** in Richmond, including:

- A Drop-in Centre and Shower Program
- Winter Warming Centres
- A Food Outreach Program
- City staff training programs
- Clinical support programs
- Community dialogues and awareness training





$8.93 million was allocated to **non-profit community organizations** in Richmond through the City Grants Program (from 2013–2022), to support initiatives that promote improved quality of life for residents and/or build community and organizational capacity to deliver programs and services

The **Menstrual Equity Initiative** was launched (2021), installing a total of 30 dispensers providing free menstrual products in public washrooms at City community facilities and Richmond libraries, with more dispensers added at City Hall, City Hall Annex and Public Works Yard washrooms (2022), to remove barriers to participation related to period poverty and menstrual stigma



Alignment with other City Strategies

The new *Strategy* builds upon the achievements of the *2013–2022 Social Development Strategy* and serves as an overarching framework to guide the City's approach in responding to city-wide social issues. It aligns with current City Council-adopted strategies and plans that address specific areas of social development, as illustrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Linkages between City of Richmond Social Development Strategies and Plans



It is also supported by a number of City Council-adopted plans and strategies that have one or more strategic actions or outcomes focused on inclusion, well-being or community development and planning. Together, these documents create a comprehensive and collective approach to advancing social development and fostering an environment in which all community members can thrive. Current City strategies and plans that align with the *Strategy* are summarized in Appendix C.



UNDERSTANDING THE PRESENT

"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."

– Margaret J. Wheatley



An Evolving Social Landscape

Since the *2013–2022 Social Development Strategy* was adopted by City Council in September 2013, communities across Canada, including Richmond, have faced a broad range of compounding economic, environmental, health and social challenges. These challenges have led to diminished social outcomes and affected the quality of life for many community members. They include the COVID-19 pandemic, housing shortages and increasing experiences of homelessness, rising living costs and growing income disparity, the toxic drug crisis, impacts of climate change and extreme weather events, declining mental health outcomes and increasing social isolation. When combined with growing inequality and demographic shifts, such as an aging population, these pressures have resulted in more complex social issues. At the same time, public expectations and polarization around how best to address these challenges has grown.

Meanwhile, advancing reconciliation with First Nations and fostering social inclusion have emerged as priorities for communities. In recent years, there has been a growing awareness of historical and systemic inequities, along with a renewed urgency for both individuals and governments to take action. This has led to an increased focus on advancing reconciliation, diversity, equity and inclusion across Canadian society and within the Richmond community.

As a result of these intersecting challenges, responding to social issues requires more time, resources and coordination across multiple sectors. Consequently, municipalities are increasingly assuming responsibilities that fall outside of their usual scope to better meet the needs of their communities. Enhanced collaboration and cooperation with community partners, residents, other sectors and senior levels of government will be increasingly important to respond to these challenges over the coming decade.

> "The affordability crisis is making it difficult for people with low and moderate incomes to meet basic needs, such as housing and food. This, in turn, is likely affecting stress levels and people's ability to make time for other important, health-promoting activities, such as socialization and physical activity."
>
> - Community member

Roles in Advancing Social Development

The City recognizes the importance of fostering strong, collaborative relationships with key partners to implement collective solutions in response to social issues in Richmond. All three levels of government, non-profit organizations, community agencies, local businesses and community members have essential roles to play. These roles and responsibilities are outlined below.

Senior Levels of Government

All three levels of government (federal, provincial and municipal) are responsible for a range of policies, programs and services that impact social development. The following information provides an overview of each level of government's responsibility.

The Government of Canada

The Government of Canada is responsible for laws that govern the rights of all Canadians and the broader macro-economic policies and social programs that affect the social well-being of Canadians. This includes areas such as federal taxation, immigration and Indigenous rights. It provides funding to provincial governments in specific policy areas related to social development. These include health care, social assistance and social services, post-secondary education, early childhood development and child care. The Government of Canada also provides funding for projects and social programs which align with federal priorities, including funding that is accessible to municipalities, community agencies and other groups. Various federal agencies, such as the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, work closely with municipalities on areas of mutual concern like affordable housing.

The Province of BC

The Province of BC has jurisdiction over many areas related to social development including health, education and income assistance. In addition, it establishes the legislative structure within which municipalities operate and is typically responsible for municipal borrowing and revenue transfers. The Province pursues its social development mandate in a number of ways: direct service provision (e.g. through Ministry of Children and Family Development programs), service provision through Health Authorities or crown agencies (e.g. BC Housing) and contractual arrangements or grant funding with non-profit service providers. For example, with respect to income assistance, the Province is responsible for legislation, policy, regulation and distribution of funds.

The City of Richmond

As the level of government that is closely connected to the communities they serve, municipal governments are uniquely positioned to understand and respond to the growing number and complexity of social issues. Generally, municipalities

are responsible for services that directly affect community members' daily lives. These responsibilities include management of policing and firefighting services, roads and transportation, municipal zoning and land use, and economic development. Additionally, municipalities provide a variety of community facilities, amenities and parks that offer recreational, sporting, cultural and social opportunities for community members. However, in order to advance social development, the City remains committed to proactively planning for and addressing the social needs of the community through the following tools:

- **Develop and Implement:** The City develops and implements plans, policies and strategies to guide its approach to social development, including actions that respond to the social needs of Richmond's diverse population.
- **Research and Analyze:** The City tracks and analyzes a wide range of data and engages with Richmond residents to identify trends, needs and gaps in social programs and services in the community.
- **Partner:** The City partners with senior levels of government and public partners, including the Richmond School District, Richmond Public Library, Vancouver Coastal Health and provincial ministries, to address social issues of mutual concern.
- **Deliver:** The City delivers a variety of programs and services within its municipal mandate that improve the well-being of community members.
- **Collaborate:** The City also collaborates with Community Associations and Societies and community organizations to support the provision of a wide array of programs and services that promote positive social outcomes in the community.
- **Advocate:** The City advocates to senior levels of government for funding and supports to meet community social needs.
- **Design, Build and Maintain:** The City designs, builds and maintains a broad range of built and natural environments.
- **Secure:** The City secures affordable housing, child care facilities and other community amenities through a range of tools which may include community planning, zoning, density bonus and amenity cost charges (ACCs).
- **Promote:** The City promotes community capacity building by allocating resources and funding to social development priorities in the community and coordinates joint planning tables and initiatives that support the development of collective responses to social issues.

Table 1 outlines the key roles and responsibilities of all three levels of government related to a number of social policy areas. While these social policy areas fall primarily within the jurisdiction of senior levels of government, municipalities play an essential role. Through community planning, design and service delivery, municipalities can significantly impact individual and community well-being. This table illustrates how municipal efforts to advance social development are interconnected with, and reliant on, collaborative actions from both the Government of Canada and the Province of BC.

Table 1: Government Roles and Responsibilities for Social Development

Policy Area	Government of Canada	Province of BC	City of Richmond
General	Responsible for laws that govern the rights of all Canadians and broader policies and social programs that affect the social well-being of the whole of Canada.	Responsible for provincial laws and a wide range of policies and social programs that impact residents living in BC.	Responsible for community-level planning, bylaws and essential local services.
Accessibility	• **Sets** national accessibility standards and regulates federal institutions through the *Accessible Canada Act* • **Provides** grant funding for local projects that improve accessibility • **Offers** disability tax benefits and credits (e.g. Disability tax credit)	• **Sets** provincial accessibility standards through the *Accessible BC Act* • **Administers** the BC Disability Assistance program • **Provides** grant funding for local projects that improve accessibility	• **Develops** local accessibility plans • **Identifies, removes and prevents** accessibility barriers in the City's public realm, programs and services • **Facilitates** initiatives to advance accessibility in areas outside of municipal jurisdiction (e.g. private and non-profit sectors)
Child care	• **Sets** national standards and policy frameworks for child care • **Provides** funding to Provinces through early learning and child care agreements • **Offers** child care tax benefits and credits (e.g. Canada Child Benefit)	• **Regulates** child care licensing, program standards and educator qualifications • **Provides** operating and capital funding to support new and existing child care spaces • **Provides** fee reduction programs and child care subsidies for lower income families	• **Develops** policies, strategies and design guidelines to meet local child care needs • **Facilitates and supports** the development of child care sites • **Provides** grant funding for capital expenses and professional and program development opportunities
Food insecurity	• **Sets** national policy frameworks and strategies like *A Food Policy for Canada* • **Provides** grant funding for local food programs and food insecurity research	• **Delivers** social programs that support households in accessing food (e.g. income assistance) • **Coordinates** emergency food response in times of crisis • **Provides** grant funding for local food security initiatives (e.g. school meal programs, local food networks)	• **Develops** local food policies and poverty reduction plans • **Offers** space, land and logistical support for local food production, distribution and education programs • **Provides** grant funding for local food security-related initiatives
Health care	• **Sets** national health care standards • **Provides** funding to the Provinces through the *Canada Health Transfer* • **Regulates** pharmaceuticals and health products	• **Delivers** health care services, including hospitals, clinics and mental health services • **Regulates** doctors, nurses and other health care workers • **Provides** grant funding for local health promotion initiatives	• **Supports** local health planning and collaborates with service providers to promote positive health outcomes for residents • **Provides** grant funding for local initiatives that support the well-being of community members
Homelessness	• **Sets** national strategies aimed at reducing homelessness and improving affordable housing • **Provides** funding through programs like the *Reaching Home* initiative • **Coordinates** efforts between the Provinces, municipalities and First Nations	• **Delivers** affordable housing and shelter projects and programs • **Coordinates** services, including mental health, addiction support and social assistance programs • **Provides** operating and capital funding for emergency shelters and transitional housing	• **Develops** homelessness strategies and action plans • **Delivers and collaborates** with non-profits to provide homelessness outreach services • **Coordinates** joint planning and action tables to advance community initiatives • **Provides** space for the delivery of shelters, winter services and drop-in programs • **Provides** grant funding for local homelessness outreach initiatives

Policy Area	Government of Canada	Province of BC	City of Richmond
Housing	• **Sets** national housing standards and strategies • **Provides** funding, loans and financing initiatives for affordable housing • **Co-funds** the Canada Housing Benefit with the Provinces for individuals and families with lower incomes	• **Delivers** affordable housing projects and programs • **Oversees** tenancy laws and building codes • **Provides** operating and capital funding for supportive housing, non-market housing and low-end market rental housing	• **Develops** land use policies to encourage diverse housing types • **Provides** permits, incentives and land for affordable housing projects • **Collaborates** with developers, non-profits, and federal and provincial agencies to build and maintain affordable housing
Immigrants & refugees	• **Sets** national policies for immigration, refugee protection and citizenship • **Provides** funding to support initial settlement needs (e.g. basic supports, language and skills training) • **Coordinates** refugee resettlement (e.g. arrival, sponsorship programs and temporary housing)	• **Delivers** settlement services (e.g. language and skills training) • **Provides** access to housing, health care, education and community programs • **Coordinates** employment programs to support job placement and recognition of foreign credentials • **Provides** grant funding for local settlement and integration services	• **Develops** local policies and strategies that foster diversity and inclusion • **Delivers** cultural programs, events and newcomer welcome initiatives • **Provides** grant funding for local initiatives that support the well-being of immigrants, newcomers and refugees in Richmond
Poverty reduction	• **Sets** the national poverty line and poverty reduction strategies • **Administers** income supports (e.g. Employment Insurance) • **Offers** tax benefits and credits for targeted poverty relief (e.g. GST/HST credit)	• **Sets** provincial poverty reduction plans like *TogetherBC* • **Administers** the BC Income Assistance program • **Provides** grant funding for local poverty reduction initiatives	• **Develops** local poverty reduction plans • **Coordinates** joint planning and action tables to advance community initiatives • **Provides** grant funding to support local poverty reduction efforts
Seniors	• **Administers** income supports (e.g. Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement) • **Offers** senior tax benefits and credits (e.g. Age Amount tax credit) • **Provides** grant funding for age-friendly communities, elder abuse prevention and seniors programs	• **Delivers** health care services for seniors • **Delivers** seniors housing projects and programs • **Subsidizes** public transportation for seniors (e.g. HandyDART, BC Bus Pass Program)	• **Develops** local seniors strategies • **Delivers and collaborates** with non-profits to provide local seniors services and programs • **Develops** accessible and age-friendly public spaces • **Provides** grant funding for local initiatives that support the well-being of Richmond seniors
Youth	• **Sets** priorities for youth through the *Youth Policy of Canada* • **Provides** funding for youth employment and skills development programs • **Offers** financial aid (e.g. student loans, grants and scholarships)	• **Delivers** K-12 education • **Provides** child welfare services and supports • **Delivers** youth employment and training programs • **Offers** financial aid (e.g. student loans, grants and scholarships)	• **Develops** local youth strategies • **Delivers and collaborates** with non-profits to provide local youth services and programs • **Supports** youth engagement and inclusion at the local level • **Provides** grant funding for local initiatives that support the well-being of Richmond youth

Public Partners and Government Agencies

The City of Richmond has strong working relationships with public partners and government agencies that include the Richmond School District (SD38), Richmond Public Library, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), BC Housing, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (MSDPR) and Richmond RCMP. These agencies deliver a variety of services and supports that directly benefit the social well-being of Richmond residents. The City is committed to ongoing collaboration and partnerships with these public partners and government agencies to advance social development in Richmond.

Community Organizations and Faith Communities

Richmond has an extensive network of community organizations and faith communities that provide a wide range of social services and supports to address the needs of the individuals and families they serve. These organizations are well positioned to identify community needs and barriers and participate in joint planning on social issues affecting community members in Richmond. They deliver a wide range of social services, including:

- Homelessness outreach
- Management of affordable housing units
- Crisis counselling
- Family services and supports
- Information and referral supports
- Job skills training and career mentoring
- Legal services
- Support services for new immigrants
- Opportunities for social and community connection
- Peer counselling
- Provision of emergency food supports, including community meals and food hampers
- Referrals to government programs, health care and mental health services
- Translation and interpretation

As well as providing these important services and supports, these organizations continue to advocate on behalf of community members for additional resources to address social needs.

Community Associations and Societies

In addition to the direct provision of programs and services for community members, the City works with Community Associations and Societies to provide recreation, sport, arts, culture and heritage opportunities to the community. The City provides the facilities and core staffing, and most of the Community Associations and Societies are responsible for the delivery of programs and events. Through opportunities provided by these non-profit organizations, community members can participate and volunteer in a variety of social events, physical activities, health and wellness programs, and cultural experiences that meet the diverse needs and interests of community members.

The Private Sector

The private sector has an important role in social development. Members of the private sector are both employers and, in some cases, Richmond residents. Their decisions and actions have a direct impact on employment levels, labour and income, and overall quality of life in the community. The private sector provides goods and services, builds housing and infrastructure, develops technology and communication systems, creates employment opportunities and influences many other important aspects of community life. It can also offer mentoring opportunities and assist in sponsoring programs and events that foster economic and social inclusion of Richmond residents.

Richmond Community Members

Well-informed, active and engaged community members play an integral role in Richmond's social development. Either as individuals or as part of a group, community members raise public awareness on important social issues and shape the community through civic engagement opportunities, such as participating on community tables and voting. For many years, volunteerism in Richmond has played a significant role in strengthening the community's social system, as many of the social services and supports offered rely heavily on volunteers to help deliver these vital services. Community members also contribute their ideas, backgrounds and experiences to enhance the cultural vibrancy of the community.

By working with these key partners, the City continues to make meaningful progress in responding to the complex and systemic social issues in Richmond. Strengthening and expanding these effective partnerships will be essential to advancing social development over the next 10 years. The City remains committed to working with its partners to implement solutions that reflect shared responsibilities, priorities and commitments.

What is your vision for a more inclusive and thriving Richmond?

"I imagine a city where someone, regardless of their abilities, [is] able to move independently and access services without barriers. Whether that is accessible [sidewalks] [and] intersections, equipped with accessible pedestrian signals and tactile walking surface indicators, or city [staff that are] trained and ready to serve and support anyone with any disabilities..."

- Community member



Developing the new Strategy

The new *Strategy* was developed through a multi-stage process that included a comprehensive needs analysis to identify current and emerging social issues in the community. Information was collected from a range of sources. This included an analysis of community and government data (e.g. 2021 Census of Population) to examine changing community demographics and trends as well as a jurisdictional scan of other municipal approaches to social development. Feedback was also gathered from community members and partners through an extensive community consultation process to understand the current and future needs and priorities of community members.

