

## MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, September 17, 2025

TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

PLACE: Council Committee Room  
Coquitlam City Hall  
3000 Guilford Way  
Coquitlam, BC

### ADOPTION OF MINUTES AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

**1. Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on  
Wednesday, June 18, 2025**

*Recommendation:*

That the Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on  
Wednesday, June 18, 2025 be approved.

### NEW BUSINESS

- 2. Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership (Presentation by Abigail Cameron,  
Associate Director Strategic Initiatives and Development, S.U.C.C.E.S.S.)**  
7:05 – 7:25 p.m. (20 minutes)
- 3. Canada Day Update (Introductory comments from Community Planner)**  
7:25 – 7:35 p.m. (10 minutes)
- 4. Committee Members' Roundtable / Multicultural Communities and Emerging  
Issues (Standing Agenda Item)**  
7:35 – 8:05 p.m. (30 minutes)

### OTHER BUSINESS

**NEXT MEETING DATE – Wednesday, November 19, 2025**

### ADJOURNMENT



**MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, June 18, 2025**

A Regular Meeting of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee convened on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

*\*Indicates Virtual Attendance*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Matt Djonlic, Chair  
Councillor Brent Asmundson, Vice Chair  
Tina Balachandran, Citizen Representative (arrived at 7:11 p.m.)  
Leo Chen, Citizen Representative  
Honore Gbedze, Citizen Representative  
Ann Johannes, Citizen Representative  
Nikki Kasravi, Citizen Representative (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)  
Bitra Rezaei, Citizen Representative\*  
Edgar Sanchez, Citizen Representative  
Bibi Singh, Citizen Representative  
Parmis Bagher Zadeh, Citizen Representative

ABSENT: Carolina Echeverri, Citizen Representative  
Lucie Wee, Citizen Representative

STAFF: Victoria Elahi, Planner 1  
Miryana Heath, Planning Data Analyst  
Bryan Leung, Committee Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and provided an Indigenous territorial acknowledgement.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**1. Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, February 19, 2025**

The Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 were approved.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2. Presentation on Immigration Canada**

The Planning Data Analyst gave a presentation entitled “Immigration British Columbia” and referred to slides in the Agenda package.

Nikki Kasravi entered the meeting at this time (7:05 p.m.).

Tina Balachandran entered the meeting at this time (7:11 p.m.).

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The proportionality of economic migration to other types of migration.
- Concerns about permanent residency application delays and different avenues of immigrant advocacy.
- Opportunity for an open-dialogue City event focusing on the storytelling of permanent residency application delays and using the event to connect new immigrants with community services.
- Opportunity for community organizations and the City to share stories of immigrant residents awaiting their permanent residency status with local Members of Parliament.

Bitia Rezaei left the meeting at this time and did not return (8:15 p.m.).

The Planning Data Analyst left the meeting at this time and did not return (8:16 p.m.)

### **3. Canada Day Update and Volunteer Sign-up**

The Planner 1 provided introductory comments relative to the Canada Day Update and Volunteer Sign-up.

### **4. Committee Members’ Roundtable / Multicultural Communities and Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)**

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Committee members informing their respective networks about the Canada Day festivities in Coquitlam.
- Status of the volunteer Spanish Speaking Club at Glen Pine Pavilion.
- Initiatives for emergency relief funds or peer support groups due to rising global conflicts.
- Distress in the non-profit settlement community due to lack of funding

assistance for in-person English classes, the general unpopularity of moving English classes online to support demand, and the long waitlists for English classes.

