



South Vancouver Neighbourhood House & Mount Pleasant Neighborhood House



Request for Proposals

Project Consultant:

Establishing a Local Immigration Partnership in Vancouver

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

South Vancouver Neighbourhood House (SVNH) and Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House (MPNH) are community-based organizations that focus on connecting people and strengthening the neighbourhoods in South Vancouver and Mount Pleasant, respectively. Neighbourhood houses provide healthy places to live, work and play for residents of any age and from all walks of life. When you walk through the doors of SVNH or MPNH, you find welcoming, vibrant places where people can build their social connections by participating in wellness or cultural activities, or improve their personal capacity through volunteering, workshops, courses and employment counselling. The sense of belonging people develop at a neighbourhood house is enduring.

Both SVNH and MPNH are IRCC-funded settlement service organizations that focus on helping newcomers to Canada to connect to information, programs and services, and one another, to support long-term integration of newcomers into Canadian society. This includes promoting cross-cultural relationships between community members and creating leadership opportunities for newcomers to increase their ownership, empowerment, and belonging in their communities.

SHORT PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Vancouver is no longer coordinating the Vancouver Local Immigration Partnership, which existed until March 2020 to assist newcomers to integrate into city life. Local Immigration Partnerships, funded by IRCC, are designed to strengthen local capacity to attract and integrate newcomers. First introduced in Ontario in 2008, these community-based partnerships have produced innovative plans that have optimized local approaches to newcomer settlement and integration.

Key functions of Local Immigration Partnerships include

- integrating newcomer needs into community planning processes,
- identifying community-specific strategic priorities,
- developing and implementing settlement strategies and action plans to improve newcomer outcomes,
- increasing dialogue and information sharing of service providers to improve coordination and avoid duplication, and
- improving the settlement experience and outcomes of newcomers to the region.

The purpose of this consultancy will be to

- understand the needs in Vancouver to continue a Local Immigration Partnership,

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- assess municipal and local sector support to establish a Local Immigration Partnership co-coordinated by SVNH and MPNH,
- provide a community profile of newcomers and their needs,
- provide an overview of settlement service offerings and gaps in the Vancouver, and
- present an implementation plan for a Local Immigration Partnership in Vancouver.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS AND PROJECT OBJECTIVES

For a Local Immigration Partnership to be successful, participation from a variety of stakeholders that work with newcomers is essential. The purpose of this project is to thoroughly examine

- the local context,
- current services available to newcomers and the gaps they may face,
- the function a Vancouver Local Immigration Partnership should serve,
- the key stakeholders that need to be engaged for success to be achieved, and
- a clear high-level outline of goals and measurables.

Potential steps may be as follows:

1. Research
 - Understand context for immigrant and immigrant-serving sector in Vancouver
 - Understand the impact the City-led Vancouver Immigration Partnership work has had in the sector
2. Key Players
 - Conduct social network scan of key stakeholders such as service providers, partners, employers, schools, health care providers, etc. that were or should be involved with a Vancouver Local Immigration Partnership
3. Feedback/Consultation
 - Engage with past Vancouver Immigration Partnership members to understand successes and challenges of past VIP
 - Engage with newcomer and refugee community members to understand their needs and aspirations in terms of settlement and integration in Vancouver
4. Gaps, Strengths and Priorities
 - Create a snapshot of services available for newcomers across Vancouver
 - Potential considerations include:
 - What is currently available for newcomers in Vancouver
 - What trends are currently impacting newcomers in Vancouver
 - Where are the gaps
 - What is working well
 - How have priorities shifted due to the COVID-19 pandemic

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- What needs to be taken into consideration in the development of a Local Immigration Partnership in Vancouver

5. Next Steps

- Present a clear outline and action plan (written report) of how the new Local Immigration Partnership should develop, including how the City-led Vancouver Immigration Partnership's work can be carried over and built upon

PROJECT BUDGET

The total budget available for the consultancy is \$10,000-12,000. Please include a detailed budget along with your proposal. Additional funds will be available for community engagement activities / participant honoraria.

MILESTONES AND DEADLINES

Please present a detailed workplan with your proposal. The project must be completed by March 19, 2021.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Priority will be given to immigrant or refugee applicants.

Please demonstrate your skills, experience, and qualifications for the opportunity. Knowledge and experience of the City of Vancouver and its neighbourhoods is a definite asset.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Please submit your proposal including summary of previous experience, workplan, methodology, fees and budget to:

Zahra Esmail, Executive Director
South Vancouver Neighbourhood House
zahra.esmail@southvan.org

Applications must be received by Monday, December 7 at 9am. Subject line should read "Local Immigration Partnership Consultancy". Please note that a criminal record check must be successfully cleared.

The Association of Neighbourhood Houses of BC is an equal opportunity employer. We place a high value on diversity and encourage qualified individuals from all backgrounds and identities to consider applying for the position.

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