The Social Development Strategy Advisory Committee

A Social Development Strategy Advisory Committee was created to guide the development of the *Strategy*. The Advisory Committee was composed of representatives from key City departments and community organizations that provide a broad range of social services and supports. Membership included representatives from the following organizations:

- City of Richmond, various departments
- City Centre Community Association
- Richmond Addiction Services Society
- Richmond Centre for Disability
- Richmond Family Place Society
- Richmond Multicultural Community Services
- Richmond Public Library
- Richmond School District
- Turning Point Recovery Society
- Vancouver Coastal Health

Members of the Advisory Committee offered valuable insights and shared their knowledge about the social needs of Richmond residents. They played an important role in ensuring that the *Strategy* was developed according to a set of guiding principles that took into account the needs and experiences of the community. These principles are outlined in the following section.

Guiding Principles

The following Guiding Principles, endorsed by the Social Development Strategy Advisory Committee and adopted by City Council in April 2023, helped shape the development of the *Strategy*:

- **People-Centered:** Ensure the people who live, work, learn and play in Richmond are at the center of the *Strategy's* development and implementation. This includes utilizing an evidence-based and data-informed approach, considering both quantitative and qualitative information that values people's knowledge and lived experiences.
- **Collective Impact:** Develop a shared vision with aligned strategic actions that promote collaboration across the community to draw on strengths from various levels of government, community agencies, non-profit organizations, the private sector and individual residents to achieve the best possible social outcomes for the Richmond community.
- **Overarching Framework:** Provide an overarching framework to guide the City's approach in addressing city-wide issues related to social development and align with existing City strategies, plans and policies that address and affect social development.
- **Inclusive and Accessible:** Commit to and facilitate public engagement processes that are inclusive and accessible that allow for a wide range of experiences and perspectives to be heard and considered in the design, implementation and evaluation of the *Strategy*.
- **Accountable:** Consider the roles and mandates of those involved in implementing the *Strategy* to ensure actions and mechanisms for demonstrating progress and social impact are reliable, realistic and transparent.
- **Responsive:** Ensure the *Strategy* is based on current need, while being future-focused and proactive, and developed in a manner that allows for agile, innovative and responsive action.

These guiding principles informed the City and Advisory Committee during the planning of consultation activities and development of the strategic directions and priority actions outlined in the *Strategy*.

What is your vision for a more inclusive and thriving Richmond?

"People, regardless of diverse circumstances, genders, cultures etc., have a safe place to live, enough food, and a supportive community of friends and families. There are no barriers to health and wellness, and discrimination is not tolerated."

- Community member

Jurisdictional Scan and Research

Recognizing the significant impact local government policies, programs and spaces have on the standard of living and quality of life of community members, a jurisdictional scan of 17 Canadian and international local governments was completed. Through this scan, different approaches and practices for creating a more inclusive and thriving community were identified. Additionally, existing City Council-adopted plans and strategies were reviewed to assess their alignment with the *Strategy* and to determine the current level of progress Richmond has made in advancing social development in Richmond.

Furthermore, a systematic review of Canadian and international social well-being frameworks was conducted to provide a comprehensive understanding of the conditions and factors that support an individual's ability to thrive. These frameworks included:

- *The Canadian Index of Well-being:* The Canadian Index of Well-being tracks changes in the well-being of Canadians over time in eight quality of life categories or domains. The domains are community vitality, democratic engagement, education, environment, healthy populations, leisure and culture, living standards and time use.
- *Canada's Quality of Life Framework:* Introduced by the Government of Canada in 2021, Canada's Quality of Life Framework consists of a set of 84 indicators, organized into a series of domains that include prosperity, health, society, environment and good governance. The Framework also integrates two cross-cutting lenses which are applied across all of its domains: the Fairness and Inclusion Lens and the Sustainability and Resilience Lens.
- *The Shared Ingredients for a Well-being Economy:* This joint discussion paper prepared by the Centre for Thriving Places and supported by Carnegie UK, explores eight different frameworks that are widely used internationally to evaluate and monitor well-being and presents common themes or 'ingredients' found in these frameworks. The eight frameworks are: The Thriving Places Index (United Kingdom), the Social, Economic, Environmental and Democratic (SEED) Well-being Model (United Kingdom), the Doughnut Economics Model (United Kingdom), the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales), the National Performance Framework (Scotland), the Office for National Statistics Well-being Dashboard (United Kingdom), the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (International), and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Better Life Index (International).

All of the frameworks reviewed discuss the necessary conditions for a thriving life and have assisted the City in identifying key areas within its mandate that contribute to both individual and community well-being. They highlight the relationship between a range of social, economic, environmental and political factors, and community health and well-being, while also demonstrating a strong linkage between community design and the promotion of health, social well-being and a sense of inclusion among community members.

From this research, learnings and opportunities for Richmond were identified and used to inform the strategic directions and priority actions in the new *Strategy*.



Profile of Community Members in Richmond

Today, people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities are establishing roots and connections in Richmond. The following provides a profile of community members in Richmond using data from the 2021 Census of Population (2021 Census) as well as other local, regional and national sources. By drawing on data from multiple sources, this profile provides a more complete picture of Richmond's most recent demographics and emerging trends. Other data sources mentioned include:

- BC Housing, Applicant Registry (2021–2024)
- Metro Vancouver, Point-in-Time Homeless Count (2020, 2023)
- Metro Vancouver, Regional Growth Strategy Projections (2024)
- Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, BC Employment and Assistance Program (2021–2024)
- NewToBC, Richmond Immigrant Demographic Profile (2023)
- Richmond Centre for Disability, Accessible Parking Permit Program (2023–2024)
- Richmond Food Bank Society, Impact Reports (2021–2024)
- Statistics Canada, Canadian Survey on Disability (2022)

This information has informed the development of the strategic directions and priority actions outlined in the *Strategy*. As this data is both current and future-focused, it will continue to be tracked to support the City in planning and responding to Richmond's evolving social needs over the next 10 years.

Unless otherwise noted, data is from the 2021 Census, which is based on 2021 population data, with the exception of income data, which is sourced from Canada Revenue Agency's 2020 tax and benefits records. To ensure confidentiality, the values in the Census data are randomly rounded to multiples of five or 10. As a result, totals may not match the individual values since totals and subtotals are independently rounded. Similarly, percentages, which are calculated on rounded data, may not necessarily add up to 100%.

Population Size

Richmond's population is growing and is estimated to be 241,375 in 2025.[3] From the 2016 to 2021 Census, Richmond's population increased by 11,628 individuals, representing a growth rate of approximately 6%. This rate was even greater when looking at changes over the last two decades. According to Census data from 2001 to 2021, Richmond saw an increase of more than 45,000 residents (28%) from 164,345 individuals in 2001 to 209,937 individuals in 2021.

From 2025 to 2050, Richmond's population is projected to increase by another 29% or 69,861 individuals, from the estimated 241,375 residents in 2025 to a

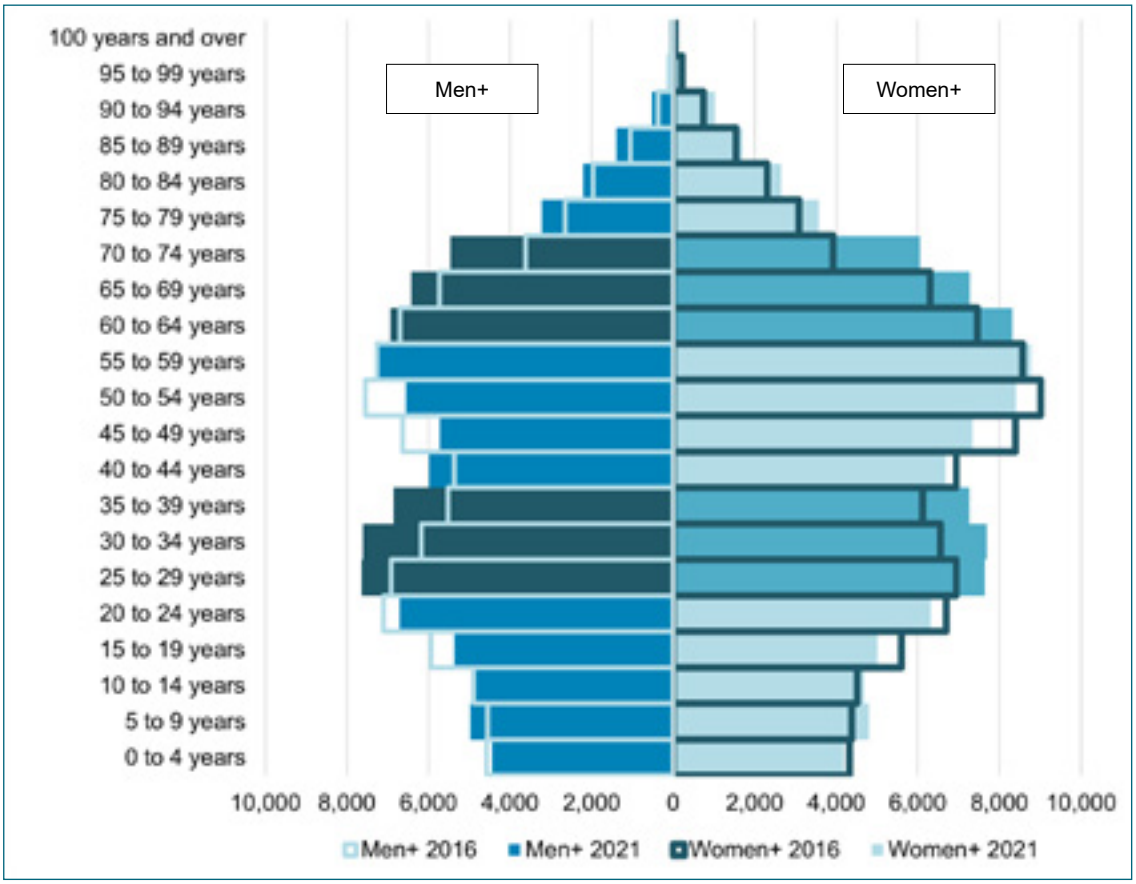
projected 311,236 residents in 2050. This is the same as a population increase of just over 1% each year. It is important to note that the population projections are based on forecasts developed by the City of Richmond in collaboration with Metro Vancouver. They represent an approximate figure for the given year and reflect the 2024 Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy population projections based on a medium population growth scenario. These projections do not reflect legislative changes since 2024, such as the provincial Transit Oriented Areas and Small-Scale Multi-Unit initiatives and the federal 2025–2027 Immigration Levels Plan.

Age Groups in Richmond

Population Pyramid

Richmond's population encompasses a range of ages, from babies to centenarians. This is highlighted in the following population pyramid (Figure 3), which shows proportional differences by generation. Each bar in the graph illustrates the number of individuals in each five-year age group in Richmond by gender based on the 2016 and 2021 Census. The 'bumps' indicate a larger number of individuals in certain age ranges, while the overall graph shows significant growth in some age segments over the past five years (2016–2021). The terms woman or man throughout this document refer to self-identified gender and may include those who identify as non-binary.[4]

Figure 3: Richmond Population Pyramid, 2016 and 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 and 2021 Census of Population

The two largest generations represented in the population pyramid are the baby boomer generation (first 'bump' in the upper half of the pyramid) and the millennial generation (second 'bump' in the lower half of the pyramid). Baby boomers represent individuals born between 1946 and 1964 while millennials represent individuals born between 1981 and 1996. As of the 2021 Census, individuals in the baby boomer generation were between the ages of 57 and 75 years and totalled 52,060 individuals or approximately 25% of Richmond's population. The most significant population shift between 2016 and 2021 occurred in the 70 to 74 years cohort, which increased to 11,515 individuals in 2021 from 7,535 individuals in 2016. Millennials were between the ages of 25 and 40 years at the time of the 2021 Census and made up a total of 47,220 individuals, representing almost another quarter (22%) of Richmond's population.

In Canada, millennials are the fastest growing generation due to higher rates of immigration. Nationally, more than half of the immigrants who settled in Canada from 2016/2017 to 2020/2021 were millennials, and by 2029, it is projected that millennials will become the largest generation in the country.[5]

Past and Projected Population by Age Groups

Based on the City's broader age categories which include children (birth to 12 years), youth (13 to 24 years), adults (25 to 54 years) and seniors (55+ years), the overall age distribution of Richmond's population remained relatively stable between the 2016 and 2021 Census (Table 2).

Table 2: Past and Projected Population by Age Groups in Richmond

Age Group	2016	2021	2035 MVRGS[6] Population Projection	2050 MVRGS Population Projection
Children (birth to 12 years)	23,275	23,955	25,073	26,290
Youth (13 to 24 years)	29,240	27,375	31,212	32,125
Adults (25 to 54 years)	82,120	85,355	122,123	133,399
Seniors (55+ years)	63,625	73,240	95,908	119,421
Total	**198,309**	**209,937**	**274,316**	**311,236**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 and 2021 Census of Population, and 2024 Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy population projections based on a medium population growth scenario

Of all the age categories, adults (25 to 54 years) continued to represent the largest proportion of Richmond's total population in both 2016 and 2021, accounting for approximately 41% (82,120 individuals in 2016 and 85,355 in 2021). The most notable change was in the proportion of seniors (55+ years), which increased from 32% (63,625 individuals) in 2016 to approximately 35% (73,240 individuals) in 2021. This growth was consistent with national trends related to Canada's aging population and changes observed in municipalities across the country. While the number of children (birth to 12 years) increased slightly by 680 individuals, their proportion of the population remained relatively

What is your vision for a more inclusive and thriving Richmond?

"Make Richmond more accessible for our aging population, [including] people with mobility issues."

- Community member

stable at just over 11% between 2016 and 2021. Conversely, the youth population (13 to 24 years) declined by 1,865 individuals, resulting in nearly a 2% decrease in their overall segment of the population. However, together, children and youth collectively accounted for 24% of Richmond's population in 2021.

The trend of adults (25 to 54 years) and seniors (55+ years) comprising the majority of Richmond's population is expected to continue through 2050, according to population projections for both 2035 and 2050. By 2035, the number of adults is expected to increase by 36,768 individuals or 43% while the number of seniors is estimated to increase by another 22,668 individuals or 31%. When looking ahead to 2050, both age groups are projected to more than double in comparison to the 2021 Census, with seniors driving much of the growth. The seniors population is forecasted to increase by 63%, reaching 119,421 individuals, and will represent approximately 38% of Richmond's total population in 2050. The adult population is projected to grow by 56%, increasing to 133,399 individuals, and will make up approximately 43% of Richmond's total population in 2050.

Household Composition

According to the 2021 Census, Richmond's population included a total of 81,080 private households. The most common household type was couples with children, making up 28% or 22,720 households of the total number of households (Table 3). The second and third most common types were households that contained only one-person, otherwise known as one-person households, representing 25% or 20,345 households, and couples without children, representing 22% or 18,095 households.

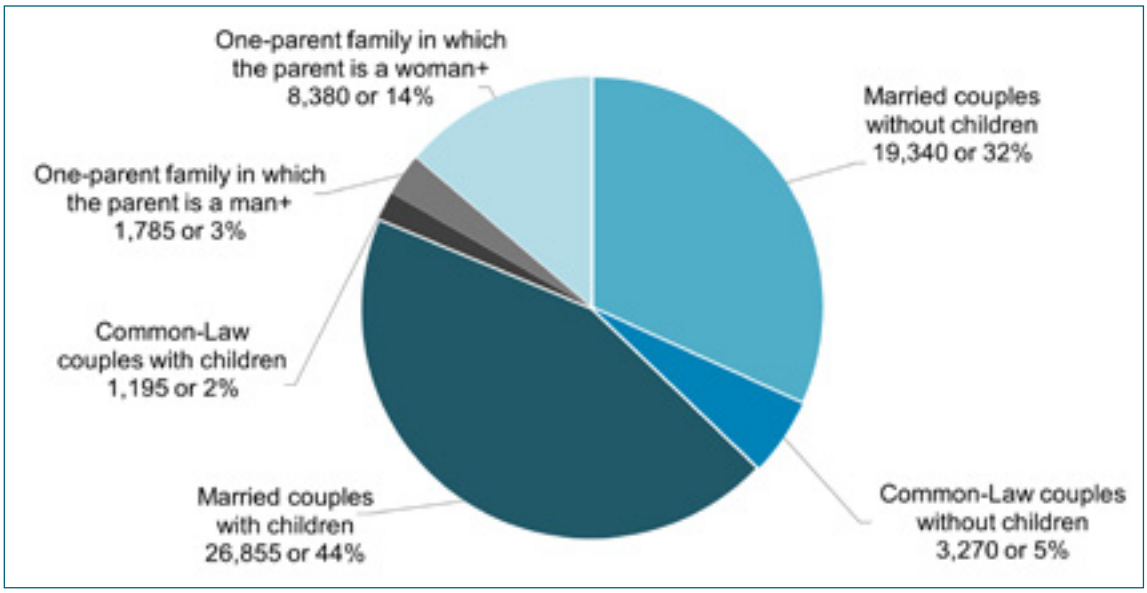
Table 3: Household Types in Richmond, 2021

Household Type	Households	
	Number	%
Couple-family households with children	22,720	28.0%
Couple-family households without children	18,095	22.3%
One-parent-family households	7,660	9.4%
Multigenerational households	4,490	5.5%
Multiple-census-family households	1,030	1.3%
One-census-family households with additional persons	3,075	3.8%
Two-or-more-person non-census-family households	3,665	4.5%
One-person households	20,345	25.1%
Total	**81,080**	**100.0%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

Figure 4 provides a more detailed breakdown of the composition of census families in Richmond, which includes the number of married, common-law and one-parent family households, both with and without children, based on the 2021 Census.

