



Strathcona County Diversity Committee

Unity In Diversity


**Embrace local diversity
and
build inclusive community**

Who Are We?


- ▶ Started in 2016 as a volunteer group striving to make a meaningful contribution to our community.
- ▶ Now a committee of 40 community members passionate about promoting the benefits of diversity in Strathcona County
- ▶ Meets monthly to discuss ways to promote diversity, plan information events and to learn about other likeminded community groups



What Is Diversity?

- ▶ Diversity is recognizing and appreciating the differences among us. Each of us has qualities and attributes to offer which can improve a community.
 - ▶ Diversity includes race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, or other ideologies as well as values, traditions, historical events, art forms, language etc.
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What does mutual respect and multicultural collaboration look like?

- ▶ It emphasizes common interests rather than differences;
 - ▶ It educates and encourages connections as a means of promoting relationships;
 - ▶ It enriches everyone's life when there is shared knowledge of others' cultures;
 - ▶ It organizes through common purpose. There is “strength in numbers”;
 - ▶ It creates community and leads to a more just society.
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Why Is Diversity Important in Strathcona County?

- ▶ Relationships are powerful. One-to-one connections with each other are the foundation for change.




- ▶ The exploration of our differences in a positive and nurturing environment will strengthen our community.




- ▶ No matter where we work, live or go, we will have contact with diverse people. Social harmony will build trusting relationships and this will be the glue that holds people together as they work to achieve community goals.



What are the Committee's goals?

- ▶ To create a culture of acceptance in Strathcona County that embraces and grows from diversity.
 - ▶ To impart knowledge and offer social opportunities that stimulate rapport and friendships between all communities.
 - ▶ To build a united network of organizations willing to advance dialogue and action on diversity within their respective groups.
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- ▶ To create a space for societal actors from communities, schools, media, civil society and places of worship to promote diversity in Strathcona County.
 - ▶ To encourage County residents to move beyond simple tolerance to embracing and celebrating the rich dimensions of diversity within the community.
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Our Guiding Principles

- ▶ The Committee's motto is "Unity in Diversity". We strive to forge links and promote a "We Are One" mindset. We recognize that every person brings a unique and valuable contribution to the mosaic of our community and celebrate the fact that we exist in this thriving cross-cultural community.

- Community involvement

- Empowering people

- Embracing diversity

- Building community

- Getting individuals engaged in their community

Recent Initiatives

- ▶ Canada Day 2016 Parade



Strathcona County Neighbour Day Sept 11 2016



Blanket Exercise November 2016

- ▶ The Blanket Exercise is an interactive learning experience that teaches the Indigenous rights history we're rarely taught in school.
- ▶ Developed in response to the 1996 Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples—which recommended education on Canadian-Indigenous history as one of the key steps to reconciliation, the Blanket Exercise covers over 500 years of history in a one and a half hour participatory workshop.

BLANKET EXERCISE

**A meaningful event to explore the historic and contemporary
relationship between
Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada**

November 3, 2016

Silver Birch Lodge, 914 Bison Way

7:00-8:30 pm

**Strathcona County
Diversity Committee**
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Email: strathcona.diversity@gmail.com

Facebook: [Strathcona County Diversity Committee](#)

Twitter: [@StrathcoDiv](#)



“The event was a powerful way of showing the history of Canada we often do not want to acknowledge. We need to accept our history before we can assist those negatively affected by it. Thank You.” MS



Multi-Faith Event January 2017

- ▶ Multiple local faith groups openly shared their beliefs and talked about their holy days and traditions.
- ▶ Families participated in activities and learned about different traditions celebrated in our community.




- ▶ The successful objective was to demystify our neighbors and inspire interfaith understanding, friendship, dialogue, respect and cooperation.




- ▶ “What a wonderful event! We all grow as we learn about our differences and similarities”.

Other Community Engagement

- ▶ Strathcona County Community Talk
 - ▶ United Nations Day: Summoning Our Common Will to Build a Better World
 - ▶ Community Thanksgiving Celebration at Moravian Church
 - ▶ Opening of Majama Tropical Variety Store (African–Caribbean Store)
 - ▶ Baha'i Community New Year
 - ▶ Wrapped in Love: Masjid in the Park open house
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Upcoming Event

Strathcona Heritage Day

- ▶ When: June 11 10:00–4:00
 - ▶ Where: Spark Gallery
 - ▶ Who: Diversity Committee and the Arts and Culture Council of Strathcona County
 - ▶ Why: Celebrate Canada's 150th and Strathcona County's vibrant and diverse heritage
 - ▶ What: Music, dance, artisans, children's activities, cultural groups, and food
 - ▶ FREE event with shuttle bus service to the site
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Let's Celebrate!

**CANADA'S 150th and HERITAGE DAY
OF STRATHCONA COUNTY**

Free Event

Music, dance, artisans, cultural groups, food & more!

Sunday, June 11, 2017

10:00 to 4:00

SPARK GALLERY

**116, 2257 Premier Way
Sherwood Park Broadmoor Place IV**


**Free hourly shuttle to & from both Sherwood Park bus depots
& Mall stop on Sherwood Drive**

For information: website www.accsc.ca or connect on Facebook.




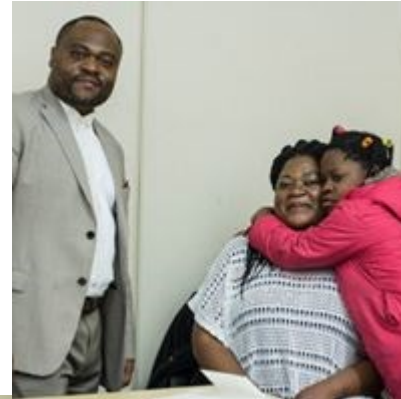
CANADA 150
1867-2017

What Can You Do?

- ▶ As individuals:
 - ▶ Be an agent for promoting diversity in public sphere
 - ▶ Be aware that not all that makes us diverse is visible
 - ▶ Seek out and engage those in the community who are not in the majority.
 - ▶ Join the Diversity Committee and/or participate in the activities
 - ▶ Come to the Cultural & Heritage Day on June 11
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▶ As a Council:

- ▶ Consider human rights in all your decision making and foster dialogue between groups of diverse backgrounds.
 - ▶ Make Mayor's Prayer breakfast event inclusive and welcoming to all the Faith groups in the community.
 - ▶ Consider proclaiming annually a day that supports and encourages diversity in our community such as March 21, 2018: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination or the International Day for Tolerance November 16, 2017
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