- Concerns about moving diverse ability caretaker teachers from high schools to middle schools, resulting in no diverse ability teachers in high schools.
- Opportunity to restart the Welcome to Coquitlam event.
- Opportunity to re-scope the mandate of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee for future iterations.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**NEXT MEETING DATE – Wednesday, September 17, 2025**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

#### **MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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Councillor Matt Djonlic, Chair

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Bryan Leung, Committee Clerk

# Fostering Inclusive Communities: Immigrant Needs

City of Coquitlam Multicultural Advisory Committee  
September 17, 2025



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# Land Acknowledgement



kʷikʷəłəm

We acknowledge that our work takes place on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the Kwikwetlem First Nation and lies within the shared territories of the Tsleil- Waututh, Katzie, Qayqayt, Musqueam, Squamish and Sto':lo Nations

# About the Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership

- Multi-sectoral collaborative
- Foster welcoming and inclusive communities to improve immigrant outcomes through:
  - Community & Partner Engagement
  - Capacity Building
  - Collaboration
- Strategic Priorities:
  - Immigrant Labour Market Integration
  - Access & Navigation of Community Resources
  - Social and Civic Inclusion of Newcomers



# Tri-Cities Community Profile



# Immigration Profile, 2021

Geography: Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership

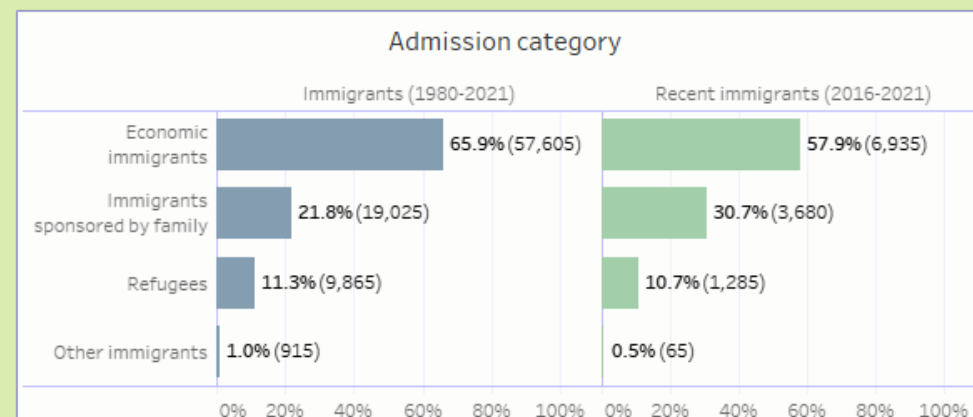
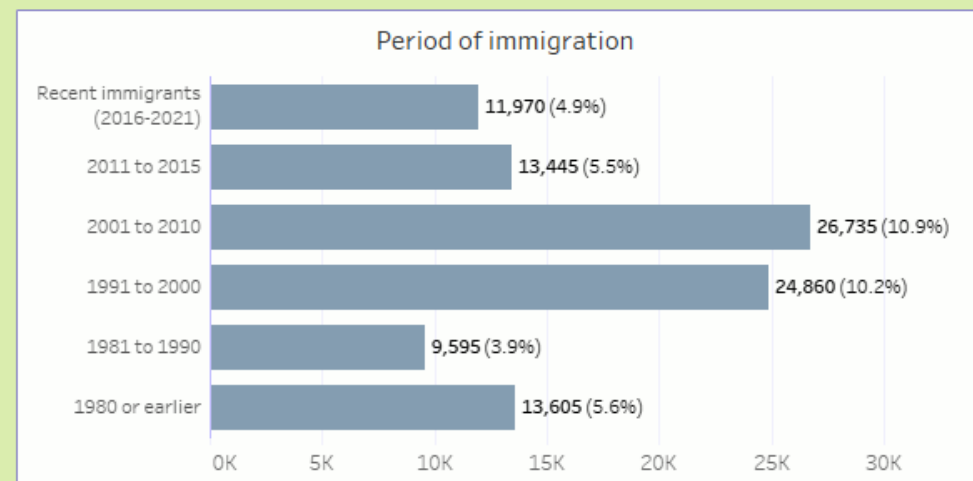
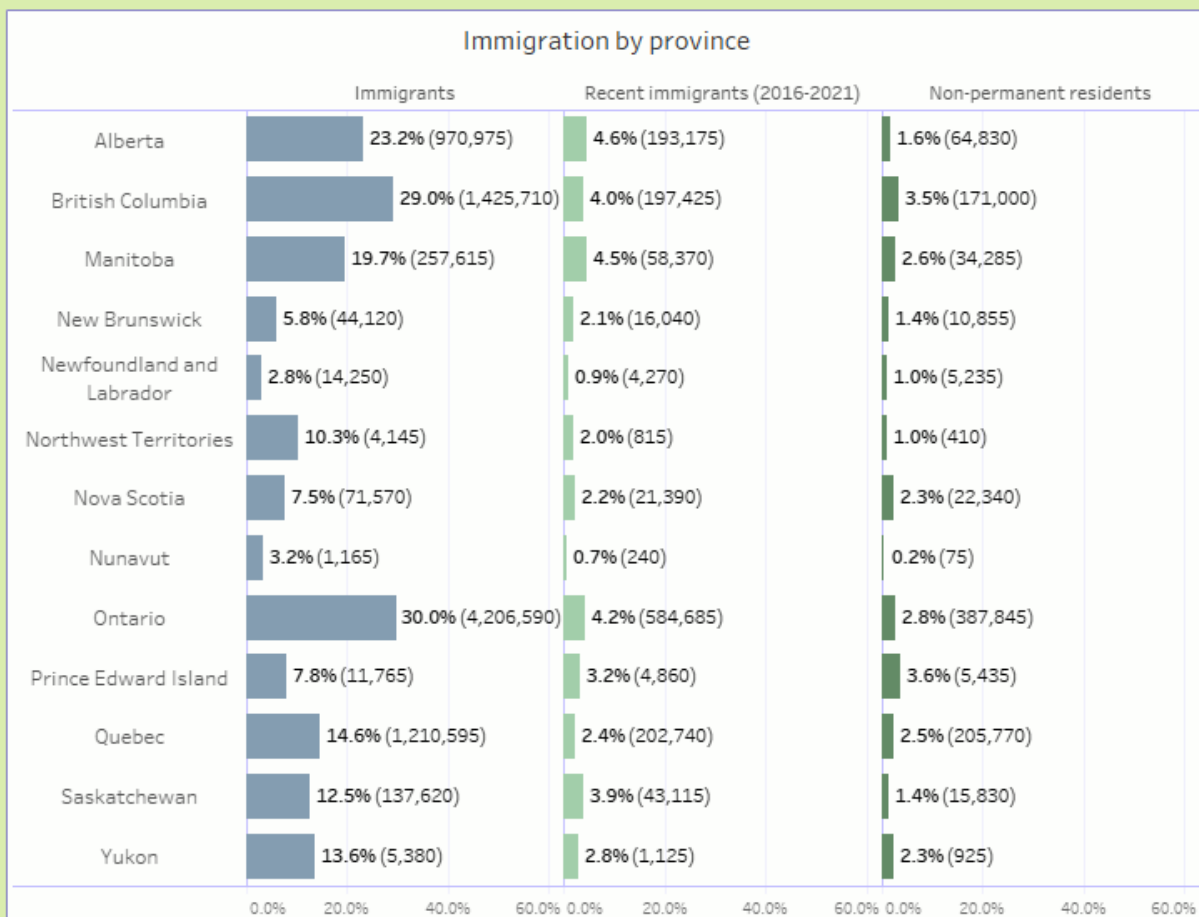
1. Select level of geography

