Greetings Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, also reviewed by PDS, which provides highlights of information released from the 2016 Census of Population on October 25, 2017, regarding the origin and cultural identities of people in the City of Vancouver including:

- This first release from the restored long-form census provides valid and robust data to understand the makeup and needs of Vancouver’s diverse populations;

- Vancouver’s Indigenous population is growing faster than the overall population: in 2016, an estimated 14 thousand Vancouverites have Indigenous identity;

- Vancouver is home to people from all around the world. 47% of Vancouverites were born outside of Canada, including both immigrants and non-permanent residents. However, the number of new immigrants in the city is going down over time;

- Vancouver’s population has diverse cultural origins. 52% of Vancouverites are members of a visible minority group—that is, not Caucasian or Indigenous.

Should you have any questions, please contact MaryClare Zak at 604.871.6643 /MaryClare.Zak@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Sadhu

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This memo provides highlights of information released from the 2016 Census of Population on October 25, 2017, regarding the origin and cultural identities of people in the City of Vancouver. This release also includes data on housing tenure, types and costs, to be reported to Mayor and Council in a separate memo from Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability.

The City uses this information to plan for and serve the needs of Vancouver’s diverse populations. The City responds to population trends and inequities through policies, plans, projects and investments, working toward our Healthy City Strategy vision and goals.

This is the first release of data from the restored mandatory long-form census administered to a sample of private households; earlier releases this year have been from the short form administered to the entire population. The global non-response rate for the 2016 long form census in the City of Vancouver was 6.5%, compared to 24.5% for the voluntary National Household Survey in 2011.
Data within this brief is generally reported for the City of Vancouver (census subdivision/CSD) population, with some data for Metro Vancouver (census metropolitan area/CMA). Some data compares Vancouver to other individual municipalities (CSDs) across the country or within the region. Data provided for areas within the city uses Statistics Canada’s census tracts; data for City of Vancouver local planning areas will become available in the months ahead.

**Indigenous Identity**

Vancouver is the unceded homeland of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations, and also home to a large and diverse population of people who may identify with First Nations, Métis or Inuit communities from across Canada, North America and beyond.

Vancouver’s urban Indigenous population is estimated to number 14 thousand persons, or 2.2% of the population. An additional 800 Indigenous persons and 850 non-Indigenous persons live in the Musqueam community in the city’s southwest. The Indigenous population continues to be faster-growing and younger-aged than the city’s total population: the population with Indigenous identity grew 25% from 2006 to 2016, compared to 8% for non-Indigenous population; and 31% of Indigenous people in Vancouver are under 25, compared to 23% of the total population.

Comparatively, the cities of Winnipeg, Edmonton and Calgary have the proportionally largest Indigenous populations in Canada.

Regionally, 2.5% of the Metro Vancouver population are Indigenous, though Metro Vancouver’s Indigenous population is the third largest in Canada in absolute numbers. Within Metro Vancouver, excluding communities on reserves, the proportionally largest Indigenous population is found in the cities of Langley and Maple Ridge.
Indigenous people live throughout the City of Vancouver, but with notable clusters in portions of Downtown, Grandview-Woodland and Mount Pleasant. The map below shows the distribution of this population across the city.
As a City of Reconciliation, Vancouver is committed to recognizing the strengths and assets of Indigenous communities while working to address systemic barriers and socioeconomic inequities. Staff will be reporting back to Council on Healthy City Strategy indicators in late November, which will include a report on health and well-being indicators for Vancouver’s Indigenous population.

**Immigration**

People come to Vancouver from all over the world; 47% of the city’s population was born outside of Canada, including an estimated 263 thousand immigrants (naturalized Canadians and permanent residents) and 30 thousand non-permanent residents. Compared to other large cities in Canada, Vancouver continues to have a relatively large population of immigrants.

