



Delta Chamber of Commerce
6201 60 Avenue
Delta BC V4K 4E2
Ph: 604-946-4232
www.deltachamber.ca

April 26, 2019

Re: Support for Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society (PICS) and Deltassist Family and Community Services Society as Partners for the Delta Local Immigration Partnership

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to confirm the Delta Chamber of Commerce supports the PICS's application to lead the Delta Local Immigration Partnership together with Deltassist Family and Community Services. Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society (PICS) is a registered community-based non-profit, multi-service organization that is internationally accredited by Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). Serving the community since 1987, PICS assists immigrant youth, seniors, women and the local community members by providing a comprehensive network of services and programs in the Lower Mainland with offices located in Surrey and Vancouver. With about 140 staff and an annual budget of \$9 million *PICS provides* a full range of support activities that involve: informing, training, guiding, mentoring, counselling, educating, promoting volunteerism, bridging, nurturing and empowering its' clients to build a more inclusive and respectful society.

PICS has delivered Settlement and Integration Programming since 1992 and supports the Surrey/Delta community by offering these services to newcomers and refugees to facilitate their speedy and successful transition into Canadian society. PICS offers settlement services in Delta by assisting newcomers at its' outreach location in the Delta Public Library. PICS also has a strong partnership established with all immigrant serving organizations in Delta through its' membership on the Delta Child and Youth Committee. The Delta CYC represents all organizations working with children, youth and families in Delta.

PICS delivered the LIP program in Delta in 2014-2016 and developed a close partnership with all immigrant serving agencies in Delta. DLIP developed a Partnership Council, engaged in Strategic Planning and came up with an Action Plan based on completed research. PICS partnered with Deltassist to deliver the Delta Local Immigration Partnership (DLIP) program by leasing its space. Deltassist's Executive Director stayed a very active member on the DLIP's Advisory Committee throughout its' existence and contributed towards developing DLIP Strategic Planning and the resultant Action Plan.

In addition to its' work supporting Delta newcomers with settlement and integration process, PICS has undertaken and led many community capacity building initiatives. PICS has also



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delivered the Welcoming and Inclusive Communities program in Delta in 2012-2013 and held strong partnership with community organizations. Director of Language, Settlement and Social Programs, Devinder Chattha has held the role of Chair of the Delta Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) since its' inception in 2014 and has brought the leadership skills, knowledge and extensive networks to contract, manage and lead this Local Immigration Partnership.

The need for a robust and thriving Local Immigration Partnership in Delta is underscored by the city's rapidly growing population, most of which are comprised of new immigrants and refugees (GARS & PSRs). With Delta's ever-growing population of immigrant and refugee arrivals, it is critical not only that the Settlement Sector has the capacity to address integration issues, but that all facets of civic society are aware of the needs and strengths of newcomers and are prepared and positioned to welcome them fully into Delta.

Deltassist is a multi-service charitable non-profit organization operating since 1972, dedicated to addressing community needs and providing services to bridge gaps in order to serve vulnerable groups in the Delta community. *Deltassist* offers a variety of services for Delta residents both in counselling and community services for the entire age span. The Delta Seniors Community Planning Team, of which *Deltassist* is a key member, includes three action teams studying support services. *Deltassist* is fortunate to have over 325 volunteers that work with *Deltassist* and the service Clubs of Delta to distribute hundreds of Christmas Hampers and Christmas Toys each year. *Deltassist* programs and services. Pro bono law clinics, free income tax preparation for seniors and those on low income or disability, free bread and vegetable program as well as many groups to assist those I need are just a few of the many free programs that *Deltassist* provides. *Deltassist* Family and Community Services and PICS have a long-standing collaborative partnership and would like to continue it by supporting the Delta community and its newcomers.

On behalf of the Delta Chamber of Commerce, I endorse PICS as the contract holder for the Delta LIP working in partnership with *Deltassist*. I would be happy to further elaborate. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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