



Newcomer Mapping Project – Tri-Cities Map of Neighbourhood Density and Resources Identified by Afghan and Iranian Newcomers 2005

Project Description

The purpose of this mapping project is to enhance the ability of agencies and public institutions to connect with and serve newcomers in Tri-Cities. The information contained in the maps is not exhaustive but should be seen as a starting point for further analysis. Five ethno-cultural communities were selected for this project including Chinese, Korean, Eastern European (Russian), Afghan and Iranian. These communities were identified as a result of an increase/emerging settlement patterns in Tri-Cities and through the identification of newcomer settlement challenges by agencies and public institutions. The mapping project attempts to address several questions: Where are newcomers settling? What is the relation between immigrant settlement patterns and the location of community resources? How can Tri-Cities community resources become more culturally competent in supporting the needs of newcomers? What are some of the current characteristics of newcomer communities? How can agencies/public institutions use maps such as these to enhance the accessibility of their services and programs? Information for the maps were obtained through various means including interviews and focus groups with newcomer informants, community resource people, and agency staff (March –May 2005) in addition to the use of various data sources including Statistics Canada 2001 Census, School District 43 2004 data, 2003 Early Development Index (EDI) (as cited by the Human Early Learning Project), and Immigrant Services Society of BC.

The Map

Statistical information and community resources identified by newcomers are represented on the map in different colours. School District 43 data (2004), one of the main indicators of neighbourhoods in which Afghan and Iranian immigrants are settling, is coloured blue. The colour blue represents schools where more than 4% of the students speak Farsi, Dari, or Pashto at home. (Schools coloured pink indicate a population of students of between 2% and 4%.) Using geographical areas as defined by the Human Early Learning Project, the regions in which these schools are located are shaded grey. The three areas with the highest population of Farsi, Dari, or Pashto children are shaded a darker grey.

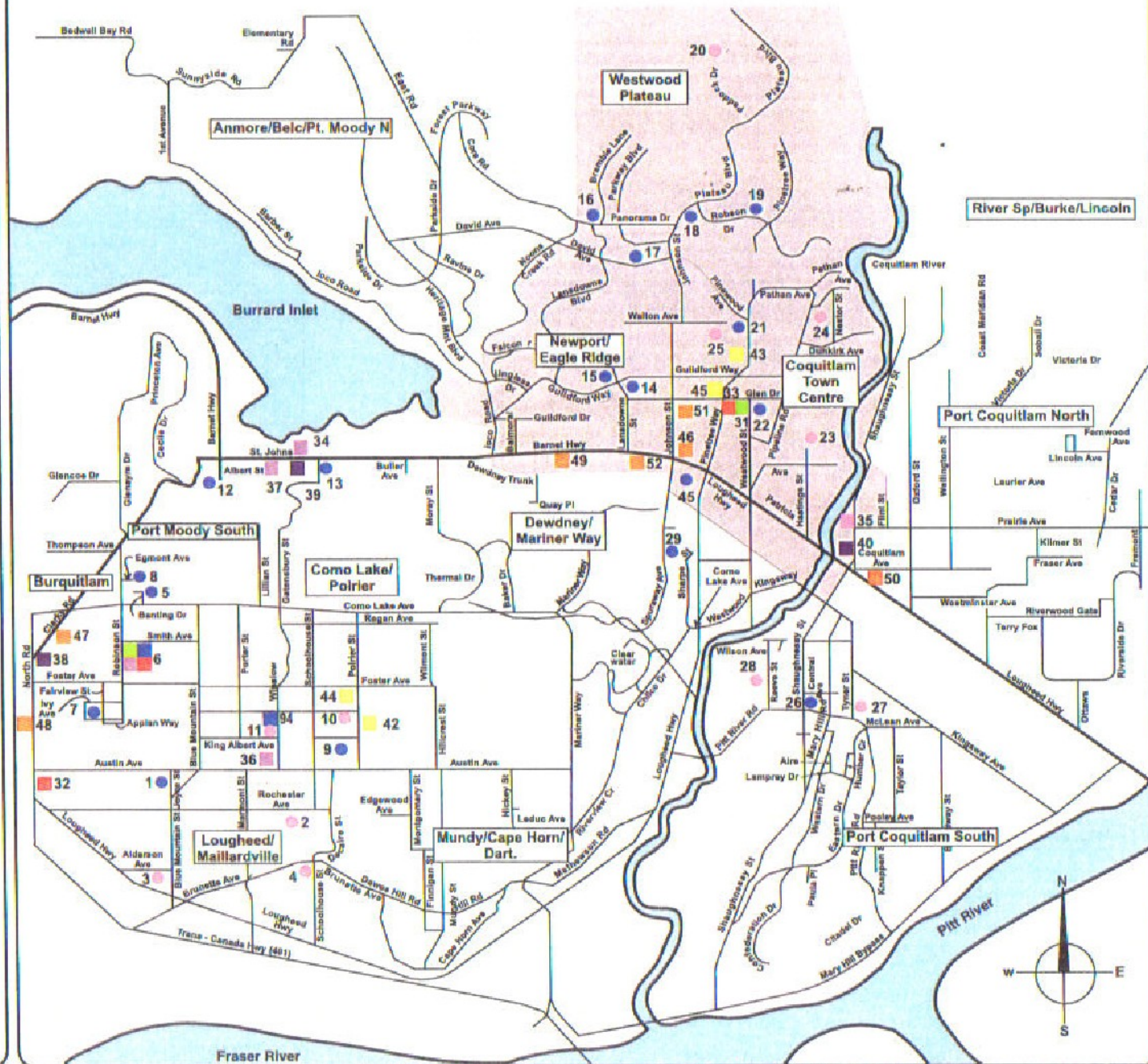
Secondly, the resources (services, programs, faith groups, businesses) as indicated on the map reflect those identified by interviewees as helpful to them in their settlement process. The list of resources is not exhaustive but does provide some insights from a newcomer's perspective of helpful settlement related resources or, in some cases, highlight focal points for newcomer community interaction e.g. ethnic media outlets, religious centres. This information is important to note as it could be used as a strategy to enhance outreach services and promote existing programs. Newcomer informants while providing glimpses of different issues, resources and other supports, do not necessarily represent the experiences of all Afghan and Iranian immigrants and refugees.

