

Update: Multiculturalism Initiative

Initiative Title: Multiculturalism
City Council Lead(s): Mayor D. Iveson / Councillor B. Esslinger / Councillor M. Banga
Department Lead(s): Citizen Services, L. Brenneis / J. Fowler

Recommendation - Renew for 2017-2021 Council Term

Objective

To create a socially inclusive Edmonton, where newcomers and other citizens are able to be involved in all aspects of the economic, social, political, and cultural dimensions of civic life. Three focus areas were identified:

- spaces for gathering, programming, and activities
- development of a Local Immigration Partnership Council
- social inclusion initiatives

A strategy was created, referred to as “Edmonton for All”, in consideration of the three focuses.

Key outcomes, projects or activities and their status as of May 2017

Below are the goals, activities and status of the “Edmonton for All” strategy.

Goals	Activities	Status
Promote and support intercultural appreciation, learning and engagement between community groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support, plan, organize and facilitate public events and celebrate and acknowledge cultural diversity and human rights. • Support interfaith and intercultural dialogues, projects and programs. • Provide educational opportunities for mainstream communities to bridge issues. 	Ongoing
Support community members and organizations in accessing, operating and/or managing welcoming spaces for newcomers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development and operation of multicultural centres as per council direction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Africa Centre: Provide funding and ongoing facility management support and support in development of business case for new facility. - Edmonton Intercultural Centre: Provide funding and support the governing board to operate the centre. - Clareview Multicultural Centre: Provide funding and support the governing board to operate the centre. • Work with community organizations to identify and facilitate opportunities to access existing spaces. 	Ongoing

Reduce barriers to equitable access and improve responsiveness of City of Edmonton policies, programs, and services to meet the varied needs of Edmonton's diverse communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify barriers to equitable access to services. • Inform diverse community groups about City of Edmonton programs and services. • Support Anti Racism Framework work and outcomes • Prepare a report on Access without Fear initiatives, including how they impact individuals with precarious immigration status and enable them to come forward and be provided access to municipal and community resources. • Promote civic engagement of Edmonton's diverse communities in City of Edmonton programs. • Provide City of Edmonton partners and staff with models and best practices of integration, inclusion and coordination. • Facilitate interaction among diverse communities to increase mutual awareness, respect and understanding. 	Ongoing
Support and facilitate multi-sector efforts towards inclusion and cohesion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the formation of the Local Immigration Partnership. • Build and nurture multi-sectoral relationships for information sharing, advocacy, and action to better serve Edmonton's ethno-cultural communities. • Provide informational presentations as required. • Participate in and maintain key networks. 	Ongoing, Local Immigration Partnership Federal funding approved until 2020.
Provide and support training, education, and awareness initiatives that create an internal City of Edmonton culture that is educated and responsive to diversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the creation of learning opportunities for staff in intercultural competence. • Research trends, issues, and best practices regarding social cohesion, inclusion, diversity, and intersectionality. 	Ongoing

Future Steps

The Multicultural Relations Office has incorporated the initiative into a long-term strategy referred to as "The Edmonton for All" Strategy, therefore all goals and activities remain ongoing.

Future target outcomes include:

- Attitudes and behaviours (bias, racism) shift
- Increased sense of pride, belonging, inclusion and connection
- Increased opportunities for interfaith and intercultural dialogues
- Increased opportunities for multicultural and diverse communities to engage with each other

- Community organizations have access to affordable and appropriate spaces
- City staff better understand and respond to newcomer settlement and integration issues, plans and programs respond to barriers to inclusion and integration

Evaluation

Given there is a long-term strategy supporting the initiative, referred to as “The Edmonton for All”, the complexity of the work, and the need for continued Council support, it is recommended that the initiative on Multiculturalism remain a Council Initiative.