Figure 4: Composition of Census Families in Richmond, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

In 2021, there were 22,610 families without children and 38,215 families with children in Richmond. Of the families with children, the majority (70%) were married couples with children, totalling 26,855 families. Additionally, there were 10,165 one-parent families, representing approximately 27% of all families with children in Richmond. Among the one-parent families, 8,380 were families where the parent was a woman and 1,785 were families where the parent was a man.

Family Size

As of the 2021 Census, the average size of census families in Richmond was estimated to be 2.8 persons. The proportion of two person families continued to increase from approximately 46% in 2016 to just over 48% in 2021, while the proportion of three-person, four-person and five-or-more-person families continued to decrease across the same period (Table 4).

Table 4: Family Sizes in Richmond, 2016 and 2021

Family Size	2016	2021
Two person	45.5%	48.4%
Three person	27.5%	26.2%
Four person	20.9%	19.8%
Five or more persons	6.1%	5.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 and 2016 Census of Population

Ethnicity

In 2021, there were over 180 different ethnic origins (with at least 25 residents) and 100 languages spoken in Richmond. Statistics Canada defines ethnic origin as the ethnic or cultural origins of the person's ancestors, who are usually more distant than grandparents. A person can also have more than one ethnic origin.[7] The most commonly reported ethnic origin was Chinese (99,780 individuals), followed by Filipino (15,905 individuals) and English (12,185 individuals).[8] The 10 most common ethnic origins are shown below in Table 5.

Table 5: Most Common Ethnic Origins of Richmond Residents, 2021

Ethnic Origin	Number
Chinese	99,780
Filipino	15,905
English	12,185
Hong Konger	9,760
Scottish	9,750
Indian	9,330
Canadian	8,280
Irish	7,720
Taiwanese	6,715
German	6,305

Source: NewToBC (2023). Richmond Immigrant Demographic Profile. https://newtobc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-NewToBC-Richmond-DemoProfile-WEB-Final.pdf

In 2021, 80% or 167,395 individuals of Richmond's population identified as racialized, which gives Richmond the distinction of having the highest proportion of racialized groups of any municipality in British Columbia, and the second highest percentage in Canada, after Markham, Ontario (Table 6). The concept of "racialized group" is based on the visible minority variable in the Canadian Census. The Employment Equity Act defines visible minorities as persons, other than Aboriginal Peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour. The racialized population in Canada consists mainly of the following groups: South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Arab, Latin American, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean and Japanese.[9] The predominant racialized group in Richmond in 2021 was Chinese (68% or 113,060 individuals) followed by South Asian (9% or 15,370 individuals) and Filipino (9% or 15,130 individuals).

Table 6: Most Common Racialized Groups in Richmond, 2021

Racialized Group	Number	%
Chinese	113,060	68%
South Asian	15,370	9%
Filipino	15,130	9%
Multiple racialized groups	6,090	4%
Japanese	3,885	2%
Southeast Asian	3,305	2%
Arab	2,205	1%
Latin American	2,155	1%
Korean	2,035	1%
Black	1,775	1%
West Asian	1,670	1%
Racialized groups n.i.e[10].	710	0.4%
Total racialized population	**167,395**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

Indigenous Population

According to the 2021 Census, a total of 1,540 individuals, including 270 children between birth and 14 years, reported Indigenous identity in Richmond, which accounted for 0.7% of the total population. Indigenous identity refers to a person that identifies with the Indigenous Peoples of Canada, which is defined by Statistics Canada as those who identify as First Nations, Métis and/or Inuk (Inuit), and/or those who report being Registered or Treaty Indians (that is, registered under the Indian Act of Canada), and/or those who have membership in a First Nation or Indian band.[11] Of the total who identified as Indigenous in Richmond, 58% identified as First Nations, 36% as Métis and less than 1% as Inuit.

It is important to recognize how historical and systemic barriers including racism, discrimination and the ongoing effects of colonization have contributed to a higher incidence of poverty among Indigenous individuals and families in Canada. Indigenous Peoples continue to be disproportionately impacted in the Lower Mainland and within the Richmond community. Indigenous individuals were over-represented in the 2023 Metro Vancouver Point-in-Time Homeless Count. During the Count in Richmond, 15% of people who responded to the question relating to Indigenous identity identified as Indigenous, despite making up less than 1% of Richmond's total population.

Immigration to Richmond

In the last two decades, Richmond experienced a significant growth in its population mainly due to immigration. Between 2001 and 2021, Richmond's immigrant population rose by 37,300, accounting for 85% of the total increase. The term immigrant refers to a person who is, or who has ever been, a landed immigrant or permanent resident. Such a person has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. In the 2021 Census, this includes immigrants who were admitted to Canada on or before May 11, 2021.[12]

Richmond has consistently maintained a larger share of immigrants compared to Greater Vancouver and almost all other Canadian municipalities.[13] In 2021, immigrants represented just over 60% of Richmond's total population in comparison to approximately 42% of Greater Vancouver's total population. Table 7 highlights the overall population and immigration trends in Richmond and Greater Vancouver from 2016 to 2021.

Table 7: Population and Immigration Trends for Richmond and Greater Vancouver, 2016 and 2021

Year	Richmond			Greater Vancouver		
	Total Population	Immigrant Population	% of Total Immigrant Population	Total Population	Immigrant Population	% of Total Immigrant Population
2021	208,400	125,600	60.3%	2,607,010	1,089,185	41.8%
2016	198,309	118,305	60.2%	2,463,431	989,540	40.8%

Source: NewToBC (2023). Richmond Immigrant Demographic Profile. https://newtobc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-NewToBC-Richmond-DemoProfile-WEB-Final.pdf

In 2021, Richmond was also the fourth largest recipient of recent immigrants to British Columbia after Vancouver, Surrey and Burnaby. Statistics Canada defines a recent immigrant as a person who obtained landed immigrant or permanent resident status in the five years preceding a given census. In the 2021 Census, this refers to the period from January 1, 2016 to May 11, 2021.[14] The three leading countries of birth for recent immigrants in Richmond were China (52%), the Philippines (12%) and India (7%) (Table 8).

Table 8: Most Common Places of Birth for Total and Recent Immigrants in Richmond, 2021

Total Immigrants	Number	%	Recent Immigrants	Number	%
China	46,490	37%	China	7,090	52%
Hong Kong	24,335	19%	Philippines	1,580	12%
Philippines	13,570	11%	India	955	7%
Taiwan	7,745	6%	Hong Kong	820	6%
India	5,380	4%	Taiwan	365	3%
United Kingdom	2,210	2%	United States	275	2%
United States	1,605	1%	South Korea	215	2%
Vietnam	1,510	1%	Brazil	195	1%
South Korea	1,230	1%	Syria	125	1%
Pakistan	995	1%	Iran	120	1%
Other Places	20,530	16%	Other Places	1,965	14%

Source: NewToBC (2023). Richmond Immigrant Demographic Profile. https://newtobc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-NewToBC-Richmond-DemoProfile-WEB-Final.pdf

Between 2016 and 2021, 540 individuals in Richmond immigrated to Canada as refugees. The term refugee refers to individuals granted permanent resident status in Canada based on a well-founded fear of returning to their country of origin for reasons including race, religion and nationality.[15] From the pre-1980s through to the 2021 Census, there were a total of 4,120 individuals who had immigrated to Canada as refugees living in Richmond.[16]

Language

According to the 2021 Census, English was the most commonly spoken language at home for 96,275 Richmond residents, representing 46% of the total population. Following English, Mandarin (approximately 18% or 37,000 speakers) and Cantonese (almost 18% or 36,515 speakers) were the second and third most common home languages (Table 9).

Table 9: Most Common Languages Spoken at Home in Richmond, 2021

Home Language	Number	%
English	96,275	46.1%
Mandarin	37,000	17.7%
Yue (Cantonese)	36,515	17.5%
Tagalog	4,575	2.2%
Punjabi	3,250	1.6%
Min Nan (Chaochow, Teochow, Fukien, Taiwanese)	1,360	0.7%
Russian	1,330	0.6%
Spanish	1,155	0.6%
Japanese	1,110	0.5%
Korean	1,000	0.5%
Arabic	905	0.4%
Other Languages	7,825	3.7%
Multiple responses – English and other language(s)	15,895	7.6%
Multiple other language(s) not including English	845	0.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

In 2021, 69% of recent immigrants to Richmond spoke languages other than English or French at home. This was a decrease from 74% in 2016, suggesting that Richmond has welcomed more recent immigrants with official language (English and French) skills. The most common non-official home languages spoken by immigrants in Richmond are shown in Table 10.

Table 10: Most Common Non-Official Home Languages Spoken by Total and Recent Immigrants in Richmond, 2021

Total Immigrants	Number	%	Recent Immigrants	Number	%
Cantonese	32,000	25%	Mandarin	5,510	40%
Mandarin	29,405	23%	Cantonese	1,245	9%
Tagalog	4,270	3%	Tagalog	710	5%
Punjabi	2,365	2%	Arabic	200	1%
Russian	1,265	1%	Punjabi	175	1%
Min Nan	1,200	1%	Portuguese	170	1%
Japanese	820	1%	Spanish	150	1%
Spanish	780	1%	Korean	130	1%
Korean	725	1%	Hindi	115	1%
Arabic	660	1%	Russian	100	1%
Other Non-Official Languages	6,075	5%	Other Non-Official Languages	935	7%

Source: NewToBC (2023). Richmond Immigrant Demographic Profile. https://newtobc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-NewToBC-Richmond-DemoProfile-WEB-Final.pdf

Additionally, the proportion of Richmond residents without English fluency decreased to 21,795 individuals in 2021 from 22,045 in 2016. This shift may also indicate that more residents are immigrating with English language skills and/or learning English following immigration to Canada. In 2021, the top three mother tongues of those who were unable to hold a conversation in English were Mandarin (9,710 speakers), Cantonese (9,020 speakers) and Punjabi (625 speakers).

Gender Identity

According to the 2021 Census, 285 individuals living in Richmond self-identified as transgender and 100 individuals self-identified as non-binary. The term transgender refers to a person whose gender identity does not correspond with the sex they were assigned at birth.[17] The term non-binary refers to a person whose gender is not exclusively male or female, and includes people whose reported gender is, for example, agender, genderqueer, gender-nonconforming or Two-Spirit, a term specific to some Indigenous Peoples of North America.[18] For the first time in 2021, Statistics Canada collected population data on gender diversity, making Canada the first country in the world to do so on a national census.

People with Disabilities

According to the 2022 Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD), which is the official source of data on persons with disabilities (15+ years) in Canada, approximately one in five (19%) or 33,380 Richmond residents who were 15+ years had one or more disabilities that limited their daily activities. Between the 2017 and 2022 CSD, the number of people reporting a disability in Richmond increased by 5,330 individuals, from 28,050 (17%) individuals in 2017 to 33,380 (19%) individuals in 2022. This increase can be partially attributed to both the aging population and the large increase in mental health-related disabilities among youth and working-age adults.[19]

The CSD was designed to report on disability data for Canada, the provinces, and the territories. As a result, much of the CSD data is suppressed at smaller levels of geography. Despite this, the CSD data has continued to provide insight into the possible rate of disability and potential needs of people with disabilities in Richmond.

Trends in community data similarly suggest that the number of residents with disabilities continues to grow in the community and that individuals are connecting to disability-related supports more often. When possible, data from 2021 has been provided for comparison as a baseline indicator.

- Between 2021 and 2024, the average number of Richmond households supported by BC Disability Assistance steadily grew, from 2,170 households in 2021 to 2,404 households in 2024, increasing by approximately 11%. These increases were seen particularly among singles and families with children.
- A total of 2,731 accessible parking permits for people with disabilities were issued by Richmond Centre for Disability between December 2023 and November 2024.

Religious Diversity

A little over half (53%) of Richmond's population reported no religious affiliation based on the 2021 Census (Table 11). Of those who did report a religious affiliation, the most common were Christian (approximately 31% or 64,405 individuals), followed by Buddhist (approximately 6% or 11,590 individuals), and Muslim (almost 4% or 7,630 individuals).

Table 11: Religious Affiliation of Richmond Residents, 2021

Religious Affiliation	Number	%
No religion and secular perspectives	111,140	53.3%
Christian	64,405	30.9%
Buddhist	11,590	5.6%
Muslim	7,630	3.7%
Sikh	6,985	3.4%
Hindu	2,605	1.3%
Jewish	2,515	1.2%
Other religions and spiritual traditions	1,490	0.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

Income Data

As identified in the 2021 Census and based on 2020 income data, the median after-tax annual household income in Richmond was $71,000. This marked an increase of almost 14% from $62,400 reported in 2016. While income-based data has limitations, it is also one of the most consistent measures available for Richmond and is used nationally and internationally as an indicator of poverty.

Low Income

While poverty is influenced by a number of factors, at the most fundamental level, households experiencing poverty lack the income and resources needed to meet a basic standard of living. The prevalence of low income refers to the percentage of a population that falls below an identified income threshold. The City has referenced the Low-Income Measure After Tax (LIM-AT), a relative measure of low-income status that uses 50% of the median after-tax income of households.[20]

Based on the 2021 Census, the prevalence of low income in Richmond decreased to 16% (LIM-AT) in 2021 from 22% in 2016 as indicated in Table 12. However, this decrease was largely attributed to pandemic income replacement benefits, such as the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) that provided a temporary boost to income levels for some lower socioeconomic households. As the benefit has not continued, the resulting effect was likely temporary.[21]

Table 12: Comparison of Richmond Residents Living in LIM-AT, 2016 and 2021

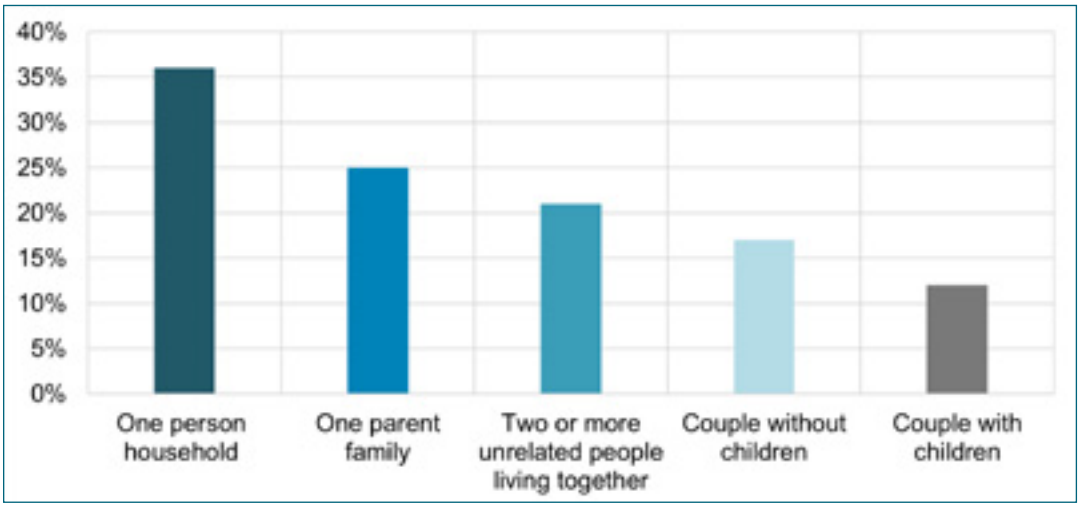
Richmond Residents	2016	2021
Total number of residents	198,309	208,395
Below LIM-AT	44,040	33,225
% Below LIM-AT	22.2%	15.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 and 2021 Census of Population

Low Income by Household Composition

According to the 2021 Census, 33,225 individuals in Richmond reported annual incomes below the LIM-AT thresholds, which corresponded to 16,655 households. The prevalence of low-income varied by household composition, with a greater proportion of one-parent families (25%) and individuals living alone (36%) falling below the LIM-AT threshold compared to other household types (Figure 5). Couples, both with and without children, reported lower rates of low-income status, likely due to the presence of two-income earners in these households.