Newcomer Informants - Additional Findings

- Friends and neighbours (often other immigrants) are a primary source of information for newcomers.
- People tend to identify a specific person rather than an agency or institution as a resource.
- While there is some shared culture, there are also differences between Iranian and Afghan culture and their pre-immigration experiences. Both Afghans and Iranians may have come to Canada as Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs).
- Iranians and Afghans speak different languages. Afghanistan has two official languages – Dari and Pashto, which are quite different in spoken and written form. Iranians speak Farsi. Both the written and spoken form of Dari and Farsi have some similarities and these language speakers may understand each other.
- Between January 2003 and February 2005 Coquitlam was the 4th most common destination in BC for Government-Assisted Refugees.
- Many Afghans have experienced war and may have lived in refugee camps (in other host countries) for years before coming to Canada. Many women may not read or write. Children may have received little or no formal education while living in refugee camps.
- Many Iranians arriving now are of the Bahai faith and have faced religious persecution in Iran.
- Newcomers report (and are most concerned with) having difficulties accessing medical care due to language barriers.
- Learning to speak or developing fluency in English was identified as a primary goal by the newcomers interviewed. Some newcomers stated that the wait-list for government-sponsored ESL classes was too long and slowed their settlement process and ability to find employment.

Services, Programs, and Local Businesses Identified by Iranian and Afghan Newcomers

- Elementary, Middle, and Secondary Schools
- Immigrant Services Society
- SUCCESS
- SHARE Family and Community Services
- BC Ministry of Human Resources Offices
- Libraries and Community Centres
- Local Businesses
- Indicates higher density Afghan and Iranian population



Please refer to the detailed colour key on the other side for more information about the schools, population density, and resources.



