

May 14, 2025

The Honourable Lena Metlege Diab, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
Ottawa, ON K1A 1L1

RE: Urgent Request to Reinstate the LINC Program in Richmond School District

Dear Minister Diab,

On behalf of the Board of Education for Richmond School District No. 38, I am writing to express our deep concern over the recent discontinuation of the *Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC)* program as of April 1, 2025, and to strongly advocate for its immediate reinstatement in our district.

The LINC program has long been a cornerstone of newcomer integration in Richmond, where more than 60 per cent of residents identify as immigrants. For decades, LINC classes in our district have provided adult learners with essential English language instruction, civic education and literacy skills. Many of these learners are also parents of students in our K–12 schools. These services have played a key role in helping newcomers find jobs, build community connections, strengthen their families and support their children's success in school.

The sudden termination of this program has left a profound gap in the Richmond learning community. The elimination of LINC in a high-settlement area like Richmond is deeply concerning and appears misaligned with Canada's commitment to inclusive settlement, equity of access and long-term immigrant success.

We respectfully call on Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to:

- Reinstate LINC programming in the Richmond School District to serve the significant population of newcomers living in the area; and
- Engage directly with local education institutions and settlement partners to co-design a more sustainable, community based delivery model.

We appeal to you to restore LINC services in Richmond and reaffirm Canada's commitment to supporting newcomers where the need is greatest. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with your staff to discuss the impact in our community and explore viable solutions.

Sincerely,

Ken Hamaguchi

Chair, Board of Education

Richmond School District No. 38

cc:

Trustees, School District No. 38 (Richmond)

Parm Bains, Member of Parliament, Richmond East - Steveston

Chak Au, Member of Parliament, Richmond Centre - Marpole

Superintendent of Schools, School District No. 38 (Richmond)

Secretary Treasurer, School District No. 38 (Richmond)