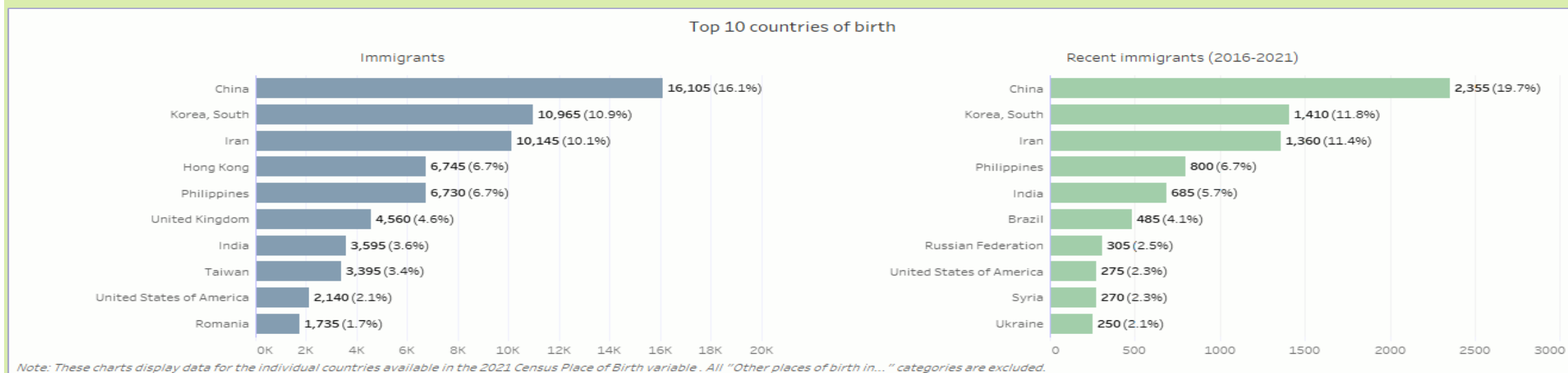
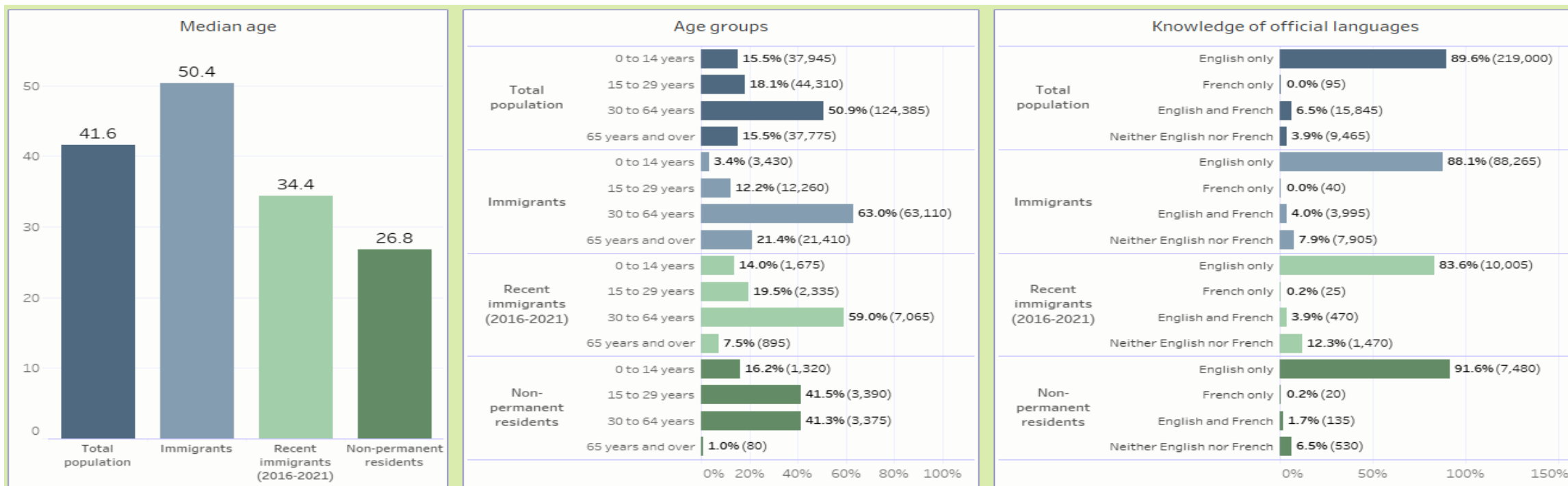
Local Immigration Partnership

