

Parm Bains
Member of Parliament for Steveston-Richmond East
230-11331 Coppersmith Way
Richmond, British Columbia
V7A 5J9

Dear Mr. Parm Bains, M.P.,

The Richmond Board of Education is seeking your support for our district's Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) program. SWIS is a federally funded program that aims to facilitate the integration of newcomers into our community. We would like to bring to your attention three critical issues that negatively impact our ability to meet the needs of newcomers in Richmond.

1. The district has experienced a substantial rise in the demand for settlement services, with SWIS utilization increasing 72 per cent over the past two years. To meet this demand effectively the district needs to increase SWIS staffing levels. The current funding model does not allow for this.
2. The district is funded for servicing newcomers with permanent resident and refugee status. The district is not funded for servicing newcomers with temporary permits. The district is providing unfunded service to over 1400 newcomers with temporary permits. This is not sustainable.
3. The district and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's (IRCC) fiscal years do not align. IRCC fiscal year end is March 31, while the district year end is June 30. As a result, there is slippage of funding from one year to the next. A slippage refers to the situation where planned funds or resources are not utilized within the intended timeframe or budget and cannot be carried forward from one year to the next.

To better address the diverse needs of all newcomers in our community, the Richmond Board of Education requests your support in advocating for the following changes:

1. Provide funding through a multi-year grant rather than a contribution agreement model. A multi-year grant funding model will:
 - Provide our district the ability to increase staffing levels;
 - Provide our district with funding to service newcomers with temporary permits; and
 - Provide our district flexibility to carry forward slippage funds from one year to the next.
2. Authorization to use grant funding for projects with budgets over \$1 million will:
 - Provide our district access to multi-year grant funding; and
 - Provide our district with a funding stream that aligns with the realities of the SWIS program.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to the opportunity to further discuss these important issues and collaborate on finding effective solutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debbie Tablotney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail.

Debbie Tablotney, Chairperson
On Behalf of the Board of Education (Richmond)

Supplemental Data (SD38)

1. Annual funding received for settlement supports in your district?
 - 2022 - 2023: \$1,107,502
 - 2023 - 2024: \$1,194,900 (requested)
2. Is funding direct or through a non-profit?
 - Direct funding
3. Total Number of settlement clients
 - 2022 - 2023: 3,417 West Clients (adults and children)
4. Number of eligible vs. ineligible clients
 - 2022 - 2023: 1,918 eligible (PR and Refugees)
 - 2022 - 2023: 1,442 ineligible (Permits and Other)

SWIS CLIENT STATUS (Includes parents/guardians and students)	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022	2022 - 2023
Permanent Resident	1407	1040	1858
Refugee	19	29	60
Temporary Permits (Work or Study) including CUAET	349	880	1442

DISTRICT TOTAL (Students only)	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022	2022 - 2023
Permanent Resident	2973	2863	2971
Refugee	115	103	141
Temporary Permits (Work or Study) including CUAET	645	777	1243

5. Total number of ELL students
 - 7,352 ELL students of 22,288 total students
6. Increased enrollment in your district this year
 - 1,571 new registrations after September 1, 2022
 - 1,095 required ELL support
7. How much of this increased enrollment is due to temporary workers (approx.), how many require ELL or settlement support?
 - 557 temporary workers since September 1, 2022
 - 448 of temporary workers required ELL support
8. Number of students in your district from Ukraine that require settlement services
 - 63 new students