![Immigration Status Graphic](image)

![Immigrant Population Graphic](image)

However, Vancouver’s role in welcoming newcomers to the region is changing. Affordability challenges across the region impact people’s ability to settle here, and there has been a trend toward fewer newcomers settling in Metro Vancouver. The graph below left shows the estimated number of new immigrants living in Vancouver in each census period who had immigrated to Canada in the previous five years. In 2016, 26% of new immigrants in Metro Vancouver live in the City of Vancouver, the same proportion as for the overall population. In both the City of Vancouver and Metro Vancouver, 6% of the total population are new immigrants who immigrated to Canada in the past five years.
Settlement patterns within the City of Vancouver have also changed over time, with new immigrants becoming more likely to settle in west side neighbourhoods than historically. The map below shows that immigrants who arrived from 2011 to 2016 make up the largest share of population in census tracts in the Downtown, Arbutus-Ridge and Sunset areas.

The top countries of birth for new immigrants in the City of Vancouver are China, the Philippines and India.
For the first time, the 2016 Census includes data on the admission category for landed immigrants and permanent residents who immigrated to Canada after 1980. In the City of Vancouver, 58% of all immigrants living in the city in 2016 are economic immigrants admitted under worker, business or provincial nominee programs; 31% are family class immigrants, admitted as sponsored family members of Canadian citizens or permanent residents; and 9% are people who came to Canada as refugees and are now permanent residents. Note that these data do not include non-permanent residents such as people with work or study permits, and refugee claimants that have not been granted permanent residence in Canada.

Federal immigration policy has prioritized economic immigration in recent periods. In Metro Vancouver, 63% of people who immigrated from 2011 to 2016 are economic immigrants, compared to 44% of those who immigrated between 1980 and 1990. Data for the City of Vancouver are not currently available, but a similar pattern is expected.
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada provides funding support to nearly 30 settlement service organizations in Vancouver. The City of Vancouver is currently contracted to convene the Vancouver Immigration Partnership to improve the settlement and integration of newcomers in the city.

Cultural Diversity

The graph below shows the top cultural origins identified by City of Vancouver residents.

As has been previously reported, 44% of Vancouver residents have a non-English first language, and 26% usually use a non-English language at home. 7% of residents do not have conversational knowledge of English. Additional data are now available about residents’ knowledge of non-official Languages. As shown in the graph below, 16% of Vancouver residents are able to hold a conversation in Cantonese, 11% in Mandarin and 5% in Tagalog. About a quarter of Vancouverites have a conversational knowledge of at least one Chinese language.
A majority (52%) of Vancouver’s population are considered members of a visible minority group; that is, neither Caucasian nor Indigenous. The largest visible minority groups in Vancouver are Chinese (est. 167 thousand residents), South Asian (37 thousand) and Filipino (36 thousand). As shown below, Vancouver has a higher share of its population in a visible minority group than most other large Canadian cities.

Within Metro Vancouver, the cities of Surrey, Richmond and Burnaby have proportionally larger visible minority populations, and the region overall is becoming more diverse over time.
Vancouver has brand and identity of a diverse, welcoming global city, but systemic and racialized inequities remain in the city. As an action under the Healthy City Strategy, City staff are continuing to receive training to build capacity when addressing conditions that create vulnerability. In addition, Community Services will develop a poverty reduction framework and an intersectionality policy to promote equity and inclusion across City policies and plans.

Conclusion

The restored long-form census provides the most robust and comprehensive data available about Vancouver’s diverse population, and informs ongoing policy development and implementation. Staff will continue to analyze the data from this and subsequent releases to understand inequities and change in the city.

The next release of data from the 2016 Census of Population data will take place on November 29, 2017, and include data on: education; labour; journey to work; language of work; and mobility and migration. Subsequently Statistics Canada will continue to release more detailed cross-tabular data, and the City will acquire custom data such as neighbourhood profiles.
Staff are available to answer questions or provide further information. Please contact Mary Clare Zak, Managing Director, Social Policy and Projects, at 604.871.6643 or MaryClare.Zak@vancouver.ca.

Regards,

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KLT/pm