2. Select geography to view profile

Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership

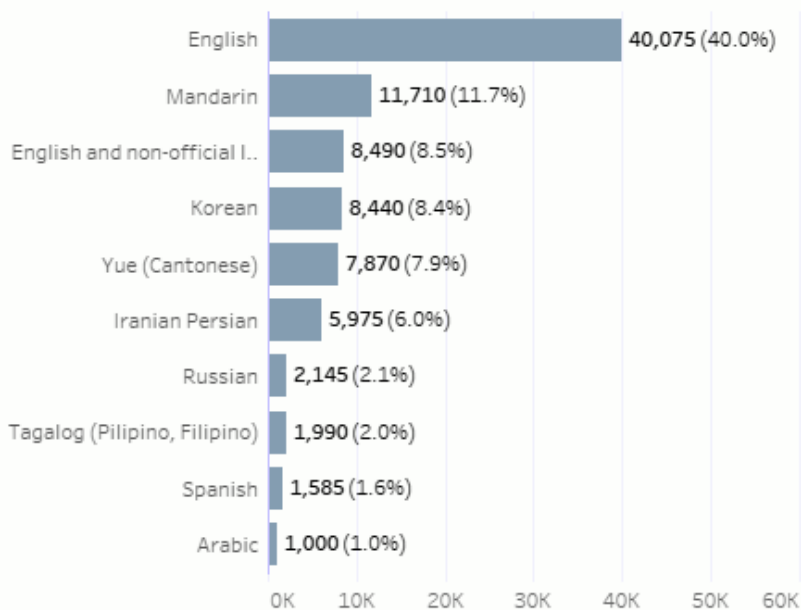
Total population	Immigrants	Recent immigrants (2016-2021)	Non-permanent residents	Indigenous identity population
244,405	100,205 41.0%	11,970 4.9%	8,170 3.3%	5,915 2.4%



