



SURREY
LOCAL IMMIGRATION
PARTNERSHIP

Stories of Impact

Fostering Connection and Community

Pathways to Prosperity Conference Workshop
November 25, 2025 (Stories of Impact and Strength)
Halifax
Diana Ospina





TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

DIVERSEcity recognizes that our work takes place on the ancestral, traditional and unceded territories of the SEMYOME (Semiahmoo), q̓ícəy̓ (Katzie), kʷikʷəłəm (Kwkwetlem), q̓wɑ:n̓lən̓ (Kwantlen), qiqéyt (Qayqayt), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) and sc̓əwaθən məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen) First Nations. The knowledge, traditions and ongoing contributions of these communities are significant in providing context to the work we do, and DIVERSEcity recognizes the importance that reconciliation has in building connected, stronger and healthier communities.



Surrey LIP

- The Surrey Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) is a community collective bringing diverse voices together to build a fair and inclusive city where all immigrants, refugees, and citizens thrive.
- Through dialogue and research, Surrey LIP's 30+ members collaborate on innovative and community-driven strategies to meet the changing needs of one of the fastest-growing cities in BC and to prepare the community to welcome and receive new immigrants and refugees.

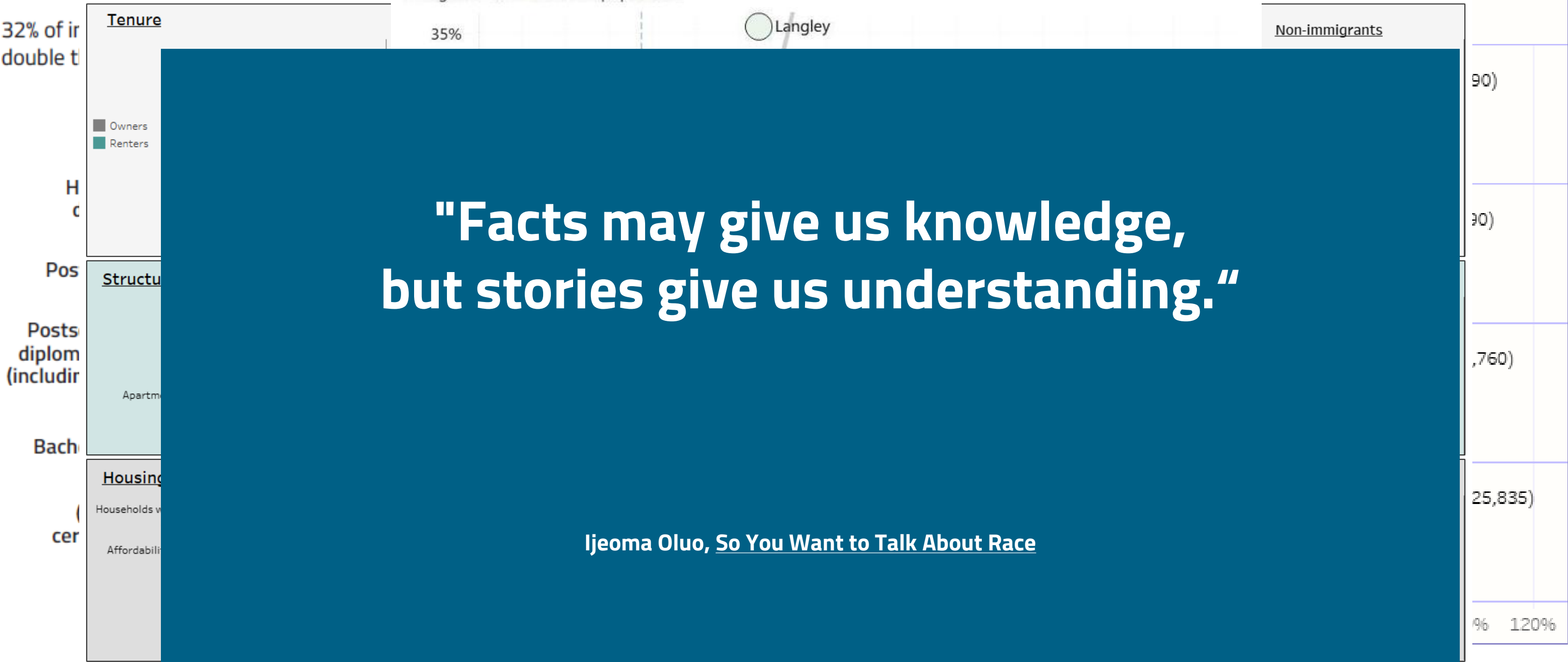
Engaged Communities



Why Share Stories



Surrey Demographics and Immigration Statistics



Census, 2021 | The



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Ethical Story Telling Framework



SOURCE: Sofia Khan <https://dignifiedstorytelling.com/>

The Role of Storytelling in Community Building



Celebrating Contribution

Ethical storytelling should not just focus on overcoming adversity but also celebrate the agency, resilience, and success stories of newcomers.



Building Alliances

Storytelling has the power to inspire change and encourage people to challenge stereotypes and engage in community building.



Creating a Platform for Marginalized Voices

Ethical storytelling is also about ensuring that marginalized voices, such as those of immigrants and Indigenous peoples, are heard

Stories of Impact Videos



Born in Afghanistan, Moqadas reflects on her journey from being a journalist in the heart of Kabul to fleeing Afghanistan to a refugee in Canada seeking safety and a better future for herself and her family.



Born in Gorakhpur, a small town in Uttar Pradesh, India, Rashi reflects on her journey from a vacation in Canada with her husband in 2016 to fully settling down in the new country and calling it home.



Born in Lagos, Nigeria, Tayo is a dedicated, passionate dentist who relocated to Canada in search of better financial stability and equality, and to raise a family. After restarting his dentistry career, he re-achieved his Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) and has now become a Canadian citizen in 2023.



From Bucaramanga, a small town in Colombia, Erika was a Biology teacher for 15 years. She moved to Surrey in 2020 with her husband and has since navigated the challenges of learning English and re-establishing her career. After a cancer diagnosis in 2022, Erika made a remarkable recovery and is looking forward to her future in Canada.



Daniel, from Cauquenes, Chile, studied Agronomy, to contribute to food Security. He moved to Canada, seeking better living conditions, wages, and job opportunities but encountered harsh realities.





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Thank you

Let's Connect



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