Figure 5: Percentage of Richmond Households Living in LIM-AT by Household type, 2021

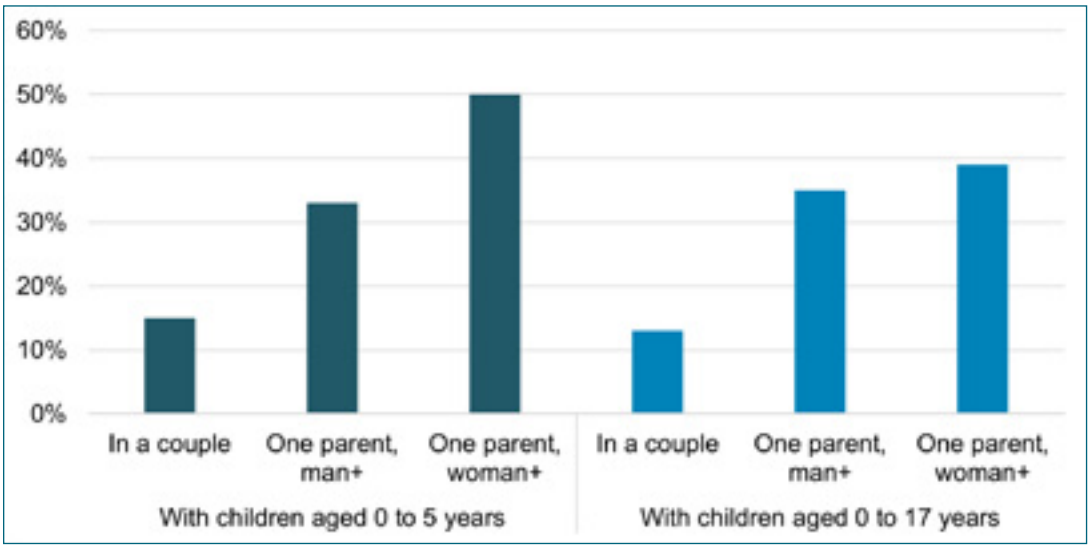


Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

Low Income by Family Type

A closer look at low-income trends among families in the 2021 Census identified that the estimated prevalence of low income was higher among those with young children. Factors such as family structure, parental level of education and a child's age influence how likely a family is to be living with low income. For families with young children, factors such as high child care costs create barriers to full-time employment. This disproportionally affects one-parent families. Among families with children, one-parent families in which the parent was a woman with children under five were more likely to be living with low income than any other type of family (Figure 6). In total, half (50%) of single parents (in which the parent is a woman) with children under five years of age and one third (33%) of single parents (in which the parent is a man) with children under five were considered low income in Richmond, compared to 15% of couples with children in this same age range.

Figure 6: Prevalence of Low-Income by Family Type in Richmond, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

While data based on reported income provides one measure of poverty levels in the community, it does not provide a complete picture. Instead, it has been used as an initial reference point and supplemented with community-based data to provide a better understanding of the local context.

Trends in community data suggest that the positive effects of pandemic-related financial assistance were temporary. Data from local and regional sources indicate there is a growing number of Richmond residents accessing supports to meet basic needs. When possible, data from 2021 has been provided for comparison as a baseline indicator.

- The average number of Richmond households supported by BC Income Assistance grew by more than 70%, to 1,278 households in 2024, up from 743 households in 2021. This included increases among all household types (singles, couples and families with children).
- The total number of households supported by the Richmond Food Bank more than doubled, growing to 4,770 households in 2023, up from 2,173 households in 2021.
- In 2024, the Richmond Food Bank continued to experience substantial demand, supporting 4,501 households in Richmond. While this marked a slight decrease in unique households served, the number of household visits increased to 62,672 in 2024 from 59,061 in 2023. This suggests increased vulnerability of households that use Food Bank services as these households relied on them more frequently to meet their basic needs in 2024.

Housing

In 2021, Richmond's population was made up of a total of 81,080 private households. Of this total, 71% were owners (57,800 households) and the remaining 29% were renters (23,280 households). The percentage of renter households in Richmond has steadily increased since 2011 when renters represented 23% of households. This has remained consistent with national trends and is partially due to rising housing costs which make home ownership increasingly unaffordable for many individuals and families. From 2016 to 2021, the median value of homes in Richmond increased by 32%, rising from $752,395 in 2016 to $990,000 in 2021. Similarly, Greater Vancouver Realtors reported that over the past five years, from 2019 to 2024, there was a 36% increase in the benchmark price of housing in Richmond.

The increased rental demand and low rates of vacancy have contributed to an overall rise in rental costs. For example, the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) 2024 Rental Market Survey reported that the average market rent for all purpose-built market rental units in Richmond increased by 39% over the past five years (2018–2023). Even as Richmond households have shifted to renting, based on the 2021 Census, about 35% of all households, including owners and renters, in Richmond were living in unaffordable housing or spending more than 30% of their gross household income on shelter costs alone. There has also been a growing number of households in Extreme Core Housing Need (ECHN), with renter households experiencing the greatest increase over the years.

Trends in community data reveal that more residents are seeking community supports related to securing affordable housing and experiences of homelessness have increased in the community. When possible, data from 2021 has been provided for comparison as a baseline indicator.

- The average number of households in Richmond on the BC Housing Applicant Registry rose by almost 700 households, to 1,760 households in 2024, up from 1,074 households in 2021.
- The average number of individuals in Richmond with no fixed address receiving BC Income and Disability Assistance increased by over 100 cases, to 209 cases in 2024, up from 106 cases in 2021. It is important to note that there is a distinction between having "no fixed address" for social assistance purposes and experiencing homelessness. Individuals with "no fixed address" could still be sheltered and living indoors or precariously housed, and conversely not all people with an address on file for social assistance purposes necessarily have homes.
- The number of Richmond residents who identified themselves as experiencing homelessness counted in the Metro Vancouver Point-in-Time Homeless Count almost doubled, growing to 162 individuals in 2023, up from 85 individuals in 2020.
- The reasons people experience homelessness are complex and individuals interviewed as part of the 2023 Metro Vancouver Point-in-Time Homeless Count lost their housing for multifaceted reasons including: not enough income for housing (54%), landlord/tenant conflict (22%), substance use (17%), building sold or renovated (13%), physical health issues (13%) and unfit or unsafe housing (11%).

Education

According to the 2021 Census, approximately 68% of non-immigrants in Richmond had some form of post-secondary education, such as a certificate, diploma or degree, with just over one third (37%) holding a bachelor's degree or higher. This number was slightly higher when looking at Richmond's immigrant population with 71% of total immigrants having some form of post-secondary education, with approximately 48% of immigrants holding a bachelor's degree or higher. The proportion among immigrants with a bachelor's degree was 11% higher than the proportion among non-immigrants (Table 13). Since 2016, Richmond saw a significant increase in its proportion of college and university-educated immigrants. In 2016, 43% of Richmond's immigrant population held a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 36% for its non-immigrant population.

Table 13: Highest Level of Education for the Population between 25 and 64 Years in Richmond, 2021

Level of Education	Non-Immigrants		Immigrants	
	Number	%	Number	%
No certificate, diploma or degree	1,405	5.0%	5,530	6.7%
High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	7,620	27.3%	18,495	22.3%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	1,745	6.3%	2,725	3.3%
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	5,765	20.7%	11,550	13.9%
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	1,065	3.8%	5,010	6.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	10,305	36.9%	39,745	47.9%
Total	**27,905**	**100%**	**83,055**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

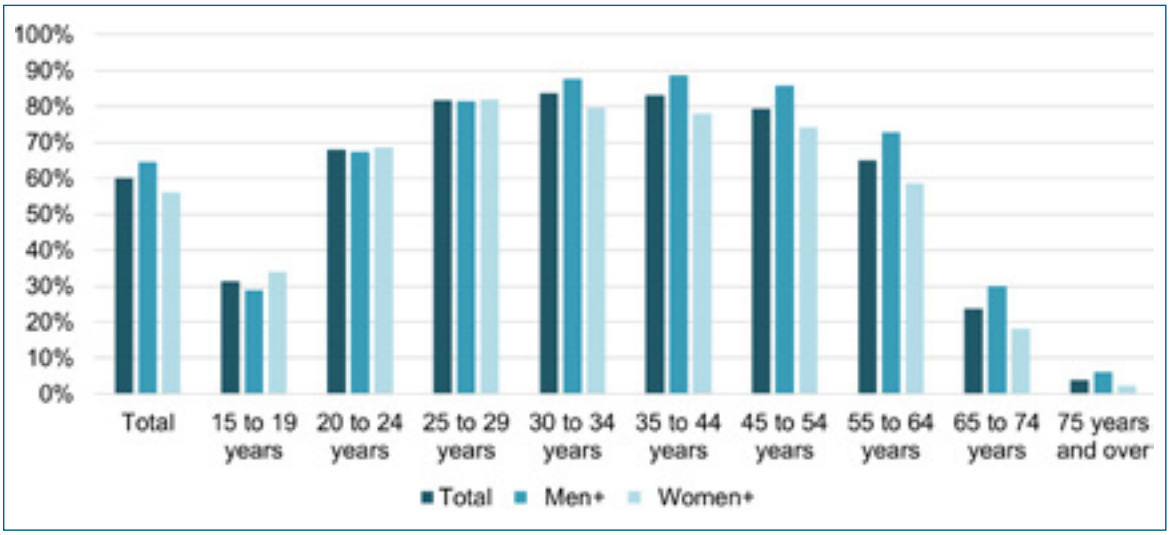
Additionally, there was a strong connection between the highest level of education and median employment income. Based on the 2021 Census, individuals with no high school diploma in Richmond had a median employment income of $12,100, while those with a Bachelor's degree or higher had a median employment income of $45,600. However, immigrants had lower employment income than non-immigrants, even when they had the same level of education. For example, immigrants with a Bachelor's degree earned $10,000 less compared to non-immigrants with the same level of education. This difference has been attributed to several factors including the lack of recognition of foreign education credentials, level of English fluency and lack of connections within the Canadian job market.

Labour Force Participation

The labour force comprises individuals 15+ years who are working or looking for work.[22] This does not include students, homemakers, retired workers, seasonal workers during the "off" season, and those who cannot work because of long-term illness or disability. According to the 2021 Census, Richmond's employed labour force totalled 96,785 individuals, representing just over half (54%) of the population (15+ years). The unemployed labour force was estimated at 11,685 (6%), while residents not in the labour force were estimated at 72,005 (40%).

While men and women between the ages of 20 and 29 showed similar rates of labour force participation, the difference between the two genders became more pronounced from the age of 30 onwards. For example, for men between 30 and 34 years, the labour force participation rate was approximately 88%, whereas for women it was approximately 80% (Figure 7). One of the factors contributing to lower labour force participation rates for women between the ages of 30 and 44 is child care responsibilities.

Figure 7: Labour Force Participation Rates by Age and Gender in Richmond, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

Since the 2021 Census, short and long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on labour force participation have become better understood. Studies conducted on the impact of the pandemic found that low-wage workers were disproportionately affected by the pandemic, facing increased job losses, reduced income and slower employment recovery, in comparison to higher-paid workers.[23] This especially impacted workers who were employed in frontline occupations in the accommodation, care and retail sectors, many of whom were racialized individuals.[24, 25, 26] Workers who had less than a bachelor's degree also experienced a slower employment recovery rate.[27] Based on qualitative data from non-profit social service organizations, the employment and income losses experienced by low-wage workers during and after the pandemic have continued to have lasting consequences on individuals and families in Richmond. These challenges have been further exacerbated by the current rising costs of living, especially for Richmond's most vulnerable community members.

What is your vision for a more inclusive and thriving Richmond?

"[A more inclusive and thriving Richmond has] education and skills development, equitable access to quality education and lifelong learning opportunities."

- Community member

Figure 8: The Community at a Glance

(Data is from the 2021 Census, unless otherwise noted.)

241,375 residents are estimated to be living in Richmond in 2025

(2024 Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy, Medium-Growth Population Projections)

311,236 residents are projected to live in Richmond by 2050

(2024 Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy, Medium-Growth Population Projections)

The **2** largest generations represented in the population are baby boomers and millennials

24% of the population (51,330 individuals) are children and youth (birth to 24 years)

56, 285 children and youth are projected to live in Richmond by 2035

(2024 Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy, Medium-Growth Population Projections)

35% of the population (73,240 individuals) are seniors (55+ years)

95,908 seniors are projected to live in Richmond by 2035

(2024 Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy, Medium-Growth Population Projections)

180+ different ethnic origins

1,540 individuals identify as Indigenous in Richmond

60% of the population (125,600 individuals) identify as immigrants

80% of the population (167,395 individuals) identify as being part of a racialized group

100+ languages spoken

285 individuals self-identify as transgender and **100** individuals self-identify as non-binary

19% of the population (33,380 individuals) who are 15+ years have one or more disabilities that limit their daily activities

(2022 Canadian Survey on Disability)

53% of the population report no religious affiliation (111,140 individuals). The most common religious affiliations are Christian (**31%**), Buddhist (**6%**) and Muslim (**4%**)

$71,000 is the median after-tax annual household income

16% of the population (33,225 individuals or 16,655 households) are reported to be living in low income based on the LIM-AT measure

71% of Richmond households are homeowners and **29%** are renters

35% of all households in Richmond are living in unaffordable housing (spending more than 30% of income on shelter costs)

48% of immigrants in Richmond hold a bachelor's degree or higher compared to **37%** of non-immigrants

Immigrants with a bachelor's degree earn **$10,000 less** compared to non-immigrants with the same level of education

54% of the population (96,785 individuals) 15+ years are employed in the labour force

ZUMBA
LOVE
COMMUNITY IN DIVERSITY

Consulting the Community

"Ensuring that all community members have access to, and get sufficient doses of 'protective factors', such as social connectedness and belonging, physical activity, nutrition, safety, and security—constitutes an 'upstream' approach that promotes wellness and reduces the increasing demand for downstream services."

- Government partner

Extensive consultation was conducted with a broad cross-section of Richmond community members, including individuals from equity-deserving groups and community partners, to better understand the community's social needs and aspirations for Richmond. The opportunity to participate was widely promoted through City communication channels and key partners, as well as City committees. These included City Council Advisory Committees, Community Associations and Societies, Richmond-based non-profit social service organizations and public partners such as the Richmond Public Library, Richmond School District, Vancouver Coastal Health and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.

The following themes were used to guide survey questions and discussions held during the consultation process:

- Vision for a more inclusive and thriving Richmond
- Social development needs and priorities
- Current community strengths and areas for improvement

To increase engagement and reduce barriers to participation, individuals and organizations were offered a variety of ways to share feedback. Additionally, four Community Ambassadors were hired and trained to support the consultation process. These Ambassadors were Richmond residents with diverse lived and living experiences. They helped connect the project team to equity-deserving groups and contributed local knowledge and language skills that reduced participation barriers.

The Ambassadors built trust with respondents, particularly those with similar lived and living experiences, that fostered deeper engagement and richer information sharing. This contributed to a robust consultation process that gathered a diverse range of perspectives and ideas, including from equity-deserving groups who are traditionally underrepresented in consultation processes.