Total number of (recent) immigrants in the Tri-Cities - all countries

The breakdown of the number of Afghan and Iranian immigrants and refugees is not available because of the size of the communities between 1991 and 2001. Most government assisted refugees began settling in the Tri-Cities after the last census. Of all the Tri-City residents in 2001, 16% had immigrated to Canada between 1991 and 2001.

| Statistics Canada 2001 Data | Coquitlam | Port Coquitlam | Port Moody | Total |
|---|-----------|----------------|------------|---------|
| Municipal Population (all people) | 112,890 | 51,257 | 23,816 | 187,963 |
| Immigration (all countries) between 1991 and 2001 | 21,940 | 5,480 | 2,890 | 30,310 |
| Non-permanent residents 2001 | 1,285 | 230 | 220 | 1,735 |

Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 and 2001 Census

Government Assisted Refugees (GAR) Statistics - Tri-City Area - January 2003 - February 2005

Immigrant Services Society served 1580 GAR clients in this time period. Of those, 186 people (104 female; 82 male) settled in the Tri-Cities, 13 of whom are single parents. 11% of all GAR's arriving in BC between January 2003 -- February 2005 reside in Coquitlam.

| Country of Origin | Total number of GAR clients | Percentage | Age Breakdown | Number of people | Percentage |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| Afghanistan | 106 | 57.0% | Under 5 years | 12 | 7% |
| Iran | 73 | 39.2% | 6 - 12 years | 22 | 12% |
| Iraq | 4 | 2.2% | 13 - 18 years | 34 | 18% |
| Sudan | 3 | 1.6% | 19 - 64 years | 110 | 59% |
| Total | 186 | 100% | 65 and above | 8 | 4% |
| | | | Total | 186 | 100% |

Source: Immigrant Services Society of BC - April 2005

Areas and corresponding numbers of students speaking Farsi, Dari or Pashto languages at home.

Of the 33,124 students in School District 43 in 2004, 921 students speak Farsi, Dari or Pashto at home. ESL support services may indicate newcomer status. For purposes of this map, only schools which recorded more than 4% of their students population speaking Farsi, Dari or Pashto are listed here. However, we have also listed schools with Farsi, Dari and Pashto speakers of more than 2% of the student population because these communities are new and emerging communities with unique needs.

| Area | Number of Farsi, Dari, Pashto speakers in the area | Farsi, Dari, Pashto speakers as a percentage of the school(s) pop. | Number of Farsi, Dari Pashto speakers requiring ESL support | Percentage of Farsi, Dari, Pashto speakers requiring ESL |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Entire SD43 | 921 | 2.78 | 347 | 10.91 |
| Coquitlam Centre | 159 | 4.9% | 61 | 11.0% |
| Newport / Eagle Ridge | 111 | 5.3% | 10 | 7.6% |
| Westwood Plateau | 101 | 4.9% | 44 | 9.3% |
| Port Moody South | 86 | 4.9% | 37 | 32.5% |
| Burquitlam | 80 | 7.8% | 54 | 23.7% <i>Highest proportion</i> |
| Como Lake / Poirier | 74 | 3.5% | 35 | 15.6% |
| Port Coquitlam South | 72 | 3.6% | 18 | 13.1% |
| Lougheed / Maillardville | 35 | 3.5% | 18 | 11.1% |
| Dewdney / Mariner | 11 | 6.7% | 5 | 14.3% |

This analysis is based on data provided by School District 43, report on languages spoken at home for the 2004 school year. Tri-City areas identified here correspond to those developed by Eileen Grant and utilized by the Human Early Learning Project, EDI (2003).

Potential indicators of vulnerable populations - early development and low income

The Early Developmental Index (EDI) measures kindergarten children's performance on various subscales. The information cited here reflects the proportion of students vulnerable on one or more subscales of the EDI compared to the total within the school district. This sample does not focus on only Afghan or Iranian children but reflects the population more broadly. This information is included to provide some insight/sensitivity to the potential of higher risk families including newly arrived refugee families living in specific areas. Readers are encouraged to consult the full description of the EDI findings to appreciate the meaning and limitations of this indicator.

LICO (low-income cut off) reflects the percentage of persons in households below LICO. This measure does not account for wealth, only income; and counts persons within households, not households themselves.

Note: Only those Tri-City areas where schools have a density of more than 4% of students who speak Farsi, Dari or Pashto are listed below.

| Area | EDI percent of vulnerable children | Percentage of persons below LICO | Area | EDI percent of vulnerable children | Percentage of persons below LICO |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Burquitlam | 13.25 | 26.9 | Westwood Plateau | 5.97 | 28.4 |
| Port Coquitlam South | 10.65 | 14.7 | Newport / Eagle Ridge | 5.97 | 18.6 |
| Port Moody South | 10.13 | 13.9 | Dewdney / Mariner | 3.9 | 15.3 |
| Coquitlam Centre | 9.87 | 24.2 | Como Lake - Poirier | 3.12 | 20.2 |
| Lougheed/Maillardville | 7.01 | 25.6 | | | |

Source: Human Early Learning Project, Early Developmental Index, 2003. www.earlylearning.ubc.ca.

