

Richmond Social Development Advisory Committee 2025 Annual Report

Introduction

The RSDAC acts as a resource and provides advice to City Council regarding social policies and services that contribute to the social well-being and quality of life of Richmond community members. Through its role, the RSDAC also supports the implementation and monitoring of the Social Development Strategy (2025–2035). The Richmond Social Development Advisory Committee (RSDAC) was established by City Council on February 24, 2025, with its inaugural meeting held on July 10, 2025. The 2025 RSDAC Annual Report is prepared for Council in accordance with the Terms of Reference. This report serves as a summary of the RSDAC's key activities, highlights and guest presentations from the 2025 calendar year.

2025 Membership

The RSDAC is composed of up to 15 voting members, including two citizen appointees and 13 organizational representatives. These organizations have demonstrated leadership and expertise across diverse areas of social development, including newcomer integration, mental health and addiction, accessibility, food security, poverty reduction, children, youth and families, and homelessness. In 2025, the RSDAC had 13 voting members and two organizational representative vacancies (Chimo Community Services and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction) which are expected to be filled in 2026.

Citizen Appointees:

- Farzana (Ana) Himani
- Guang (Light) Ma

Organizational Representatives:

- Parm Grewal, Richmond Multicultural Community Services
- Hajira Hussain, Richmond Food Bank Society
- Ravinder Johal, Richmond School District
- Mae Malixi, Turning Point Recovery Society
- Nancy Pagani, Richmond Centre for Disability
- Prabath Pullay, The Salvation Army
- Daniel Remedios (Chair), Richmond Addiction Services Society
- Daniel Suen, Connections Community Services Society
- Jo-Ann Tait (Vice-Chair), Vancouver Coastal Health
- Ruth Taverner, Richmond Family Place
- Susan Walters, Richmond Public Library

Non-Voting City of Richmond Representatives:

- Councillor Bill McNulty, Council Liaison
- Dorothy Jo, Program Manager, Social Planning, Staff Liaison
- Olivia Pow, Planner 2 (Social Planning), Recording Secretary

2025 Meeting Highlights

The RSDAC held four meetings in 2025 between July and November 2025. Meetings focused on building committee capacity for effective collaboration to fulfill its mandate, sharing knowledge on current and emerging social issues, and providing input on City strategies and initiatives related to social development. Highlights of the 2025 RSDAC meetings are outlined below:

1. The RSDAC engaged in a work planning process, which involved a review of the Committee's Terms of Reference and the City's Draft Social Development Strategy (2025–2035). The Committee discussed shared values, member contributions towards key areas of social need, and commitments to advancing social development in Richmond as identified by the Social Development Strategy.
2. The RSDAC shared their expertise and knowledge during the development and completion of the Social Development Strategy (2025–2035). This included approaches to engaging equity-deserving groups during community engagement, providing feedback on the recommended actions included in the draft strategy, and discussing strategies for implementation and evaluation, as well as opportunities to strengthen collective impact.

Guest Speakers and Presenters

The RSDAC hosted guest speakers to highlight forthcoming City strategies and initiatives and to discuss opportunities to strengthen collaboration on intersecting and priority social issues in Richmond. Invited guests included:

July

Draft Social Development Strategy Overview, Melanie Burner, City of Richmond

Melanie Burner presented a broad overview of the Draft Social Development Strategy, introducing the strategy's purpose, initial community engagement process, community profile and summarizing key themes, findings and proposed strategic directions.

October

Draft Social Development Strategy Phase 2 Community Engagement, Jyotika Dangwal, City of Richmond

Jyotika Dangwal built on the earlier overview by examining key themes and findings in detail, outlining draft priority actions for the proposed strategic directions, sharing engagement opportunities for the second phase of community engagement, and discussing next steps toward finalizing the strategy.

November

New Economic Development Strategy, Julie-Anne Toda-Sinclair, City of Richmond

Julie-Anne Toda-Sinclair presented on the new Economic Development Strategy, which will address both current and future needs to keep Richmond competitive and resilient. The new strategy will guide Richmond in supporting a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable economy that balances growth, environmental responsibility and community well-being.

Summary of Phase 2 Community Engagement Results, Jyotika Dangwal, City of Richmond

Jyotika Dangwal shared results from the second phase of community engagement on the Draft Social Development Strategy, outlining public feedback, planned revisions to the strategy and next steps, including the forthcoming report for Council's adoption of the final strategy.

Conclusion and Acknowledgements

Since its inaugural meeting in July 2025, the Richmond Social Development Advisory Committee demonstrated its commitment to advancing social development in Richmond. Through its work, the Committee supported the development of the Social Development Strategy (2025–2035) and contributed to a deeper understanding of emerging social issues in the community. We look forward to building on this work in 2026, with a focus on supporting implementation and monitoring progress of the Social Development Strategy (2025–2035) and fostering collaboration across sectors to address priority social needs in Richmond.

We thank our Council Liaison Bill McNulty for keeping the RSDAC informed on Council issues, and Dorothy Jo, Staff Liaison, for her guidance and coordination since the Committee was established early this year.

Respectfully submitted by:

Daniel Remedios

Chair, Richmond Social Development Advisory Committee