

For Immediate Release

November 25, 2021

**Immigrant Welcome Centre updates its framework for responding to
discrimination, racism, and hate in Campbell River****16 organizations sign Response Protocol and participate in training**

CAMPBELL RIVER - The Immigrant Welcome Centre (IWC) has released an updated framework to support the community's response to discrimination, racism, and hate in Campbell River and is inviting other organizations to get involved.

Responding to incidents can take many forms, from active witnessing and informal community conflict resolution through to policy-based actions by agencies and legal recourse. Just as communities have procedures in place to respond to disasters and crisis situations, the *Campbell River Response Protocol to Address Discrimination, Racism, Hate Activity and Hate Crime* supports our local communities with practical processes and tools to respond to incidents of discrimination, racism, or hate-motivated activities.

Sixteen stakeholders have signed the Campbell River protocol, including the City of Campbell River and Campbell River RCMP detachment. The group has agreed to help enhance our community's understanding of and response to discrimination, racism, and hate activities. This includes by reporting incidents to the IWC for data collection to help identify trends and priorities for community action.

"As mayor for the City of Campbell River, I am very supportive of the protocol agreement developed by the Immigrant Welcome Centre to address the issues of discrimination, racism, and hate crimes," Mayor Andy Adams said.

The protocol has been in place for more than a decade and has been updated with the support of The Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network. Resilience BC is funded by the Province of B.C. and offers a province-wide approach to identifying and challenging racism. The program connects communities across the province with information, supports, and the training they need to respond to, and prevent, future incidents of racism and hate. IWC is the lead organization in the Campbell River spoke. The Network currently has 36 spokes across the province involving more than 50 communities.

Campbell River

200-1170 Shoppers Road
Campbell River, B.C. V9W 2C8
T: 250-830-0171 | F: 250-830-1010

The Comox Valley

407A 5th Street
Courtenay, B.C. V9N 1J7
T: 250-338-6359 | F: 250-338-6359

www.ImmigrantWelcome.ca
info@ImmigrantWelcome.ca

“It was important to re-establish the importance of this protocol for supporting our communities in consistently managing any issues around racism, discrimination, and hate,” IWC Executive Director Jim Brennan said.

In October, staff from the signatories were invited to participate in an online information and training session on how to use the framework. Any organizations in Campbell River who want to learn more can reach out to the IWC at info@immigrantwelcome.ca. The protocol is also available for viewing on the IWC website under [Media](#).

“I think overwhelmingly our community is committed to doing the best they can to support individuals and groups and to move forward in a positive way, collectively. We’re providing safe places for people to report incidents and to look for solution-focused engagement when that happens,” Brennan said.

The IWC extends its gratitude to community development consultant Brenda Wagman for her work in updating the protocol. Signatories include:

- The Immigrant Welcome Centre
- City of Campbell River
- Campbell River RCMP Detachment
- Campbell River & District Chamber of Commerce
- Campbell River and North Island Transition Society
- Campbell River Family Services Society
- John Howard Society of North Island
- Laichwiltach Family Life Society
- Campbell River Volunteer Society
- North Island College
- North Island Employment Foundations Society
- North Island Métis Association
- Sasamans Society
- School District 72
- Michele Babchuk, MLA North Island
- Rachel Blaney, MP North Island – Powell River

About the Immigrant Welcome Centre

The Immigrant Welcome Centre provides settlement and support services to newcomers to Canada settling in Campbell River, Comox Valley, and the North Island. As an award-winning organization, the IWC is a respected leader in immigrant services and an active proponent for the sector. By fostering strategic partnerships and working to create welcoming, inclusive communities that attract and retain newcomers, we are an effective business partner in the communities we serve. For more information or to book an appointment, contact us at 250-830-0171 or visit ImmigrantWelcome.ca.

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Media Contact:

To arrange an interview with a spokesperson contact:

Ann McLeod

250-830-0171 | Ann.McLeod@ImmigrantWelcome.ca

Public Contact:

Campbell River 250-830-0171

Comox Valley 250-338-6359

North Island 855-805-0171

Campbell River

200-1170 Shoppers Road

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