School District 43 (Tri-Cities) - Schools where between 2-4% (Pink) or more than 4% (Blue) of students speak Farsi, Dari, or Pashto at home

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Lord-Baden Powell Elementary | 9 Vanier Elementary | 17 Summit Middle School | 25 Walton Elementary |
| 2 Maillard Middle | 10 Centennial Secondary | 18 Panorama Height Elementary | 26 Central Elementary |
| 3 Alderson Elementary | 11 Como Lake Middle | 19 Pinetree Way Elementary | 27 Pitt River Middle |
| 4 Millside Elementary | 12 Port Moody Secondary | 20 Hampton Park Elementary | 28 Riverside Secondary |
| 5 Banting Middle School | 13 Moody Elementary | 21 Pinetree Secondary | 37 Meadowbrook Elementary |
| 6 Mountain View Elementary | 14 Glen Eagle Secondary | 22 Glen Elementary | 94 Student Services |
| 7 Roy Stibbs Elementary | 15 Scott Creek Middle | 23 Maple Creek Middle | |
| 8 Miller Park Elementary | 16 Bramblewood Elementary | 24 Nestor Elementary | |

Source: School District 43 - 2004 school year - report published April 2005

Resources identified by Afghan and Iranian interviewees as helpful in their settlement process.

Colour coding and number assignment indicate that the resource can be found on the map (reverse side of this page).

| # | Name of Organization | Address | City | Telephone | Website/email |
|---|---|--------------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Services and Programs | | | | | |
| | Immigrant Services Society | | | | www.issbc.org |
| | Community Settlement Counsellor - Settlement services are offered at both locations - ELSA classes at Lincoln Centre. | | | | |
| 6 | SHARE Mountain View FRC | 740 Smith Ave | Coquitlam | 604 931 4708 | cell: 778 892 0190 |
| 31 | Lincoln Centre | #136 - 3030 Lincoln Ave. | Coquitlam | 604 942 1777 | |
| 31 | ELSA Classes | Lincoln Centre | Coquitlam | 604 942 1777 | |
| | Bridge Community Health Clinic | 2450 Ontario | Vancouver | 604 709 6540 | |
| | Afghan Together | Edmonds Community School | Burnaby | 604 931 4708 | |
| | Afghan Community Kitchen | | TBA | 604 931 4708 | |
| SUCCESS - Employment programs, ELSA classes and other programs are offered at both locations | | | | | |
| 32 | Employment Programs | 435B North Road | Coquitlam | 604 936 7280 | tricity.successbc.org |
| 33 | Volunteer Interpreters | Henderson Pl. | Coquitlam | 604 468 6000 | |
| | Income Tax Preparation | | | | |
| | ELSA Classes | | | | |
| SHARE and SUCCESS | | | | | |
| 6 | Farsi Parenting Group - Mountain View FRC | 740 Smith Ave | Coquitlam | 604 936 3900 | 604 468 6000 |
| SHARE Family and Community Services | | | | | |
| 6 | Mountain View Family Resource Centre (FRC) | 740 Smith Ave | Coquitlam | | www.sharesociety.ca |
| | Parent and Tot Program | | | 604 936 3900 | |
| | English Practice Groups | | | 604 936 3900 | |
| 34 | Food Banks - (Wednesdays) at three locations: | 2615 Clarke St. | Port Moody | 604 931 2451 | |
| 35 | Trinity United Church | 2211 Prairie Ave | Port Coquitlam | | |
| 36 | Como Lake United Church | 535 Marmont St. | Coquitlam | | |
| 37 | Thrift Store | 2404 St. John's St. | Port Moody | 604 931 5510 | |
| 94 | School District 43 - Student Services | 1100B Winslow Ave. | Coquitlam | 604 937 6386 | www.sd43.bc.ca |
| Ministry of Human Resources - Employment and Assistance Centres | | | | | |
| 38 | Three locations - Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody | 504 Cottonwood Ave | Coquitlam | 604 933 2030 | |
| 39 | | 2610 St. John's Street | Port Moody | 604 937 8901 | |
| 40 | | 2062 Manning Ave | Port Coquitlam | 604 927 2949 | |
| 36 | Como Lake United Church ESL Classes | 535 Marmont Ave. | Coquitlam | 604 931 8555 | |
| Libraries and Community Centres | | | | | |
| 42 | Coquitlam Public Library - two locations | 575 Poirier Street | Coquitlam | 604 937 4141 | www.library.coquitlam.bc.ca |
| 43 | | 3001 Burlington | Coquitlam | 604 927 3562 | www.library.coquitlam.bc.ca |
| 44 | Poirier Community Centre | 630 Poirier | Coquitlam | 604 933 6000 | www.coquitlam.ca |
| 45 | City Centre Aquatic Complex | 1210 Pinetree | Coquitlam | 604 927 6999 | www.coquitlam.ca |
| 44 | Dogwood Pavillion | 624 Poirier | Coquitlam | 604 933 6089 | www.coquitlam.ca |
| | Burnaby Public Library | 9523 Cameron Street | Burnaby | | www.bpl.bc.ca/cameron.htm |
| Other resources | | | | | |
| | BC Housing | #101 - 4555 Kingsway | Burnaby | 604 433 2218 | www.bchousing.org |
| | North Shore Multicultural Society | #102 - 123 East 15th | N. Vancouver | 604 988 2931 | nsms@home.com |