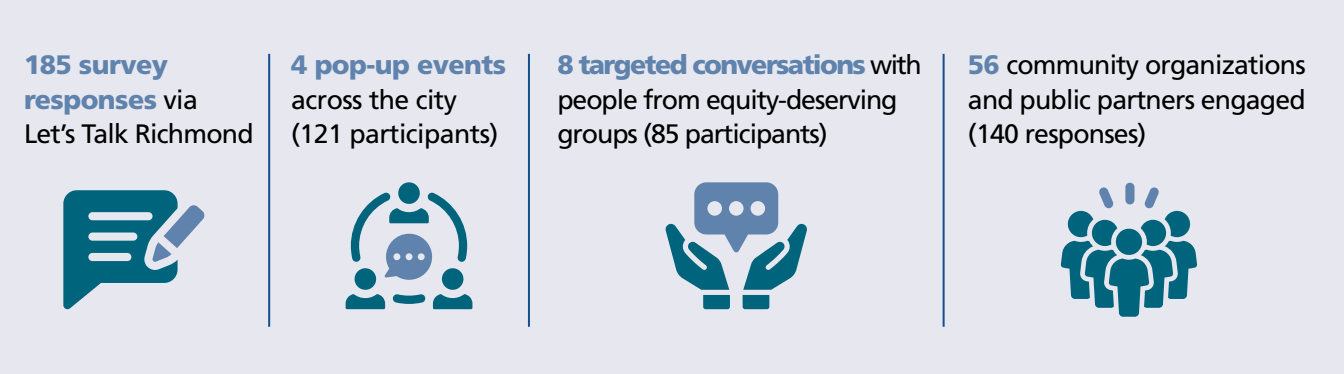
Community consultation included the following activities:

- An online survey hosted on the City's public engagement platform, Let's Talk Richmond. The survey was available in English as well as Simplified and Traditional Chinese.
- Printed versions of the survey were available at five City facilities across Richmond: Cambie Community Centre, City Centre Community Centre, Seniors Centre at Minoru Centre for Active Living, Richmond Cultural Centre and Steveston Community Centre.
- Four public pop-up events were hosted in high-traffic areas around the city: Minoru Park, King George Park, Steveston Community Park and the Richmond Cultural Centre Plaza. The pop-up events provided an opportunity for community members to learn about the *Strategy* and provide their input into the *Strategy's* vision and social development priorities.

- Six focus groups and two pop-up events were held with equity-deserving groups in Richmond to reach those who might have otherwise been underrepresented during the consultation process. Participants included seniors, youth, newcomers, refugees, people with disabilities, families with young children, unhoused individuals, low-income households and people with lived experiences of mental health challenges and substance use. The sessions were hosted during regularly scheduled community programming to remove barriers to participation.
- In-person and virtual focus groups and meetings were held with community organizations and key partners, including Community Associations and Societies, the Richmond School District, Vancouver Coastal Health and provincial ministries, to gather input on the current and future social needs and priorities of the community. Written feedback was received from some public partners and individual interviews were conducted with those unable to attend the focus groups and meetings.
- An in-person, cross-departmental focus group was held with City staff to better understand community needs based on their perspectives and experiences from different departments within the organization.

The wide range of consultation activities provided ensured that feedback reflected a wide range of diverse perspectives, ideas and expertise. The information collected helped to inform the development of the strategic directions and priority actions outlined in the *Strategy*. A summary of the consultation results is outlined below in Figure 9.

Figure 9: Consultation at a Glance





Key Themes

A number of key themes emerged from the community consultation as well as research on national and local trends. The following section outlines these themes and their anticipated impact on the Richmond community over the next decade.

What is your vision for a more inclusive and thriving Richmond?

"My vision is for housing in all forms to be abundant–different sized units and a variety of densities, not just high-rise and single family. Rents are affordable."

- Community member

Rising Cost of Living

During consultation, community members emphasized that the rising cost of living is a significant challenge. Many individuals expressed the need for basic goods and services, such as healthy, nutritious and culturally-appropriate food, clothing, energy and transportation, to be more affordable. Recommendations included improving and expanding access to essential services and supports, such as community meals and food programs. Participants also highlighted the need for better access to programs and resources that help individuals access government assistance, and employment and skills training. People shared that as rental rates and housing costs increase, there is a growing need for more affordable and diverse housing options across the housing continuum. This concern was raised by various groups, including newcomers, individuals with lower incomes, those at risk of or experiencing homelessness and the broader community. Many participants emphasized the need for more social housing, affordable rentals and affordable homeownership. These community-level experiences reflect the impact of the rising cost of living across Canada and are consistent with both Canada-wide and regional-level trends.

While the annual average Consumer Price Index (CPI) in 2024 was the lowest since 2020, the rapid inflation experienced since the pandemic has resulted in sustained, elevated prices for essentials, such as housing and food costs, according to the Consumer Price Index: Annual review, 2024 from Statistics Canada. In Richmond, this has coincided with an approximate 64% increase in the number of Richmond households on the BC Housing Applicant Registry since 2021, from 1,074 households in 2021 up to 1,760 households in 2024. Of the households on the Registry in 2024, almost half (49%) were seniors, approximately one third (31%) were families with children and the remaining households (20%) consisted of single individuals, people with disabilities and households in need of wheelchair-accessible units. The number of people experiencing homelessness also increased in Richmond, with rates almost doubling from 85 people in 2020 to 162 people in 2023 based on the 2023 Metro Vancouver Point-in-Time Homeless Count. Additionally, the number of Richmond households receiving social assistance through the BC Employment and Assistance Program has continued to rise from 2,913 households in 2021 to 3,682 households in 2024. Based on overall feedback, community members agree that increasing access to affordable food, housing, child care, employment, education, transportation and other resources to meet basic needs is crucial. This was identified as important to support individuals' and families' abilities to make ends meet and to ensure everyone can fully participate in the community.

An Aging Population

The necessity to address the needs of an aging population was a recurring topic during consultation. Many seniors (55+ years) shared their experiences of remaining active in the community with decreasing mobility, as well as the challenges of staying socially connected as they age. Some also described barriers, which ranged from the rapid pace of technological advancement and the digital divide to stigma

"A key factor in accessibility is not only having more services, but being able to access these services physically, virtually, and at varying times of day."

- Community member

and discrimination related to aging. To achieve a more age-friendly community, community members spoke about the need to continue to improve community accessibility for seniors, such as increasing accessible parking at community facilities to facilitate participation in seniors' programs. Some also mentioned enhancing access to affordable, senior-friendly housing, including assisted living facilities in the community. The importance of addressing existing stereotypes and ageism was also emphasized. Many individuals recommended improving and expanding access to information by sharing information in many forms, including non-digital methods, and providing easier ways for seniors to be informed about all aspects of community life, including events, volunteer opportunities and intergenerational programs.

Like many communities across the country, Richmond has an aging population. Projections indicate that seniors will continue to make up about one-third of Richmond's total population over the next decade. In particular, the proportion of seniors in their 70s and 80s will continue to rise and by 2035, this segment of the seniors population is anticipated to make up nearly 17% of the total population. According to the 2022 Canadian Survey on Disability, as individuals age, they are more likely to experience a higher number of co-occurring disabilities.[28] This is common with a healthy, aging population and means that more individuals are likely to face more than one health challenge at the same time. BC is expected to see the rate of people experiencing dementia increase by 218% between 2020 and 2050.[29] Seniors are also more vulnerable to social isolation. According to the 2022 Ageing in Canada Survey, as many as 41% of Canadians aged 50+ years are at risk of social isolation and up to 58% have experienced loneliness.[30] The survey also identified protective factors for seniors that include the presence of family ties, higher levels of educational attainment and income security, higher self-reported health status as well as independent living. These findings are consistent with the consultation results and emphasize the ongoing need to improve supports and services to foster healthy aging in Richmond.

What is your vision for a more inclusive and thriving Richmond?

"I envision Richmond to be a place where nature thrives along with people, who can navigate the whole city with ease because of all methods of travel—from taking the bus to simply walking—being accessible and safe to use."

- Community member

Accessibility

During consultation, one of the most frequently mentioned visions for Richmond was for it to be accessible for everyone. Community members discussed the progress made by the City and its ongoing efforts to continue to enhance accessibility throughout the city. Many community members spoke about the importance of expanding safe and accessible walking, cycling and rolling pathways, so that people with disabilities and the community as a whole, can safely and easily navigate the community. This included pathways that provide easy access to places of importance to people, such as workplaces, community centres, parks and gathering spaces. The need for more accessible parking and transit were also mentioned. Additionally, community members stressed the importance of continuing to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in the community, across all age groups. This included creating more accessible child care and play spaces, City services, public communications, events and employment opportunities.

The findings from Richmond align with national trends. According to the 2022 Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD), over a quarter of Canadians (27% or 8 million people) 15+ years reported having one or more disabilities that limited their daily activities. In Richmond, the rate was approximately one in five (19%

or 33,380 Richmond residents). Based on today's understanding, disabilities are caused by barriers within society that prevent participation and are not the result of a person's individual circumstance. These barriers may include physical, attitudinal, sensory, systemic, information, communication and technological barriers. As of the 2022 CSD, about 6 in 10 Canadians with disabilities (56%) faced barriers accessing indoor and outdoor public spaces. Examples of other barriers included those related to communication as well as social assumptions and misconceptions. Established in 2021, the *Accessible British Columbia Act* (the Act) became law in British Columbia. The Act aims to make governments and organizations, including the City, more accessible. It focuses on removing barriers and promoting inclusion of people with disabilities so that they are able to fully and equally participate in society. Overall consultation findings show that addressing accessibility barriers is important for Richmond community members. By working together, the City and community partners continue to improve access to places, programs, events and services for the benefit of everyone.

Diversity and Inclusion

Throughout the consultation process, many people shared that one of the best qualities of Richmond is its cultural diversity. Many newcomers reported feeling welcomed and included in the community, often attributing this sense of belonging to access to places of worship, cultural events and other community celebrations. However, others expressed challenges in Richmond, including difficulty finding a job, language barriers, issues navigating new systems and experiences of discrimination. Most community members emphasized the importance for Richmond to be welcoming and safe for everyone, regardless of culture, age, race, gender, sexual orientation, ability, religion and socioeconomic status. Supporting and promoting diversity was a core value expressed by many community members. This finding is also reflected at the national level as 92% of Canadians agree that ethnic and cultural diversity is a Canadian value, based on the 2020 General Social Survey.[31]

One of the ways people discussed advancing inclusion in Richmond was to help newcomers participate more fully in the community. This involved improving access to supports for newcomers, such as resource navigation, language programs and employment services. Other strategies included advancing reconciliation with local First Nations, addressing systemic oppression as well as strengthening anti-racism initiatives across the city and in collaboration with government agencies and public partners. It is crucial to recognize that for equity-deserving groups, such as Indigenous Peoples, 2SLGBTQI+ individuals and members of racialized communities, experiences of discrimination and racism are social determinants of health. This means that these experiences negatively impact people's health and well-being as well as their sense of safety and belonging in the community. To address this, recommendations included increasing knowledge and awareness through public education initiatives and providing information in multiple languages. Additionally, some community members recommended enhancing opportunities for social connection and inclusion, such as expanding cultural programs and community celebrations to nurture respect, understanding and a sense of shared community in Richmond.

What is your vision for a more inclusive and thriving Richmond?

"On a philosophical level, a priority needs to be [to foster] collective respect for one another, reduce othering, address the perceived divides, [and] build community connections through celebrations and shared activities…"

- Community member

What is your vision for a more inclusive and thriving Richmond?

"[The] creation of a child-friendly community. Give children a voice and say in their community (parks, playgrounds, trails, accessible walkways, play streets)."

- Community member

Social Connection

Fostering community belonging and social connectedness was a cross-cutting theme that emerged during community consultation. Community members expressed appreciation for Richmond's public facilities and spaces, including community centres, libraries, pools, parks and community gardens. They also acknowledged the City's and Richmond Public Library's ongoing efforts to expand and improve their programs and services. They suggested building on these efforts by increasing recreational program types and offerings, such as low-cost activities and programs in high demand. According to the 2021 Canadian Social Survey, more than one in 10 people in Canada said they always or often felt lonely and of those respondents, almost half reported fair or poor mental health. During consultation, many participants discussed the different ways Richmond public spaces provide meaningful opportunities for recreation and social connection, and support physical and mental health. In addition, some individuals recommended increasing connections to Richmond as a whole and to people's immediate neighbourhoods. Suggestions included creating more neighbourhood hubs with services and resources, especially for those areas outside of the city center.

Civic Participation

During consultation, a number of community members talked about the important role that civic participation, such as voting, plays in building a sense of community. Many specified that it is important to provide a chance for community members to learn more about the decision-making process of local government and to be involved in various City engagement opportunities. While civic participation includes political participation, such as voting or running for City Council, it is also related to community participation. This includes joining community groups and local volunteering. In Canada, approximately 60% of the population belong to at least one group, organization or association and approximately 70% engage in political activities, including signing a petition or volunteering for a political party.[32]

"There are challenges newcomers face in accessing services. It is important to consider immigrants and newcomers in policy [development]., [and] how... newcomers (and people in general) [can] participate in government, decision making, processes in the City…, and [have] representation on Council"

- Community member

Community members shared suggestions to address barriers to help more people in Richmond access these types of opportunities. They also suggested continuing to find meaningful ways to engage individuals in City initiatives and processes like voting and community decision-making. An ongoing priority for the community was to ensure that people from underrepresented, equity-deserving groups have a voice in matters that are important to them in Richmond. In the development of the *Strategy*, particular focus was given to engaging with newcomers, immigrants, children, youth, seniors, people with lower incomes, people with disabilities and people experiencing homelessness. These ideas were reinforced through the jurisdictional scan, which showed a shift towards cities creating solutions to social issues through collaborative processes with community members or co-creation. Another trend identified was embedding equity in City decision-making processes to foster equity, and social and economic inclusion in communities.

Community Safety and Resilience

During consultation, people emphasized the need to build a safe and resilient community for everyone. This topic arose from discussion about current global issues, such as the ongoing opioid crisis, lasting consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and the social impacts of climate change. Many participants highlighted the relevance of these issues within the local context, including the day-to-day effects on community members' health, well-being and sense of inclusion. Concerns around crime and personal safety in Richmond were also raised. This was related to perceived increases in petty crime as well as feeling unsafe at night, particularly in poorly lit areas in the community. In response, community members recommended increasing emergency and outreach programs to better support vulnerable populations in times of crisis. Individuals also suggested providing additional supports to those transitioning out of the criminal justice system, with an emphasis on restorative justice, which is an approach that focuses on addressing the harm caused by crime, meaningful accountability and meeting the needs of those involved.[33]

> "[There is a need to adapt] to climate change, provide social services, programs and community amenities across the city to effectively operate during extreme weather events (e.g. extreme heat, wildfire smoke, sea level rise, storms, and flooding) and contribute to protecting all community members from extreme weather."
>
> - Community member

Other emerging needs were discussed, including planning for the ongoing effects of climate change. Some of the effects mentioned included wildfire smoke, flooding and extreme heat. As temperatures continue to rise, some expressed concerns about the growing densification in the city core. These concerns were not related to the increased population, but rather to urban heat islands, areas of the city that experience higher temperatures due to the concentration of buildings and paved surfaces that trap heat. A few community members proposed environmental solutions, such as preserving and expanding green spaces within the community.

Community members also discussed emergency planning for natural disasters, such as earthquakes. Some participants suggested increasing awareness and education about emergency preparedness initiatives in Richmond. There were also discussions about continuing to improve the City's emergency response system and to expand infrastructure, such as cooling and warming centres. Like many cities across the region, Richmond continues to face higher summer temperatures and extreme weather events throughout the year. While climate change and natural disasters affect everyone, research shows that vulnerable populations are more likely to be impacted. This includes groups such as people with lower incomes, people with disabilities and seniors. For example, the 2021 heat dome in BC disproportionately affected seniors 70+ years and those living alone, resulting in significantly worse health outcomes for these groups.[34]

Based on the consultation findings, community members agreed that keeping people safe, ensuring people have a perceived sense of safety and providing the necessary tools for people to remain resilient in the face of emergencies are all essential for a thriving and inclusive community. This is of particular importance for Richmond's most vulnerable community members.

Access to Health Care

During consultation, Richmond community members emphasized the importance of improving and expanding access to health care services for all. This included access to emergency and primary care, particularly for seniors, families and newcomers, as well as low-barrier counselling and treatment, such as more integrated supports in schools for children and youth. The consultation findings are supported by both regional and national trends. Based on the Health of Canadians 2024 report, nearly 3 million Canadians (9.2% of the population 15+ years) reported having unmet needs for health care in 2022.[35] While this varied across provinces, more people in British Columbia as well as the Atlantic provinces reported unmet needs compared to Canada overall. Fewer Canadians also reported having a regular health care provider compared to previous years (82.8% in 2023 compared to approximately 85% from 2017 to 2022).

In Richmond, the delivery of accessible and responsive health care is the responsibility of the Province of BC and more specifically, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), which is one of the five regional health authorities. VCH leads, governs, plans and coordinates local health care services through a network of hospitals, primary care clinics, community health centres and residential care facilities. While health care falls outside of the City's direct mandate, City policies and planning can significantly impact individual and community health outcomes. Social and economic factors like income, housing, education, employment and social inclusion are all shaped by public policy and have direct links to people's health and well-being. Additionally, the City also delivers or works with non-profit community organizations to deliver parks, recreation and cultural programs that promote increased physical and mental well-being that in turn supports positive public health outcomes. The City maintains ongoing, collaborative relationships with VCH, the Division of Family Practice and the Primary Care Network to align efforts and improve community connections and health outcomes for people in Richmond.