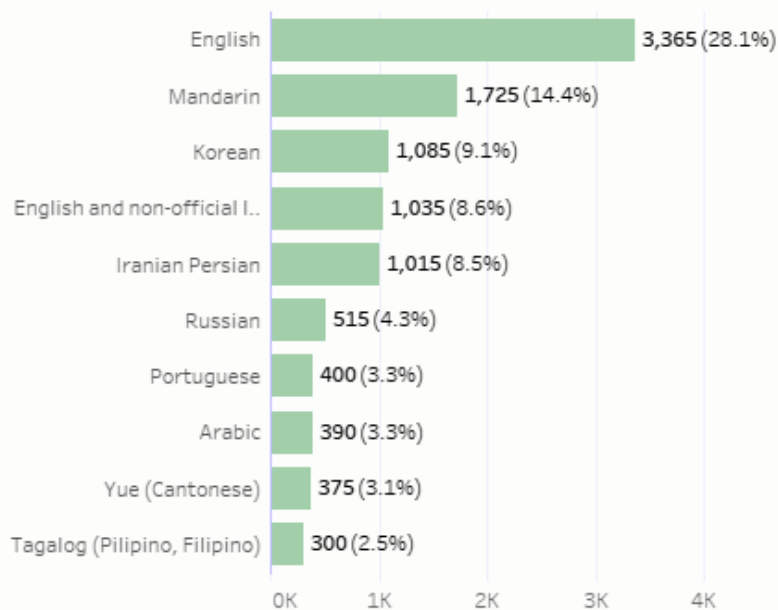


### Top 10 languages most often spoken at home

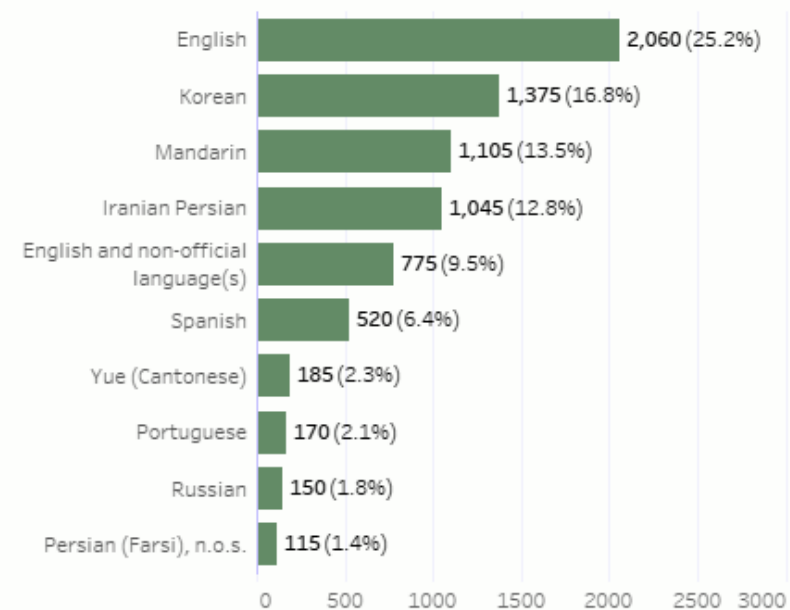
#### Immigrants



#### Recent immigrants (2016-2021)



#### Non-permanent residents



# Work Permits- Intended Destination

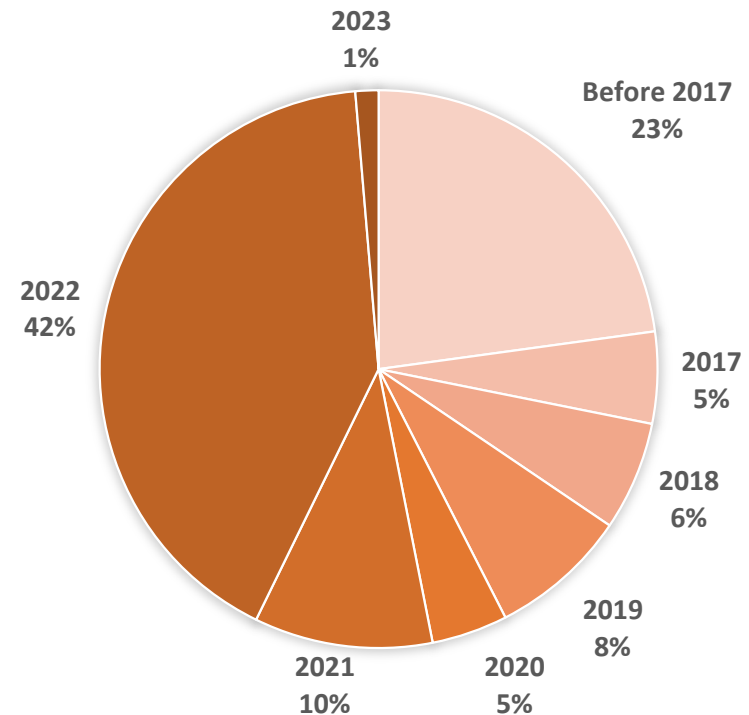
	2023	2024	2025 Q1
Coquitlam	2,090	1,795	410
Port Coquitlam	505	435	110
Port Moody	260	235	35
Anmore	10	0	5
Belcarra	0	0	0

# Emerging Needs

# Challenges

- Lack of awareness of services
- Difficulties navigating healthcare
- Stigma
- Cultural Support & Social Integration
- Language Barriers

