


NEW WESTMINSTER

Sanctuary City

Ensuring all New West residents and visitors have access to City programs and facilities.

newwestcity.ca/sanctuary-city

City of New Westminster Sanctuary City Policy:

Access to City Services, Facilities, and Programs for All Community Members, Regardless of Immigration Status

July 12, 2021

Background

January 28, 2019 – Council adopted the following motion,

THAT Council direct City staff to do a report on the feasibility of making New Westminster a Sanctuary City.

February 25, 2019 – Council adopted the following motion,

THAT Council direct staff to develop a draft Sanctuary City Policy and Implementation Plan, with the input of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee and the Welcoming and Inclusive Communities (WINS) Local Immigration Partnership, and report back to Council.

Process

Case Study Research (Spring 2019)

- Review of Canadian municipalities that have Sanctuary City policies.

Policy Development with Input from MAC and WINS LIP (Summer/Fall 2019)

- Review the learnings from the case study research with MAC and WINS LIP.

Internal Stakeholder Consultation (ongoing)

- Consult internally with City departments on draft policy and implementation considerations.

Community & Stakeholder Consultation (March 2020 and March-June 2021)

Engagement Summary

Public Open House (March 10, 2020)

- Low attendance (COVID-19 pandemic)

Online Survey (March 9 – June 5, 2020)

- 38 respondents

Virtual Stakeholder Workshop (April 23, 2021)

- 14 participants (8 non-profit organizations of 28 invited)

Online Survey (April 22 – May 25, 2021)

- 23 respondents

Workshop with Individuals with Lived/Living Experience (June 9, 2021)

- 7 participants

Internal Consultation with City Departments (ongoing)



Key Themes

Key themes that emerged through the process included the importance of:

- Individuals from affected communities reviewing the policy.
- NW Police policy aligning with the City policy.
- Ensuring that all community members feel welcome when accessing City facilities, programs and services.
- Ensuring adequate focus and resources on implementing the policy.
- Developing training and communications materials with affected communities.
- Companion anti-racism training.

Proposed Sanctuary City Policy

Intent

To support New Westminster community members with uncertain, precarious, undocumented, refugee or no immigration status to access City facilities, programs and services with the knowledge that the City of New Westminster will not ask for information about their immigration status and will not provide information about immigration status to other institutions or orders of government.

Summary of Policy Provisions

- Applies to facilities, programs and services directly provided by the City of New Westminster.
- Guides actions of the City, including elected officials, City staff, City volunteers, and contractors/ consultants
- NW Police will develop an independent policy, to be approved by the Police Board.
- Welcome, treat with respect and dignity, and improve access for persons of all immigration statuses.
- Accept various forms of identification, confidentiality maintained.
- Will not request information about immigration status.
- Will not report or share information about immigration status, unless required by law.

New Westminster Police Department

- NWPD staff have been engaged with City staff at the outset of this initiative and have participated in the many reviews and stakeholder engagement sessions.
- The NWPD are committed to ensuring community safety in New Westminster, which includes access to services for witnesses or victims requiring police assistance, including persons with uncertain immigration status.
- The NWPD has committed to taking all this work into consideration and to reflect the input, where possible, within their review and update of NWPD policies.
- The NWPD will be developing their own policy and/or guidelines in support of the objectives of this policy, which will go to their Police Board for approval.

Proposed Implementation: Key Objectives

1. To inform and educate the community (residents and visitors) about the policy, how it aligns with the City's priorities, **what it is, why it is important, and how it affects them.**
2. To inform, educate and train City staff about the policy provisions and how to apply the provisions in their day-to-day jobs so that all residents, regardless of immigration status, **know they are welcome** to access City facilities, programs and services and that they **will not be asked** for their immigration status when doing so.
3. To align the policy, especially training and public awareness, with the City's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Framework (currently underway) including **anti-racism training for all City staff** anticipated to start in late 2021.
4. To collaborate with the **Welcome Centre as a key resource** for information about the Policy and as a key access point to the City.

Phase 1 Implementation: July – Sept. 2021

Staff Training and Education

Train-the-trainer delivery model - training Managers and Supervisors from all City Departments

- What are the provisions of the policy?
- Why is it important?
- How does it affect my job? What do I do differently? What do I need to know?
- Where do I find information about the policy and who do I contact if I have questions?

Materials developed by staff with input from affected communities, including:

- PowerPoint and FAQ.
- Resources on anti-racism and unconscious/conscious bias.

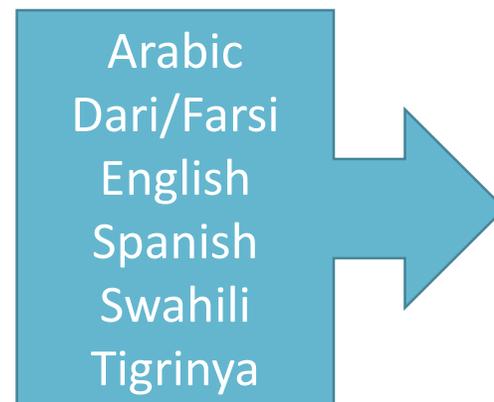
[Language about intent of the Sanctuary City Policy](#) will be added to City contracts with third parties, such as consultants/contractors, and to the City's Community Grants application form.

Phase 1 Implementation: July – Sept. 2021

Communications and Public Awareness

Plain language, user friendly brochure developed with feedback from individuals with lived/living experience, MAC and WINS LIP.

- What does it mean to be a Sanctuary City?
- How will it be applied?
- Who does it apply to?
- How does it affect me?



Other materials:

- Short video with key messages from brochure & FAQs (website, community partners, etc.).
- Poster with key messages from brochure at all City facilities.
- Links to resources on anti-racism and unconscious/conscious bias on website.

Phase 2 Implementation: Winter 2021

Staff Training and Education

- Building awareness in staff / opportunities to learn.
- Deeper work of confronting one's unconscious/conscious bias.
- Alignment with/housed within City's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism framework (DEIAR).
- City-wide anti-racism training anticipated to begin in winter 2021.

Key Theme
**Importance of anti-racism,
 cultural awareness,
 unconscious bias training.**



NWPL Anti-Racism Resource List



Phase 2 Implementation: Winter 2021

Communications and Public Awareness

- Develop a list of all types of identification that would be accepted for those programs or services that require identification - include options outside of traditional identification.
- Develop a list of all the facilities, programs and services to which the Sanctuary City Policy would apply and indicate when identification would be required.

Reporting and Evaluation

- Develop a reporting and evaluation protocol in collaboration with all City departments and reviewed by affected communities.

Identification Bank

- Explore expanding possible identification bank to serve individuals with no or precarious immigration status.

Next Steps

1. That Council endorse the City of New Westminster Sanctuary City Policy: Access to City Facilities, Programs and Services for All Community Members, Regardless of Immigration Status.
2. That Council endorse the recommended actions for implementation phase one and phase two as contained under the 'Next Steps' Section of the report.
3. That Council direct staff to include \$5,000 in the 2022 budget process for ongoing implementation of the Sanctuary City Policy through the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Framework.

If endorsed by Council, initial implementation will include:

- Phase 1 public awareness campaign to inform the public about the policy.
- Phase 1 training for City staff on the provisions of the policy.

Thank you.