Capacity of Community Organizations

Many of the issues affecting community members have also impacted the community organizations that support them. In recent years, rising costs have created challenges for these organizations. During consultation, staff from community organizations spoke about the growing demand in the community for services and supports, and how rising costs of operating expenses posed a challenge to continuing to meet these needs. While many organizations receive funding from senior levels of government to support service delivery, this funding is often short-term, frequently project-based and not guaranteed. As many community organizations rely heavily on volunteers to help deliver their programs, the shifting volunteer base in the community is also a challenge to maintain service levels.

Opportunities identified during consultation included developing shared use of non-profit spaces or adopting a hub model, which would allow residents to access multiple services in one place. Additionally, the need for advocacy to senior levels of government to increase funding to address social needs in the community was raised.

The City recognizes that improving quality of life means ensuring all community members can fully participate in every aspect of community life. To achieve this, a more coordinated approach to social development is needed—one that promotes collaboration and shared responsibility across sectors and levels of government and delivers regional solutions that address systemic barriers by working closely with community members, especially equity-deserving groups, to create meaningful outcomes.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

"It is most important for us to work as a united force to innovate, cooperate, and collaborate if we are to achieve the breakthroughs needed…to improve the quality of life for all."

– Paul Born

Strategic Directions and Priority Actions

The *Social Development Strategy (2025–2035)* consists of five strategic directions and 66 recommended actions to be completed over a 10-year time period. The recommended actions build on ongoing initiatives and work that has been accomplished to date. They were developed in response to identified community needs, best practices and shifting demographics. The strategic directions and priority actions provide the foundation to guide the City and its partners towards meeting the current and future social needs of Richmond's diverse population.

The *Strategy* is intended to serve as an overarching framework that reinforces and aligns with related actions within other City Council–approved plans (see Appendix C). Together, these documents provide a comprehensive and collective approach to addressing the diverse social needs of the Richmond community.

The five strategic directions are:

1. Improve Access to Basic Needs
2. Enhance Inclusion and Belonging
3. Foster a Safe, Resilient and Accessible Community
4. Strengthen Community Voice and Engagement
5. Build Community Capacity

Successful implementation of the recommended actions requires a shared commitment between the City and a broad range of partners to advance social development in Richmond. Each strategic direction includes potential partners and the City's various roles in advancing the corresponding actions. Each action includes an anticipated timeline for completion and is categorized as short-term (1-2 years), medium-term (3-6 years), long-term (7-10 years) or ongoing.

Since the community will continue to evolve over the next decade, many of these actions are ongoing in nature. This will allow the City and its partners to continue to adapt and respond to emerging community needs.

Strategic Direction 1: Improve Access to Basic Needs

Why This Is Important

Residents' ability to meet their basic needs is foundational to achieving a more inclusive and thriving community in Richmond. Basic needs, such as food and shelter, are what people require to survive. They are essential to an individual's overall health and well-being and must be met before an individual can consider how to meet other needs, such as inclusion and belonging. In recent years, the costs associated with meeting these basic needs have risen while incomes have not kept pace. As a result, more households are struggling to pay rent and purchase food and other essential household expenses.

The priority actions under Strategic Direction 1 outline how the City can support Richmond residents to meet their basic needs. They include actions to address food insecurity, homelessness, and actions to increase access to services and resources that help individuals improve their well-being and build more stable futures.

Key Outcomes

- Residents have opportunities to participate in a diverse range of programs and services that increase food security.
- An expanded range of services and supports are available to prevent and reduce homelessness.
- Residents, particularly low-income households, are able to find housing that is appropriate and meets their needs.
- Poverty reduction initiatives that promote well-being, and economic and social inclusion support community members at risk of or living in poverty.

Priority Actions

Reduce food insecurity

1. Develop and implement an action plan to address food insecurity and foster a coordinated approach to meeting current and future community food access needs. (short-term)
2. Foster connections among local producers, processors and emergency food service providers to increase access to recovered food, bulk food purchasing options and culturally-appropriate food items. (short-term)
3. Explore the creation of a community hub that would deliver emergency food access, food skills programs and co-locate resources that promote well-being and social inclusion. (medium-term)
4. Support community-based initiatives that provide food literacy education and increase access to healthy, nutritious and culturally-appropriate food options. (ongoing)

Prevent and reduce homelessness

5. Engage with individuals with lived experience, community service providers and government agencies to implement a Housing First approach in the delivery of collaborative homelessness-related services in Richmond. (short-term)

6. Develop a community-based homelessness prevention strategy aimed at enhancing housing stability and providing support services for individuals at risk of homelessness. (medium-term)
7. Collaborate with senior levels of government and community organizations to address the gaps in sheltering and to ensure there are sufficient emergency shelter beds, transitional housing units and supportive housing units in the community. (ongoing)
8. Create evidence-informed strategies to prevent and respond to homelessness in the region by fostering coordination and collaboration across sectors and jurisdictions. (ongoing)

Increase housing supply

9. Increase the supply of housing units along the housing continuum through the development of new policies, strategic land acquisitions, and private and public partnerships. (ongoing)
10. Explore opportunities with senior levels of government and non-profit housing providers to increase the development of affordable housing options for individuals experiencing homelessness or in core housing need. (short-term)
11. Strengthen connections between non-profit housing providers, funding agencies and developers to increase the provision of affordable housing for vulnerable populations. (short-term)
12. Pursue a variety of housing forms that are accessible and adaptable through planning policies, such as the Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaws, to support people with disabilities and an aging population. (ongoing)

Increase health and well-being

13. Introduce and participate in initiatives aimed at increasing public awareness of and access to social services that support community members to meet basic needs and build more stable futures. (short-term)
14. Support health initiatives that facilitate increased physical, mental and emotional well-being of community members, including access to mental health and addiction services, complex care and crisis support services, counselling and health services. (ongoing)
15. Develop neighbourhood hubs that provide safe, welcoming and accessible spaces for community members to access a range of social services and programs that promote individual well-being and reduce social isolation. (long-term)

Potential Partners

Government of Canada • Province of BC • Social Service and Community Organizations • Public Partners and Government Agencies • Richmond Public Library • Private Sector • Faith Communities • Community Members • Equity-Deserving Groups

City's Role

- Facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration and response
- Undertake planning, research and policy development
- Provide resources, such as land and space
- Establish and build partnerships
- Engage the community
- Advocate to senior levels of government

Strategic Direction 2: Enhance Inclusion and Belonging

Why This Is Important

Richmond's diversity is one of its greatest strengths. It extends beyond race and ethnicity to include language, gender, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, ability, age and economic status. Fostering inclusion and connections among community members, neighbours, cultural communities and age groups is vital to social well-being. As Richmond's population grows and changes, addressing the challenges of social isolation and exclusion becomes increasingly important. The City is committed to fostering a community that promotes inclusion and belonging among Richmond residents—a community that respects, accepts and values differences, and promotes a sense of shared understanding.

The priority actions in Strategic Direction 2 focus on celebrating diversity, building cross-cultural understanding and intergenerational connections, and encouraging mutual respect among Richmond's diverse population. These actions also focus on planning for and delivering services to meet the needs of specific population groups, so that residents can remain engaged in their communities throughout their lives. This will support Richmond in continuing to be a place where everyone feels safe, welcome and experiences a sense of belonging.

Key Outcomes

- Residents, particularly members of equity-deserving groups, feel safe and have a sense of belonging in the community.
- Residents have opportunities to connect with other residents of diverse backgrounds and identities.
- Residents are able to engage in community life throughout their lifespan and are supported as they transition through different life stages.
- Opportunities are available to learn about Richmond's diverse communities and participate in educational programs that address stigma and discrimination.

Priority Actions

Enhance a sense of belonging among diverse communities

1. Advance initiatives that promote dialogue, foster understanding and support harmonious living in collaboration with community members, including equity-deserving groups and community partners. (ongoing)
2. Provide greater cross-cultural and intergenerational opportunities for community members to contribute to the cultural vibrancy of Richmond through partnerships and grant initiatives. (ongoing)
3. Support increased awareness and understanding of mental health and addictions in an effort to reduce stigma and discrimination, while fostering greater inclusion and well-being in the community. (short-term)

4. Work with local First Nations and urban Indigenous communities in Richmond to identify and incorporate Indigenous culture and history throughout spaces, arts and programming across the city. (ongoing)
5. Facilitate community-based homelessness education workshops to foster understanding and inclusion within the community and increase awareness of available homelessness-related support services. (short-term)
6. Pursue measures to prevent and respond to hate incidents and address stigma, bullying and/or discrimination in Richmond through public awareness and education campaigns and other joint initiatives. (ongoing)
7. Participate in initiatives that reduce social isolation and loneliness among community members, including initiatives that promote connections among residents living in high-density, multi-unit buildings. (ongoing)
8. Encourage and support community-led efforts to strengthen neighbourhood connections through pilot initiatives and grant programs. (ongoing)

Plan for all ages and stages

9. Continue to review and update the delivery of programs and services to reflect societal trends and remain responsive to the evolving needs and interests of the community's diverse age groups. (ongoing)
10. Support the expansion of universal, quality and affordable child care through collaboration with the private and public sectors, non-profit organizations and senior levels of government. (ongoing)
11. Engage individuals from specific age groups in the planning and development of places and spaces intended for their use, including leadership roles in age-specific projects. (ongoing)
12. Promote an age-friendly community through the development of policy, land use planning, and programs and services that recognize the interests and needs of seniors and support their involvement in the community. (ongoing)
13. Plan for the existing and future needs of Richmond's population and support a coordinated and collaborative community approach to program and service delivery to assist individuals in navigating life's different stages. (medium-term)
14. Develop and implement strategies that increase access, opportunities and support for populations that traditionally face barriers or are underrepresented in community activities (e.g. young adults aged 19–24 years and working families). (long-term)

Potential Partners

Government of Canada • Province of BC • Local First Nations and Urban Indigenous Peoples • Social Service and Community Organizations • Public Partners and Government Agencies • Community Associations and Societies • Richmond Public Library • Faith Communities • Community Members • Equity-Deserving Groups

City's Role

- Deliver programs and services within the City's mandate
- Collaborate with non-profit, public and private sectors
- Establish and build partnerships
- Engage community

Strategic Direction 3: Foster a Safe, Resilient and Accessible Community

Why This Is Important

A safe and accessible community offers welcoming parks and open spaces, connected and secure neighbourhoods, and inclusive gathering spaces for community members of all ages, abilities, genders, sexual orientations, incomes and ethnicities. Through its design, a safe and accessible community creates opportunities for all community members to come together, helping to strengthen social connectedness. As more Richmond residents live in high density, multi-unit buildings, creating additional opportunities for social interaction is increasingly important. Strong social connections help to build a more resilient community that is better equipped to manage challenges and protect those disproportionately impacted by social, economic and environmental impacts.

The priority actions under Strategic Direction 3 focus on fostering accessible city parks, playgrounds, facilities, amenities, gathering spaces and transportation networks. Complementary actions relate to strengthening community networks, building individual and collective capacity, and implementing collaborative initiatives to cultivate a more resilient community.

Key Outcomes

- Residents of all ages, identities and abilities feel welcome and have access to public spaces and amenities across the city.
- Residents report feeling safe in their neighbourhoods.
- Residents across the city have access to a broad range of transportation options, including public transportation and dedicated cycling and pedestrian paths.
- Residents report feeling prepared for extreme weather events.
- The community is more resilient and better able to respond to social, economic and environmental impacts.

Priority Actions

Increase the accessibility of public spaces

1. Explore new technologies and design innovations to promote accessible and inclusive wayfinding that supports people of all ages, language groups and abilities in navigating the community. (medium-term)
2. Plan for and update public spaces and amenities to promote barrier-free access for all community members, including opportunities to increase quiet zones, sensory-friendly spaces and respite spaces in City facilities and parks. (ongoing)
3. Apply universal design principles when planning and enhancing public spaces to ensure they are accessible, inclusive and safe for all community members to use and enjoy. (ongoing)
4. Expand access to Richmond's natural areas, such as parks, trails and natural areas, so all community members can benefit from the physical and mental well-being advantages of these environments. (ongoing)

Enhance transport choices for people of all ages and abilities

5. Improve transportation options throughout the community to enhance independence and access to services, employment, education and social opportunities for people of all ages, incomes, and abilities. (ongoing)
6. Enhance walking and cycling infrastructure in Richmond to support active transportation for all residents and abilities, particularly to destinations that foster community connection and promote overall well-being. (ongoing)

Develop connected neighbourhoods

7. Encourage the design of environments that celebrate each neighbourhood's unique character and provide opportunities for connection among neighbours, particularly in high-density planning areas. (ongoing)
8. Explore and implement strategies to increase access to a wider range of amenities and services in local neighbourhoods through updates of the Official Community Plan, Zoning Bylaws and planning policies. (ongoing)

Foster a safe and resilient community

9. Implement a range of collaborative approaches to improve public safety and the perception of safety through joint operations with external agencies and implementing prevention-based and community education programs. (ongoing)
10. Increase awareness and understanding of the needs and safety concerns of the 2SLGBTQI+, Indigenous, religious and racialized communities, and individuals experiencing homelessness in Richmond. (short-term)
11. Support initiatives that promote emergency preparedness, strengthen community networks, and increase individual and community capacity to respond to local emergencies. (ongoing)
12. Reduce climate change impacts on equity-deserving groups by implementing initiatives that enhance their resiliency and ability to adapt, particularly residents that may be vulnerable to extreme weather and air quality events. (medium-term)

Potential Partners

Social Service and Community Organizations • Public Partners and Government Agencies • Community Associations and Societies • Richmond Public Library • Private Sector • Community Members • Equity-Deserving Groups

City's Role

- Undertake planning, research and policy development
- Collaborate with non-profit and private sectors
- Establish and build partnerships
- Engage community

Strategic Direction 4: Strengthen Community Voice and Engagement

Why This Is Important

Creating a more connected city requires offering diverse opportunities for people to engage, learn and shape their community. By removing barriers to participating in community activities, increasing access to City information and diversifying engagement methods, community members are able to participate in and contribute to the community in meaningful ways. In a city where people often lead busy lives, communication channels that are flexible, accessible and available during different times of the day and in multiple formats allow community members to engage in the manner that is most convenient for them. While technology offers new opportunities to engage with community members, especially youth, it can also create barriers for other segments of the population. Using innovative and creative methods to engage traditionally underrepresented populations in City planning and decision-making, while fostering safe and inclusive public participation, ensures decisions reflect the needs of the entire community. Promoting economic inclusion of equity-deserving groups will increase their ability to access and participate in all aspects of community life, helping to strengthen their connections and engagement in the community.

The priority actions outlined in Strategic Direction 4 focus on creating more opportunities for everyone to participate in the community and contribute to local decision-making processes. These actions aim to remove barriers to civic participation, strengthen community voice and engage Richmond residents and community organizations in the design and implementation of initiatives that respond to social issues. Other actions aim to increase access to the types of opportunities that help individuals learn new skills, make connections and secure stronger futures.

Key Outcomes

- Residents from diverse communities, especially underrepresented groups, engage in civic activities and have a say in decisions that affect them.
- All ages, identities, socio-economic backgrounds and abilities are able to participate in a wide variety of City programs, events and public spaces.
- Residents have equitable access to City information in a broad range of formats and methods.
- Increased civic and community engagement by all residents.