GREATER VANCOUVER



# Housing Conditions and Core Housing Need in Tri-Cities

	Canadian-Born	Immigrant	Recent Economic Immigrant	Recent Refugee	Non-Permanent Resident
Core Housing Need	26%	40%	53%	74%	68%
Not Affordable	17%	28%	42%	40%	55%
Not Suitable	7%	11%	15%	43%	24%
Not Adequate	1-2%	1-2%	1-2%	1-2%	1-2%

# Skills and Underemployment

- 26.7% of immigrants have university degrees compared to 10.9% of Canadian-born
- Immigrants with foreign credentials are affected. 2/3 of recent immigrants hold degrees from outside of Canada
- 44% of immigrants have relevant work experience that match their education
- Employers often undervalue international experience and credentials



# Public Opinion on Immigration

- 57% of immigrants and 60% of non-immigrants agree there are too many immigrants.
- Non-white respondents are more likely to feel there are too many immigrants (61%) compared to white respondents (58%).
- Younger people (18-34) are less likely to think there are too many immigrants (55%) compared to those aged 35-54 (65%) and 55+ (63%).

# Public Trust

- 42% of Canadians trust immigrants, while only 36% trust refugees.
- Among those who think there are too many immigrants, trust drops to 32% for immigrants and 24% for refugees.
- White respondents (37%) are more likely to trust refugees than non-white respondents (33%).
- Immigrants (53%) are more likely to trust other immigrants than are non-immigrants (40%), and non-white respondents (53%) are more likely to trust immigrants than white respondents (40%).
- However, immigrants (33%) and non-white respondents (33%) are somewhat less likely to trust refugees than non-immigrants (38%) and white respondents (37%).
- 22% of non-immigrants distrust immigrants, compared to 14% of immigrants. 28% of non-white respondents distrust refugees, compared to 22% of white respondents.

# Xenophobia



Coquitlam Community Group

Dec 11, 2024 ·

Hello Coquitlam Community,

I am talking to the person who had an accident with my son today and pointed at him and said, foreigner, go to your country. I wanted to say that we have been immigrating for more than 20 years and we live here, work and pay taxes. We did not come here to leave, although i think you, yourself are apparently an immigrant.

So it is better to be kind to each other and not let tension arise in the society.



Anonymous member · Jan 29 ·

Yesterday, on the bus, my son and his friend—both Latino children were approached by a white folk who told them they would soon be deported. He claimed Trump was “making things right” and said he couldn’t wait for deportations to begin in Canada.

My son and his friend chose to ignore him, but I’m sharing this to remind our community, especially BIPOC individuals—to stay aware. I fear this kind of hate will only become more common.

Fear and hate spread quickly, but love and kindness will keep our hearts from turning to anger. Take care of your children. Speak out against racism, especially when it targets the most vulnerable—like these two kids who did nothing to deserve such harassment.

# Our Priorities

# Tri-Cities Intergenerational Belonging Project

- TCLIP is a co-lead with Fraser Health and Tri-Cities Literacy Committee

Vision: to connect **older adults with children and youth in meaningful exchanges to foster relationships** that are reciprocal, protective and have lasting impacts on community resilience, health, and wellness.

Goals:

1. Create connections and synergies between existing intergenerational belonging interventions.
2. Promote belonging as a priority for municipal strategies, plans, and policies.

# Community Consultations

## September 12- Port Moody Recreation Centre- Seniors Try-It Week

# October 4- Port Coquitlam Community Centre- Community Volunteer Connections Volunteer Fair

## October 23- Coquitlam Public Library- Film Screening and Dialogue: Inay



# #ImmigrantsWork

- In collaboration with World Education Services (WES)
- Employer Navigator supports employers to connecting with immigrant-serving agencies and labour market resources- connect to immigrant talent

# 3 Year Community Action Plan

Workshops & Trainings for Community Organizations on Social Inclusion

Community Events that lead to improved collaboration between service providers, community groups, businesses

Community-led campaigns that foster social inclusion



# Thank You

Nothing about us without us

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