Local Businesses Frequented by Afghans and Iranians - as reported.

(Reference to any specific commercial site does not constitute its endorsement by ISS.)

| | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 46 | Coquitlam Centre Mall | Barnet & Lougheed Hwys | Coquitlam | coquitlamcentre.com |
| 47 | Refa Supermarket | 503-A Cottonwood Ave | Coquitlam | 604 931 6121 |
| 48 | Naz Trading Ltd. | 280-3355 North Road | Burnaby | 604 676 0716 |
| 49 | Mediterranean Bazaar | 2566 Barnet | Coquitlam | |
| 50 | Kandoo Rest., Bakery & Groc. | 2099 Lougheed Hwy. | Port Coquitlam | 604 942 9402 |
| 51 | Coquitlam Square | 2922 Glen Drive | Coquitlam | |
| | Mediterranean & Middle Eastern Food | | | |
| | Mino Bakery | | | |
| | Zafran Restaurant | | | |
| | Miki Meat Deli | | | |
| 52 | Pasta Polo Restaurant | 2754 Barnet Hwy | Coquitlam | 604 464 7656 |

Places of Worship - Afghan

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Mesela-e-Afghanha | 7825 Edmonds | Burnaby |
| Ismaili Prayer Hall Jamaat khana | 3127 St. John St. | Port Moody |

Social Events - Celebrations - Afghan

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Eid-e-Fitr | Feast at the end of Ramadan | November 4, 2005 |
| Eid-e-Qurban | Sacrifice before pilgrimage | January 10, 2006 |
| Norooz | New Year - Spring Equinox | March 21, 2005 |
| Concerts | | |
| Wedding ceremonies | | |

Newspapers, Television and Internet Resources

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| The Coquitlam Now | Coquitlam | 604 942 4192 | www.thenownews.com |
| TriCity News | Port Coquitlam | 604 525 6397 | www.tricitynews.com |
| Shahrvand | N. Vancouver | 604 988 9262 | editor@shahrvandbc.com |
| Paivand | N. Vancouver | 604 921 4726 | editor@paivand.com |
| Danestaniha Mag. | Vancouver | 604 697 0344 | info@bazarnews.com |
| Farhang | Vancouver | 604 988 2935 | farhanginfo@farhangnews.com |

Internet Resource

City of Vancouver website vancouver.ca

Television

Aina-e-Afghan - Afghan Mirror Shaw - Tuesdays; 1:30 - 2 pm; 12 -12:30 am

Places of Worship - Iranian

Bahai Services - Chimo Pool 620 Poirier St., Coquitlam

Social Events - Celebrations - Iranian

| | | |
|------------|---|-------------------|
| Norooz | New Year - Spring Equinox | March 21, 2005 |
| Yalda | Winter Solstice | December 21, 2005 |
| Charshambe | 'Fire' Wednesday (the last Wednesday before Norooz) | |

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School District 43 – Original Map and Report on Students' Home Language
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