Priority Actions

Increase civic participation among diverse sectors

1. Encourage greater community participation in municipal decision-making by implementing inclusive education and outreach initiatives, and utilizing diverse communication methods. (ongoing)
2. Identify, remove and prevent barriers to civic participation among diverse sectors of the community, including traditionally underrepresented groups. (medium-term)
3. Encourage and support people with different and relevant experiences, skills and backgrounds to participate in City advisory committees and collaborative tables. (short-term)

Foster engagement in community life

4. Further expand free or low-cost community opportunities for individuals of all ages, backgrounds, identities and abilities to reduce social isolation, help households with financial pressures and foster stronger community connections. (ongoing)
5. Implement safe, equitable and effective communication methods and tools that enhance community access to City information and facilitate meaningful participation in municipal decision-making processes. (ongoing)
6. Identify and advance strategies to assist social-serving community organizations in responding to a changing volunteer base that plays a vital role in supporting program and service delivery to the community. (medium-term)
7. Develop and support community solutions to social issues by engaging in co-creation processes with community members and organizations, including equity-deserving groups. (ongoing)
8. Support the development of targeted initiatives that remove and prevent barriers experienced by equity-deserving groups, including subsidy programs, digital access and literacy initiatives, and financial literacy training. (ongoing)
9. Support initiatives led by community organizations that improve the social well-being and engagement of Richmond community members, including pilot projects, grant initiatives and collaborative networks. (ongoing)

Promote economic inclusion

10. Strengthen the local social enterprise sector through supporting cross-sector collaboration and opportunities for shared learning, innovation and sustainable growth. (medium-term)
11. Encourage and support community-based pre-employment, supported employment, job training and mentorship initiatives that provide opportunities for equity-deserving groups. (ongoing)

Potential Partners

Social Service and Community Organizations • Community Associations and Societies • Richmond Public Library • Public Partners and Government Agencies • Community Members • Equity-Deserving Groups

City's Role

- Deliver programs and services within the City's mandate
- Establish and build partnerships
- Undertake planning, research and policy development
- Collaborate with non-profit, private and social enterprise sectors
- Foster community voice and engagement

Strategic Direction 5: Build Community Capacity

Why This Is Important

Collaboration across all sectors and levels of government as well as with community members, is essential to responding to the complexity of social issues that exist today. The City is committed to strengthening its relationship with senior levels of government, other municipalities, public partners and community organizations to support these collaborative efforts. The City is also committed to building meaningful relationships with local First Nations and urban Indigenous communities and advancing work related to Truth and Reconciliation. Through strengthened partnerships, the foundation for developing comprehensive local strategies will be created, leading to more effective and impactful outcomes and shared responsibilities among partners.

The priority actions outlined in Strategic Direction 5 focus on fostering collective action, strengthening community capacity and advocating to senior levels of government for sustainable funding to respond to the community's social needs. There are also actions aimed at enhancing the City's ability to advance this work, track changing community trends and implement practices that promote community benefit to ensure everyone has the opportunity to thrive and reach their fullest potential.

Key Outcomes

- Responses to identified community needs and priorities are developed and implemented collaboratively with community members, partners and across sectors.
- Strengthened relationships with senior levels of government, local First Nations, other municipalities and community organizations.
- Social initiatives are delivered in partnership with senior levels of government and local community organizations.
- The capacity to respond to local social issues of the City and the community is strengthened.
- Data-informed and evidence-based approaches are used to inform local responses to social needs in the community.

Priority Actions

Build and strengthen community capacity

1. Advance regional responses to priority social issues by participating in interagency forums, community tables, partnership initiatives and collaborative pilot projects. (ongoing)
2. Strengthen relationships with senior levels of government through regular engagement to further advance initiatives that respond to priority social issues in Richmond. (ongoing)
3. Advocate to the Government of Canada and the Province of BC for sustainable funding to respond to identified community needs and priorities that require their leadership and involvement. (ongoing)

4. Conduct regular reviews of the City Grant program to ensure that it aligns with City priorities, is flexible to current and emerging community needs, and is an effective use of City resources. (ongoing)
5. Explore strategies to assist social service agencies in securing appropriate administrative and programming space to expand services that respond to priority community social needs. (medium-term)
6. Identify, research and apply best practices for the acquisition of strategic land holdings that align with the City's long-term planning and social development goals. (medium-term)

Build relationships with local First Nations and urban Indigenous communities

7. Develop and nurture relationships with local First Nations and urban Indigenous communities in Richmond and establish a City-wide approach to reconciliation. (ongoing)
8. Engage urban Indigenous communities in Richmond to gain a better understanding of the needs and aspirations of the communities in which they live. (short-term)

Increase the City's capacity to respond

9. Apply a social equity approach to developing and updating City planning, policies and practices to identify ways to address inequities and maximize community benefit. (ongoing)
10. Provide professional development opportunities for City staff to advance reconciliation and diversity, equity and inclusion practices in the community. (ongoing)
11. Dedicate appropriate staff resources to adequately plan for and respond to the evolving and complex social needs of Richmond's diverse population. (ongoing)

Respond to evolving community needs

12. Monitor and analyze quantitative and qualitative data to better understand the changing social needs of Richmond's diverse population and to support community planning and initiatives that respond to current and future priorities. (ongoing)
13. Monitor senior levels of governments' programs and developing legislation that affect priority social issues to understand their impact and potential opportunities to advance social development work in Richmond. (ongoing)
14. Report out every three years on the progress and achievements of the *Social Development Strategy* to City Council, community partners and the public. (ongoing)

Potential Partners

Government of Canada • Province of BC • Other Municipalities • Local First Nations and Urban Indigenous Peoples • Social Service and Community Organizations • Public Partners and Government Agencies • Community Associations and Societies • Richmond Public Library • Faith Communities • Community Members • Equity-Deserving Groups

City's Role

- Facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration and response
- Undertake planning, research and policy development
- Provide land and space in-kind
- Establish and build partnerships
- Engage the community
- Advocate to senior levels of government

Implementation Plan

The *Strategy's* priority actions will be used to guide City planning and ongoing collaboration with key partners, with specific activities and initiatives outlined in annual work plans. The Richmond Social Development Advisory Committee, a City Council Advisory Committee consisting of residents and representatives of social-serving community organizations, will play a key role in the *Strategy's* implementation. The Committee will provide guidance on the City's response to current and emerging social trends and needs in the community as well as advise on the overall direction of the *Strategy's* implementation.

Initial work will focus on advancing actions that increase access to basic needs and supports for community members, especially those at risk of or experiencing homelessness. It will also prioritize strengthening relationships with senior levels of government, other local municipalities and public partners to support the development of regional approaches to addressing priority social issues. To enhance collaboration among City departments with key roles in advancing social development, an internal staff working group will be formed to support the ongoing implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the *Strategy*.

To increase awareness of the social needs of Richmond residents and to advance opportunities for collaboration, the *Strategy* will be shared with senior levels of government and community partners involved in the provision of social programs and services in the community.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The City, in collaboration with the Richmond Social Development Advisory Committee, will oversee the ongoing evaluation of the *Strategy*. A formal progress report will be presented to City Council and shared with the community every three years. In addition, community-based and government data will be monitored and analyzed at regular intervals throughout the *Strategy's* 10-year time frame to track demographic shifts, emerging social trends and changes in community well-being.

Evaluation of initiatives will include both quantitative and qualitative data and participating community members and partners will be engaged in the evaluation process. Where possible, data will be disaggregated to better understand the impacts on different populations. This will ensure that the *Strategy* remains responsive to evolving community needs, while promoting transparency and accountability through regular reporting and evidence-based responses.

Conclusion

The *Social Development Strategy (2025–2035)* demonstrates the City of Richmond's leadership in addressing the diverse social needs of Richmond's growing population. The *Strategy* will guide the City and its partners in responding to both current and future social issues in the community over the next 10 years, with the goal of ensuring that everyone who lives, works, plays and learns in Richmond can thrive and fully participate in community life.

By considering equity throughout the *Strategy's* development and implementation, the City remains committed to identifying, removing and preventing systemic barriers and implementing solutions that address the needs of the community as a whole. This approach aims to ensure that all residents can fully participate in Richmond's social, economic, political and cultural life—resulting in a more inclusive, vibrant and thriving city for all.


THE NORTH FACE

Appendix A: Glossary

2SLGBTQI+: An acronym that stands for Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex (which considers sex characteristics beyond sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression) and + (which is inclusive of people who identify as part of sexual and gender diverse communities, who use additional terminologies).[36, 37]

Accessibility: A barrier-free experience that ensures everyone can equitably participate in their community. Barriers in the social and physical environment, although often unintended, are considered to be anything that hinders the full and equal participation of a person with a disability.[38] See below for definitions of *Barrier* and *Disability* to learn more.

Affordable housing: A relative term where households pay no more than 30% of their gross income towards housing costs, including rent or mortgage, utilities, maintenance fees, property taxes and insurance.

Age-friendly: Describes environments that promote access to services, programs and opportunities for people as they age, and promote the inclusion and participation of seniors in all aspects of life.[39]

At risk of homelessness: Refers to people who are not homeless, but whose economic or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards.[40]

Barrier: Anything that hinders the full and equal participation in society of a person with a disability.[41] Barriers can be caused by environments, assumptions, practices, policies, communication methods or technologies, and affected by intersecting forms of discrimination. The six main types of barriers include: physical, attitudinal, sensory, systemic, information and communication and technological barriers.[42]

Basic needs: Includes clothing and footwear, transportation, nutritious food, shelter, and other goods and services, such as personal care items and basic telephone service. It is based on the cost of a basket of goods and services, as reflected in Canada's Market Basket Measure (MBM), that individuals and families need to achieve a modest standard of living in communities across Canada.[43]

BC Disability Assistance: A provincial program that provides financial or health support to individuals designated as a Person with Disabilities (PWD). This assistance is available to low-income individuals who have severe physical and/or mental impairments and who require assistance with their activities of daily living.[44]

BC Employment and Assistance Program: Composed of two types of assistance provided by the provincial government through the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (MSDPR). These include BC Income Assistance and BC Disability Assistance.

BC Income Assistance: A provincial program that provides financial support to individuals who are out of work or not earning enough to meet basic needs or are in need of urgent food and medical attention and who may be eligible for temporary income assistance while they make the transition to employment.[45]

Built environment: The constructed aspects of individuals' physical surroundings. For the purposes of the *Strategy*, the built environment applies to all public spaces, including buildings, sidewalks, road systems, parks, playgrounds and other public infrastructure encountered by people in their everyday life.[46]

Census family: A married couple (with or without children), a common-law couple (with or without children), or a one-parent family of any marital status who live in the same dwelling. Children may be biological or adopted children regardless of their age or marital status, as long as they live in the dwelling and do not have their own married spouse, common-law partner or child living in the dwelling. Grandchildren living with their grandparent(s) but with no parents present also constitute a census family.[47]

Census of population: Refers to the survey conducted by Statistics Canada every five years which provides a statistical portrait of Canada and its people. The 2021 Census of Population has been used for the purpose of the *Strategy*. The data is based on 2021 population data, with the exception of income data, which is sourced from Canada Revenue Agency's 2020 tax and benefits records.

Child care: Has the meaning of a licensed child care program complying with the *BC Community Care & Assisted Living Act* and the *BC Child Care Licensing Regulation*. Programs meet specific requirements for health and safety, staff qualifications, quality, space and equipment, staff-to-child ratio and program standards.

Civic engagement: Participation in the political process, such as through voting, attending demonstrations or signing a petition, and participation in organizations, groups or networks built around a common interest, such as through formal or informal volunteering.[48]

Climate change: A long-term shift in the average weather conditions of a region, such as its typical temperature, rainfall and windiness. Climate change means that the range of conditions expected in many regions will change over the coming decades. This means that there will also be changes in extreme conditions.[49]

Community engagement: The process of working collaboratively with groups of people who are affiliated by geographic proximity, special interest or similar situations, to address issues affecting their well-being.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): An indicator of changes in consumer prices experienced by Canadians. It is obtained by comparing, over time, the cost of a fixed basket of goods and services purchased by consumers.[50]

Disability: When the features of a person's body and/or mind meet a barrier created by the design of the society in which they live preventing their full and equal participation. Individual features can be permanent, temporary or episodic; visible or invisible; range in severity; and include physical, sensory, mental health-related, developmental, cognitive and/or have multiple features.[51]

Discrimination: The unequal or prejudiced treatment of individuals or groups that limits their access to opportunities available to other members of the community. This can be intentional or unintentional and can occur based on various factors, such as race, ethnic origin, age, sex, gender, religion and disability.[52, 53]

Diversity: The variety of unique dimensions, qualities and characteristics that each person possesses and the mix that occurs in any group of people. Race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, economic status, abilities, life experiences and other perspectives can make up individual diversity.[54]

Emergency shelter: Refers to temporary but immediate places to stay for anyone who is at risk of and/or experiencing homelessness.[55]

Equitable: To consider people's unique experiences and differing situations and ensure they have access to the resources and opportunities that are necessary for them to attain just outcomes.[56]

Equity: Where everyone is treated according to their diverse needs in a way that enables all people to participate, perform and engage to the same extent.[57]

Equity-deserving groups: Groups of people who have been historically disadvantaged, underrepresented and denied equal access to employment, education and other opportunities. These groups include but are not limited to Indigenous Peoples, racialized groups, women, people with disabilities, immigrants and 2SLGBTQI+ individuals with diverse gender identities and sexual orientations.[58]

Ethnic or cultural origin: Refers to the ethnic or cultural origins of the person's ancestors, who are usually more distant than grandparents. Ancestors may have Indigenous origins, origins that refer to different countries or other origins that may not refer to different countries. Ancestry should not be confused with citizenship, nationality or language.[59]

Extreme Core Housing Need (ECHN): When one of three indicator thresholds, being housing suitability, adequacy and affordability, are unmet, and where the household would need to spend more than 50% of its gross income to pay the median rent of alternative housing in the market.

Family: Members of a family which, for the purposes of the *Strategy*, include those people related by blood, marriage or adoption; those in a supportive or caregiving role; and those who are bound together over time by mutual consent.

Food insecurity: Households that do not have enough money to purchase or access a sufficient amount and variety of food to live a healthy lifestyle.[60]

Homelessness: Describes the situation of an individual, family or community without stable, safe, permanent, appropriate housing or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it. It is the result of a system of societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household's financial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or racism and discrimination. Most people do not choose to be homeless, and the experience is generally negative, unpleasant, unhealthy, unsafe, stressful and distressing.[61]

Household type: A term used by Statistics Canada to differentiate households on the basis of whether they are census-family households or non-census-family households.[62]

Housing continuum: A concept used to describe the broad range of shelter and housing options available to help a range of households in different tenures to access affordable and appropriate housing. It moves away from a one-size-fits-all strategy, towards "the range of housing options available to different households on a continuum."[63] It includes homelessness, shelters and transitional housing, community housing, affordable rental, market rental and homeownership.

Immigrant: A person who is, or who has ever been, a landed immigrant or permanent resident. Such a person has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. In the 2021 Census of Population, this includes immigrants who were admitted to Canada on or before May 11, 2021.[64]

Inclusive: To create a culture that embraces, respects, accepts and values diversity, where everyone feels respected, experiences a sense of belonging and is able to achieve their fullest potential.[65]

Indigenous Peoples: A collective name for the original peoples of North America and their descendants.[66]

Low income: When households do not have enough income to meet basic needs (i.e. food, shelter, clothing, energy and transportation costs).

Low-End Market Rental (LEMR) Units: Rental housing units affordable to low to moderate income households secured through the City's inclusionary housing policy. Maximum rents are set at 10% below the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) Average Market Rent for the City of Richmond.

Low-Income Measure After Tax (LIM-AT): Rental housing units affordable to low to moderate income households secured through the City's inclusionary housing policy. Maximum rents are set at 10% below the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) Average Market Rent for the City of Richmond.[67]

Men+: The term is used in the 2021 Census to refer to men (and/or boys), as well as some non-binary persons.[68]

Mental health: The state of an individual's psychological and emotional well-being. It is a necessary resource for living a healthy life and a main factor in overall health.[69]

Multigenerational household: A Census term used to refer to households with three or more generations. These households contain at least one person who is both the grandparent of a person in the household and the parent of another person in the same household.[70]

Non-binary person: Refers to a person whose gender is not exclusively male or female. The Census uses the term non-binary to include people whose reported gender is agender, genderqueer, gender-nonconforming or Two-Spirit, a term specific to some Indigenous Peoples of North America.[71]

One-parent family: A Census term used to refer to families with only one parent and their child(ren). The term "lone parent family" was previously used in the Census prior to 2021.[72]

Poverty: The condition of a person who is deprived of the resources, means, choices and power necessary to acquire and maintain a basic living standard needed to promote and facilitate integration and participation in society.[73]

Racialized groups or individuals: A term that encompasses all people that are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour and is considered preferable to the term "visible minorities."[74]

Recent immigrant (also sometimes known as newcomer): Refers to a person who obtained landed immigrant or permanent resident status in the five years preceding a given census. In the 2021 Census, this refers to the period from January 1, 2016 to May 11, 2021.[75]

Refugee: Refers to individuals granted permanent resident status in Canada based on a well-founded fear of returning to their country of origin for reasons including race, religion and nationality.[76]

Restorative justice: An approach to justice that focuses on addressing the harm caused by crime and meeting the needs of those involved. It provides opportunities for safe and voluntary dialogue between victims, offenders and communities.[77]

Senior: Individuals aged 55+ years.

