

# North West Scarborough Local Immigration Partnership

## Voice of Newcomers

### NWS Strategy Paper

The NWS project management team has been working diligently over the past month to complete our draft Strategy Paper that is to be submitted to CIC by the end of October. The draft Strategy Paper will consist of a Literature Review, Statistical Analysis, Review of Research Findings, and the Settlement Strategy Plan. In constructing the draft Strategy Paper, critical input was compiled from the Partnership Council through Team/Cluster meetings, focus group discussions and one-on-one meetings held from January through to September. Also interviews with stakeholders that including: newcomers, refugees, employers, community and faith-based leaders, and settlement service providers where consulted for their feedback and was incorporated into the draft Strategy Paper. The PMT gathered primary and secondary statistical data on NWS and Toronto to further support the NWS Strategy Paper.

As per our agreement with CIC, NWS LIP will incorporate these findings and feedback from to develop an implementation. The implementation plan will outline the specific activities, required resources, key responsibilities and support expected from federal and provincial government and City of Toronto. The final draft of the Settlement Strategy Paper and detailed Implementation Plan will be submitted to CIC by end of January 2011.

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#### Upcoming Events:

**Partnership Council & Steering Committee Meeting:** November 9, 2010, 1:00pm – 4:00pm  
Venue: CICS 2330 Midland Ave. East

#### **Steering Committee Meeting & Cluster Meetings:**

The Steering Committee and Clusters will regroup for the Partnership Council meeting, where meeting dates and venues will be announced

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## Literature Review

The Literature Review will discuss the background of immigration in Canada and NWS through the years up until present date.

The Literature Review will firstly delve into the government policies and historical events that greatly impacted immigration in Canada and NWS. The review piece will examine the crucial issues of government funding for immigration initiatives and discuss the various settlement service and community organizations currently assisting in the settlement of newcomers. Overall analysis of the present day newcomer experience will be captioned.

In addition to the above, the Literature Review will also break down the relationship between Non-Profit organizations and Government and their roles in supporting newcomers. Both are significant stakeholders that greatly impact and influence the process and success of newcomers settlement.

Through the Literature Review, the PMT will examine aspects of funding, engagement of the community in settlement, and highlight the experiences and challenges of newcomers.

## Statistical Analysis

For the Statistical Analysis portion of the draft Strategy Paper, data will be compiled from Stats Canada on NWS and Toronto populations. Data regarding demographics, visible minorities, immigration, language, housing, family structure, and marital status will be the areas of comparison.

Upon analysis of the data compiled, significant trends discovered will be used to highlight key issues related to immigrants of NWS. Some additional in-depth analysis will be done by Public Interest and will be added to the final draft of Strategy Paper.

## Review of Research Findings

For the Review of Research Findings portion of the draft Strategy Paper, the PMT and Partnership Council has conducted Cluster and Team meetings, interviews with stakeholders, focus group discussions, and one-on-one meetings. Keynotes were taken from each activity and the findings were used in this portion of the draft Strategy Paper.

Partnership Council members and participants of interviews and focus groups helped the PMT to highlight key concerns and issues of newcomers and those currently existing within the settlement sector.

The purpose of the review is to analyze services availability with special emphasis on best practises and areas for improvement.

## Settlement Strategy Plan

The Settlement Plan will identify areas of actions and Innovation under three major perspectives that include: enhancing access to information, community engagement in newcomers' settlement, and enhancing access to services. It will further outline the NWS LIP proposed strategic directions and activities based on priority needs of newcomers. These priorities will include, but are not limited to: employment, language training, health care, housing, etc.

The intension of the Settlement Strategy Plan is to be action oriented. It will list realistic and innovative tasks that will enhance the settlement process and can be accomplished collaboratively by Partnership Council organizations. It will also have recommendation for Government, as they are also a key component to the settlement process.

The NWS Strategy will encompass all the aforementioned components. The Final Strategy will be submitted in January 2011 with the Implementation Plan.

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### New Cluster List

The following is a list of the new Cluster working groups :

#### Employment, Education & Language Training:

ACCESS Employment, VPI, Operation Springboard, Tropicana, Mennonite New Life Centre of Toronto, Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic District School Board, Scarborough North Employment & Social Services , YMCA – Newcomer and Information Centre

#### Settlement & Family Support:

Catholic Cross-Cultural Services, The Tamil Eelam Society of Canada, Settlement Assistance and Family Support Services, Centre for Information and Community Services, Youth Link, Carefirst Seniors and Community Services Association, TransCare Community Support Services, Afghan Association of Ontario, ISAP(ACS)

#### Health & Wellness:

Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture, Hong Fook Mental Health Association, Chinese Family Services, The Scarborough Hospital, Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities, Toronto Public Health, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, East Metro Youth Services

#### Community Engagement & Social Inclusion:

Toronto Public Library, Chester Le Community Corner, ANC – Steeles/L'Amoreraux, West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre, Canadian Tamil Youth Development, Agincourt Community Services, Centre for Information and Community Services, Afghan Association of Ontario

#### Housing & Basic Needs:

Toronto Community Housing, Scarborough Housing Help Centre, Agincourt Community Services, The Arab Community Centre of Toronto, Catholic Cross-Cultural Services, Mennonite New Life Centre of Toronto

To contribute items to be include in the next issue of *Voice of Newcomers* please contact:

Michelle Davis - Project Administrator  
North West Scarborough LIP  
Email:  
dmichelle@agincourtcommunityservices.com

Or

Mani Mahadeva - Project Manager  
North West Scarborough LIP  
Email: mmani@agincourtcommunityservices.com

Tel: 416 - 609 9393

**\*\*please note submissions will be due the last week of each month for the following months issue\*\***

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