CITY OF RICHMOND

HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

DRAFT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

2025–2035



Community Social Development Department

Richmond



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.

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.

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 on the next page.

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

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





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