

February 10th, 2026

Dear North Cowichan Council,

As requested, please find below additional information to accompany our delegation request regarding participation by a member of North Cowichan Council in the Cowichan Valley Local Immigration Partnership (LIP).

1. Requested Role of a North Cowichan Council Representative

The Cowichan Valley LIP is a federally funded initiative supported by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and coordinated locally through Cowichan Intercultural Society (CIS). The LIP brings together partners across sectors to strengthen newcomer settlement, inclusion, and long-term community integration through coordinated planning and action.

We are respectfully requesting that Council appoint a representative to participate in the LIP tables as a municipal voice within this collaborative initiative. The role would include:

- Participation in LIP Main Council meetings (monthly, approximately 1–1.5 hours each);
- Occasional participation or liaison with focus groups, particularly where municipal planning, housing, economic development, or service coordination intersect;
- Providing municipal insight that informs community planning discussions; and
- Bringing relevant information or opportunities from the LIP tables back to Council as appropriate.

The time commitment is moderate and primarily meeting-based, with participation supporting collaboration rather than operational responsibilities.

2. March 11 Cross-Sector Community Planning Event

On March 11, CIS will host a cross-sector LIP event bringing together service providers, employers, health partners, Indigenous representatives, community organizations, and other stakeholders to co-develop priorities for the Cowichan Valley Community Action Plan for Immigration and Inclusion.

The Community Action Plan is a strategic planning document, and this process is intended to support alignment with local Official Community Plans and broader municipal planning priorities.

This full-day session will focus on:

- Reviewing community survey and consultation findings,
- Identifying strengths and gaps in local systems,
- Establishing shared priorities, and
- Translating findings into practical, collaborative actions.

The day will also include presentations from Dr. Lisa Brunner, who will share insights on current narratives around immigration and Mmena Ibeneme and Elmira Galiyeva (LIPs from other communities) will provide examples of community planning approaches from other regions. These presentations will help ground the local planning work in broader context and emerging best practices.

We are hopeful that Council may consider appointing a representative as soon as possible following the March 4 meeting so that municipal participation can begin during this important planning milestone.

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Beyond this event, ongoing municipal participation will help ensure that community planning discussions remain connected with municipal priorities and that Council is informed of emerging needs and opportunities related to immigration, workforce development, housing, health access, and community integration.

3. Delegation Presenters

Amanda Vance, Executive Director of Cowichan Intercultural Society, and I will be presenting to Council. At this time, no additional presenters are expected.

Please let us know if any further details are required. We will forward presentation materials within the timelines indicated.

Thank you again for your assistance and support.

**Warm regards,
Alejandra Lara**

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