Sense of belonging: The psychological feeling of belonging or connectedness to a social, spatial, cultural, professional or other type of group or a community.[78]

Social development: The process of improving the quality of life for all members of society. It involves the sharing of community resources, commitments and responsibilities, with the aim of achieving a better state of society for all.

Stereotype: An assumption about a certain group and the notion that the assumption applies to all members of the group. Stereotypes can be positive but are generally negative and ignore the diversity that exists within a group.[79]

Stigma: The negative social attitude attached to a characteristic of an individual. Stigma implies social disapproval and can lead unfairly to discrimination against and exclusion of the individual.[80]

Time use: Time use considers how people experience and spend their time. It refers to how the use of time affects physical and mental well-being, individual and family well-being and present and future well-being. It examines the length of workweeks, work arrangements, levels of time pressure, and time spent with friends and in other free-time activities.[81]

Two-or-more-person non-census-family household: A Census term used to refer to households containing two or more persons, none of whom belong to a Census family.[82]

Vulnerable residents, community members or populations: People whose permanent or temporary personal circumstances and/or characteristics mean that they are less able to protect or represent their interests, and as a result, may have decreased access to the necessities of daily living, as well as other opportunities and experiences.[83]

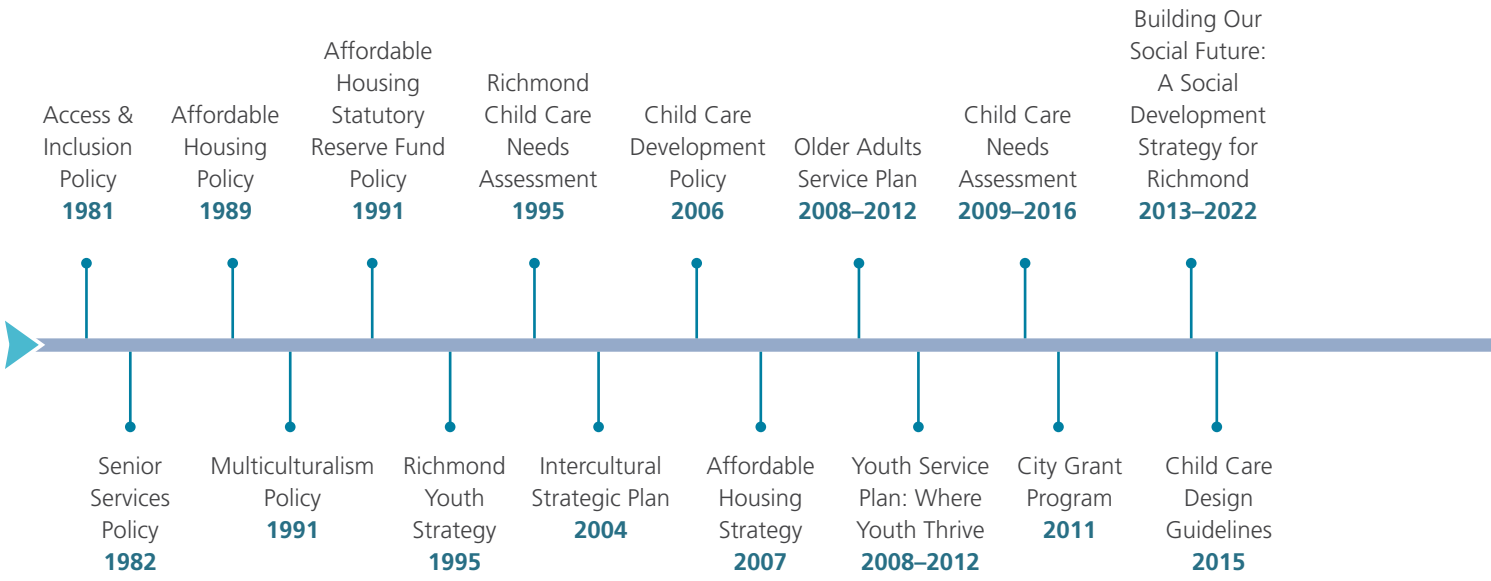
Well-being: The presence of the highest possible quality of life in its full breadth of expression, with a focus on good living standards, robust health, a sustainable environment, vital communities, an educated population, balanced time use, high levels of democratic participation and access to and participation in leisure and culture.[84]

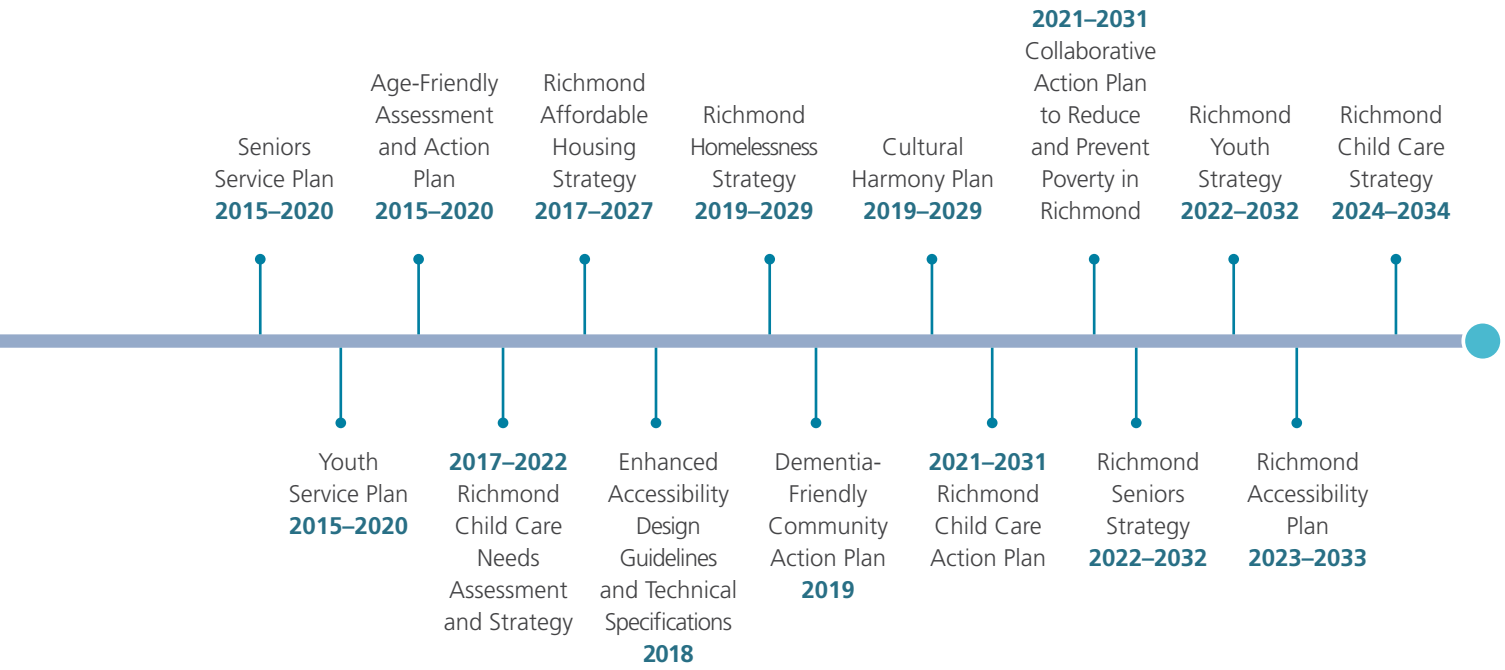
Women+: The term is used in the 2021 Census to refer to women (and/or girls), as well as some non-binary persons.[85]

Youth: Individuals aged 13 to 24 years.



Appendix B: Timeline of City of Richmond Social Development Policies, Strategies and Plans




Seniors Service Plan **2015–2020**
Age-Friendly Assessment and Action Plan **2015–2020**
Richmond Affordable Housing Strategy **2017–2027**
Richmond Homelessness Strategy **2019–2029**
Cultural Harmony Plan **2019–2029**
2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond
Richmond Youth Strategy **2022–2032**
Richmond Child Care Strategy **2024–2034**
Youth Service Plan **2015–2020**
2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy
Enhanced Accessibility Design Guidelines and Technical Specifications **2018**
Dementia-Friendly Community Action Plan **2019**
2021–2031 Richmond Child Care Action Plan
Richmond Seniors Strategy **2022–2032**
Richmond Accessibility Plan **2023–2033**

Appendix C: Alignment with other City Strategies and Plans

The City has numerous Council-adopted strategies and plans that support social development in Richmond. The *Social Development Strategy (2025–2035)* is intended to serve as an overarching framework that reinforces related actions within these City strategies, creating a comprehensive approach to social development.

Richmond 2041 Official Community Plan

The Official Community Plan (OCP) is a comprehensive plan which reflects the overall values of the community by establishing a City vision, goals and objectives for future sustainability, development and servicing, and policies and urban design guidelines to achieve the vision. The OCP provides a long-term vision to address land use, housing, transportation, economic growth and environmental conservation. It also provides a response to Richmond community members' evolving needs and guidance to create a complete, livable and sustainable community. The OCP is updated regularly to ensure it remains relevant to the current community context.

The following City Council-adopted strategies and plans address specific areas of social development.

2021–2031 Richmond Child Care Action Plan

The Child Care Action Plan provides a snapshot of the current state of child care in Richmond and assesses the opportunities and challenges to better meet the child care needs of families. Outcomes from these actions support increased quality child care options for families and contribute to a stronger and more sustainable system of early learning and care.

City of Richmond 2021–2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond

The Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond guides the City's work, in collaboration with community partners, to reduce and prevent poverty in Richmond. This plan seeks to gain a deeper and shared understanding of the experiences and circumstances of individuals and families at risk of and/or living in poverty in Richmond in an effort to identify actions to better meet their needs.

City of Richmond Affordable Housing Strategy 2017–2027

The Affordable Housing Strategy guides the City's response in creating and maintaining safe, suitable and affordable housing options for Richmond residents. The strategy focuses on supporting vulnerable populations through the development of increased transitional and supportive housing, non-market rental housing and low-end market rental units.

City of Richmond Cultural Harmony Plan 2019–2029

The Cultural Harmony Plan informs the City's approach to fostering and strengthening intercultural connections among Richmond residents through policy development, program and service delivery, community engagement and inter-government relations. This plan seeks to provide City programs and services that address the needs of Richmond's diverse population and remove barriers to participation for Richmond residents so that everyone is able to participate in all aspects of community life.

City of Richmond Dementia-Friendly Community Action Plan 2019

The Dementia-Friendly Community Action Plan guides the City and its partners in building a community that is inclusive and supportive of people living with dementia and their caregivers and families. The plan aligns with the City's commitment to become more age friendly and ensure all Richmond residents living with dementia and their families and caregivers are included, supported and valued, and continue to be active and engaged with their community.

City of Richmond Homelessness Strategy 2019–2029

The Homelessness Strategy envisions that homelessness in Richmond becomes rare, brief and non-recurring. This strategy focuses on supporting vulnerable residents at risk of and/or experiencing homelessness by preventing pathways into homelessness, supporting residents who are experiencing homelessness and providing pathways out of homelessness.

City of Richmond Seniors Strategy 2022–2032

The Seniors Strategy represents the City's ongoing commitment to addressing the needs of the seniors population in Richmond. The strategy is an action-oriented framework intended to guide the City and community partners in supporting seniors in Richmond over the next decade. The vision for the strategy is "that seniors living in Richmond are safe, respected, healthy and engaged in their communities."

City of Richmond Youth Strategy 2022–2032

The Youth Strategy guides the City and those working with youth in addressing the priority needs of youth and young adults in Richmond. The strategy is framed by a vision that "all youth in Richmond are safe, valued, respected and have the supports, opportunities and resources to live rich and fulfilling lives." It demonstrates the City's strong commitment to youth and recognition that the well-being of youth is best supported through community collaboration.

Richmond Accessibility Plan 2023–2033

In accordance with the *Accessible British Columbia Act*, the Accessibility Plan provides a comprehensive framework to guide the City's approach in advancing accessibility in Richmond, in collaboration with the community. This plan focuses on identifying, removing and preventing barriers experienced by people with disabilities when interacting with the City and Richmond Public Library, to ensure people of all ages and abilities are able to fully participate and contribute to all aspects of community life.

Richmond Child Care Strategy 2024–2034

The Child Care Strategy promotes the planning and delivery of affordable, accessible and quality child care services in Richmond. This strategy provides a resource for the City, child care operators and community partners to address current and future child care needs.

The following City Council-adopted strategies and plans have one or more strategic actions or outcomes focused on inclusion, well-being or community development and planning.

ArtWorks: Richmond Arts Strategy 2019–2024

The Arts Strategy serves as a guide for residents, the City and its partners to foster stronger connections in order to advance policies, programs and services needed for the arts to thrive in Richmond. This strategy provides a blueprint to enable the broadest possible access to the City's diverse arts opportunities, provide strategies to integrate the arts into the broader community and reflect the input of the broader community, to champion the provision of arts activities, facilities and opportunities.

City of Richmond 2022 Parks and Open Space Strategy

The Parks and Open Space Strategy guides the delivery of services in the parks and open space system in Richmond, which encompasses the City's network of parks, trails and greenways, natural areas, waterfronts and the urban realm. It outlines the trends and challenges affecting the delivery of parks and open space services and directs where priorities and resources must be focused in order to continue to provide a high quality parks and open space system into the future.

City of Richmond Community Wellness Strategy 2018–2023

The Community Wellness Strategy provides a framework to support the City and its key partners to identify innovative and collaborative approaches to most effectively impact wellness outcomes for Richmond residents, promote the benefits of active community engagement, and enhance healthy lifestyles for Richmond residents. This Strategy was developed in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health and the Richmond School District and has been extended to 2025.

City of Richmond Recreation and Sport Strategy 2019–2024

The Recreation and Sport Strategy guides the City's planning and delivery of recreation and sport opportunities in Richmond by building on its strong and successful foundation. The strategy focuses on encouraging residents of all ages to enjoy the benefits of an active and involved lifestyle. This includes planning for a variety of opportunities, from connecting with Richmond's natural environment to regular participation in formal and informal sports and recreation.

City of Richmond Signature and Community Events Plan 2025–2029

The Signature and Community Events Plan guides the development and implementation of City-led and City-supported events. The plan outlines ways the City will continue to support a mix of events of varied scope and scale, with a focus on enhanced resources and programs that will activate and connect communities and neighbourhoods within Richmond.

City of Richmond Volunteer Management Strategy 2018–2021 (Update in Progress)

The Volunteer Management Strategy focuses on supporting volunteers in their development and achievement of their personal goals, as well as further supporting City, partner and affiliate staff who work closely with volunteers. It seeks to advance the vision that "Richmond engages, supports, and connects people through volunteer opportunities, which contribute to Richmond being a livable, appealing, and vibrant city."

Community Energy and Emissions Plan 2050

The purpose of the Community Energy and Emissions Plan is to help Richmond achieve 50% reduction in community greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2030 and reach net zero emissions by 2050. This plan provides a roadmap for achieving the deeper GHG emissions reduction targets set by City Council and improves Richmond's resiliency to the effects of climate change, supporting the City's equity, affordability and sustainability goals.

Our Community, Your RCMP: Richmond Detachment Strategic Plan 2021–2025

The Richmond Detachment Strategic Plan provides a decision-making framework that ensures policing services, policies and programs are carefully developed to support the goal of making Richmond the safest city in Canada. This strategic plan defines long-term priorities and how to achieve them, engages key partners and the greater community in creating collaborative responses to public safety concerns, and identifies program needs to ensure resources are efficiently allocated.

Richmond Circular City Strategy

The Circular City Strategy seeks to advance Richmond's vision of a circular city "that maximizes the value of resources, by design, through responsible consumption, minimizing waste and reimagining how resources flow in a sustainable, equitable, low-carbon economy." This strategy outlines the City's transition to a circular economy, which includes integrating new and existing policies, building capacities, collaborating and engaging community partners, and stimulating innovation and participation across the food system, business, mobility, built environment and materials management sectors.

Your Library, Our Future: Richmond Public Library 2024–2028 Strategic Plan

The Richmond Public Library (RPL) Strategic Plan affirms its mission to create opportunities to learn, connect and belong, as well as its vision to inspire curiosity, transform lives and empower everyone. It includes updated values, goals and priorities to inform resourcing, operations and activities at RPL throughout the planning term. This includes reducing and removing barriers to improve accessibility, championing intellectual freedom and freedom of expression, and providing excellent customer experiences, among others.



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City of Richmond
6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1
Telephone: 604-276-4000
www.richmond.ca