

Proposed Reconciliatory Actions

Outlined below are proposed actions to support the City's apology for historic discrimination against people of Chinese descent.

1: Acknowledge historic discrimination and formally apologize for the City's past actions

- Publically acknowledge the City's historic policies and actions that discriminated against Chinese Canadians living in Burnaby.
- Issue a public apology at a special council meeting, in English, Mandarin, and Cantonese.
- Commit to the repeal of any historic discriminatory bylaws that have not yet been repealed, to take place at a future Council meeting.

2: Demonstrate the City's commitment to addressing legacies of historic discrimination and to advancing inclusion through specific actions and through policy.

2.1 Commemorate the apology while being transparent about past practices

- Develop a monument or commemorative artwork to serve as a physical marker of the apology.
- Acknowledge and commemorate the apology through a publication.
- Post the text and a video recording of the apology on the City's website and at www.heritageburnaby.ca.

2.2 Raise awareness of Chinese Canadian contributions to Burnaby's history

- Identify sites of significance to the history of Chinese diaspora communities in Burnaby for inclusion in the heritage inventory and for consideration as special places for commemoration; interpret selected sites located on City land through interpretive signage, commemorative artworks, murals, or other interpretive strategies and encourage the private sector to interpret significant sites located on private lands as part of development projects and through partnerships with the City.
- Raise awareness of educational materials and programs available in Burnaby that increase knowledge and understanding of the cultures and histories of the Chinese diaspora, including coordinating with the school district to support teachers in accessing and using these resources.
- Identify and advance the names of members of Chinese diaspora communities for municipal honours, including consideration as the namesakes of streets and other civic assets.

2.3 Support intercultural education to promote understanding between Burnaby's diverse cultural communities.

- Raise awareness of City and community-initiated events and programs that provide opportunities to increase awareness of the diverse cultures represented by Burnaby's residents.

- Partner with the not-for-profit sector to promote intercultural understanding through free-of-charge community programs and events, including community dialogues and programs held at Burnaby public libraries, cultural facilities, and recreation centres.

2.4 Support inclusion by supporting participation of hard-to-reach community members in civic engagement and governance, and by building the capacity of staff to welcome and serve the needs of the diverse communities that make up Burnaby.

- Adopt a translation policy to ensure the translation of key City documents into the languages most spoken in the community.
- Continue to provide employee training to City of Burnaby staff to develop and expand cultural competencies and deliver customer service that is respectful of the needs of newcomers and diverse community members.
- Pro-actively seek volunteers representing Burnaby's diversity to serve on City advisory boards.
- Raise awareness for all community members (including newcomers) through a civic engagement initiative, to encourage participation in civic life, including volunteering for advisory boards, holding events in City parks and facilities, applying for grants, participating in open houses and other forms of civic engagement, and participating in events and programs as an artist or performer.
- Develop a toolkit to facilitate inclusion of diverse voices and hard to reach communities in City engagement efforts.

2.5 Support community safety for members of the diverse cultures who make Burnaby their home, including newcomers.

- Install murals that celebrate cultural diversity in areas that have been targets of anti-Asian and other hate-based graffiti; leverage community partnerships to support the program.
- Undertake outreach to cultural communities and vulnerable populations to build relationships with police, fire, and emergency services; provide translation and distribution of printed materials, and annual community forum events that establish relationships between community safety services and create opportunities for communication and feedback.
- Continue to partner with community partners to deliver the Block Watch program and crime prevention training in Chinese languages for Chinese language speakers, including newcomers to the community.
- Advocate for the Province to provide BC municipalities with data on hate incidents that take place in their communities that are reported through the Provincial hate incident reporting hotline.

2.6 Embed the values of anti-racism and inclusion in future initiatives through policies, plans and strategies. Existing plans and policies that advance anti-racism and support inclusion of Burnaby's diverse community members include:

- Burnaby Public Library 4-Year Strategic Plan, 2024-2027

- Anti-Racism Framework (2024)
- Interim Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Framework (2024)
- Employment Equity, Diversity and Belonging Policy (2023)
- Community Archives Strategy (2024)
- Burnaby Food Systems Strategy (2024)

Future work that can further advance anti-racism and support inclusion of Burnaby's diverse community members includes:

- Burnaby 2050
- Burnaby's Community Safety Plan
- Economic Development Strategy update
- Agricultural Area Plan (or related plans)
- Open Space Strategy
- Parks Master Plan
- PRC Culture Strategy

Proposed implementation timeline:

		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1	Acknowledge historic discrimination and formally apologize for the City's past actions						
	Acknowledge discriminatory policies and actions						
	Apologize for historic discrimination and its legacy						
	Repeal discriminatory historic bylaws						
2.1	Commemorate the apology while being transparent about past practices						
	Commemorative artwork						
	Publication to commemorate the apology						
	Text and video of the apology posted online						
2.2	Raise awareness of the history of Chinese Canadian contributions to Burnaby's history						
	Inventory of significant places						
	Partnerships with the private sector to commemorate significant spaces						
	Commemoration of civic sites of significance						
	Outreach to educators						
	Advance names of members of Chinese diaspora communities for municipal honours						
2.3	Support intercultural education to promote understanding between Burnaby's diverse cultural communities						
	Communicate projects and programs that support the actions, including information about community and civic intercultural education programs and initiatives						
	Intercultural education initiatives						
2.4	Support inclusion by supporting participation of hard-to-reach community members in civic engagement and governance, and by building the capacity of staff to welcome and serve the needs of the diverse communities that make up Burnaby.						
	Adopt and implement a translation policy						
	Continue to provide staff cultural competency training						
	Pro-actively seek volunteers for advisory committees that reflect Burnaby's cultural diversity						
	Civic engagement outreach						
	Toolkit for policy engagement						

2.5	Support community safety for members of the diverse cultures who make Burnaby their home, including newcomers					
	Install murals in areas targeted by anti-Asian and other hate-based graffiti					
	Build relationships between vulnerable communities and emergency services through communications and outreach					
	Continue to deliver the Block Watch program and crime prevention training in Chinese languages					
	Advocate for the Province to provide BC municipalities with data on hate incidents reported through the Provincial hate incident reporting hotline.					
2.6	Advance anti-racism and inclusion through policy development					