

CITYPAGE

March 30 – April 5

Coquitlam Champions Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Join Coquitlam in recognizing Celebrate Diversity Month this April. Together, let's honour what makes each person unique and how these differences contribute to a vibrant, welcoming community.

Celebrate Diversity Month is part of Coquitlam's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), a top business priority and a focus of ongoing work highlighted at coquitlam.ca/edi. Throughout the month, the City of Coquitlam will be highlighting the work taking place to break down barriers, which includes promoting awareness and appreciation of diversity with displays and positive messaging in public spaces, social media posts and other initiatives.

In addition to a comprehensive annual work plan, watch for City-led EDI initiatives this April:

- 'Walk in My Shoes' – a display at City Hall showcasing the stories of five newcomer women in the Tri-Cities
- New street banners with designs and messages that support inclusivity and belonging
- Copies of *Mina's Lunch*, a book published by the Asian Impact Society with cultural awareness themes, will be available to read at various City facilities
- City facilities will be promoting diversity through signs, screens, posters in public spaces and decals at all entrances
- Providing free posters celebrating diversity to local businesses and groups



Mark Your Calendar

Learn more about our diverse community:

- **Colour Fest 2023:** May 20
- **ScotFestBC:** June 16-18
- **Canada Day:** July 1
- **Summer Concert Series:** July 14, Aug. 4 and Sept. 1
- **Caribbean Days Festival:** July 29-30
- **BC Dumpling Festival:** Aug. 12
- **Kaleidoscope:** Aug. 18-19

Go to visitcoquitlam.ca for a full calendar of community events.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Coquitlam

As an organization, Coquitlam is on a journey to better serve its vibrant and diverse community by incorporating an EDI perspective in all City business – including policies and practices, the language used, how neighbourhoods are planned, and how and what services the City provides.

EDI-related work aims to break down barriers to ensure that everyone – regardless of ability, race, culture, gender, sexual orientation and other diversity characteristics – is able to live, work and thrive in a safe and welcoming environment.



Celebrate Your Way

Plan your own celebration:

- Visit one of Coquitlam's many multicultural restaurants, showcased at visitcoquitlam.ca and bit.ly/globalflavoursoquitlam.
- Search your music app for podcasts, songs and sounds from different countries and by artists from different backgrounds and experiences.
- Watch an international film at home, purchasing snacks locally.
- Visit **Coquitlam Public Library** and ask for recommended authors or ideas on resources celebrating diversity.
- Cook an international feast with the family, sourcing ingredients locally.
- Research the importance of diversity and inclusion – start at ccdi.ca.



City-led EDI Initiatives

EDI is incorporated in the Business Plans that guide the City's priorities, decisions and all work across the organization. Some of the work underway includes:

- Earning a **Rick Hansen Foundation grant** to improve accessibility at three City facilities.
- Earning a grant from the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association in support of accessible programming as part of their Reaching Each and Every One program.
- Dedicated multicultural and accessibility City **advisory committees**.
- Supporting Crohn's and Colitis Canada's **GoHere Washroom Access App**.
- Resources at coquitlam.ca/edi and coquitlam.ca/multicultural
- Staff education, training and resources on variety of diversity topics.
- Updating recruitment and retention policies and practices to increase inclusion and remove barriers.
- Personal leave considerations for elected officials to remove barriers and encourage diverse candidates in local office.



Coquitlam's Ethnic Diversity: Did You Know? Source: 2021 Census

46% Residents born outside of Canada	80+ Non-Indigenous languages spoken at home	52% Homes where English is primarily spoken
Top three non-Canada places of origin: China (9%) South Korea (6%) Iran (5%)	Top three non-English languages spoke at home: Chinese languages (13%) Korean (6%) Iranian Persian (4%)	



Hate Has No Place in Coquitlam

Coquitlam has developed the following statement of allyship, a word that describes active support for people or groups who have been historically marginalized:

"Allyship is not a one-time action, it is a journey of support, learning and commitment. This is a journey that we, as an organization, are also embarking on with purpose, while keeping the safety of our residents and community top of mind.

The City of Coquitlam condemns hate in all forms. We are committed to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for all, including people from equity-deserving groups such as LGBTQ2S+, racialized and disability communities."