

# North West Scarborough Local Immigration Partnership

## Voice of Newcomers

### Community Summit



The second Community Summit was held on November 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Scarborough Civic Centre. The summit was organized to share the draft settlement strategies and receive feedback from community members to develop the implementation plan.

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#### Upcoming Events:

##### Partnership Council Meeting:

January 18<sup>th</sup> 2011, Venue - TBA

##### Steering Committee Meeting

December 2010, Venue - TBA

##### Cluster Meetings:

Cluster 1: Education, Training and Employment – Dec 14<sup>th</sup> 2010, 2:00pm to 4:00pm @ Mennonite New Life Centre of Toronto, Unit A/B - 2600 Birchmount Rd.

Cluster 2: Settlement & Family Support – Dec 14<sup>th</sup> 2010, 10:00am to 12:00pm @ The Tamil Eelam Society of Canada (TESOC), 1160 Birchmount Rd., Unit #1A

Cluster 3: Health and Wellness – Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 2010, 10:00am to 12:00pm @ Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities, 4002 Sheppard Ave.

Cluster 4: Community Engagement & Social Inclusion – Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 2010, 2:00pm to 4:00pm @ ISAP, 1911 Kennedy Rd., Unit #105

Cluster 5: Housing & Basic Needs – December 10<sup>th</sup> 2010, 10:00am to 12:00pm @ ACSA , 4155 Sheppard Ave.

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The project management team shared the simplified version of settlement strategies with community members and asked them to select their top strategies.

In small groups, participants shared their choices with the entire group. The following six strategies were identified as top priority for implementation:

Strategy #1: Provide pre-arrival settlement services and information for newcomers before they migrate to Canada.

Strategy # 5: Provide more “one stop shopping” for newcomer services.

Strategy #7: Increase access to professional volunteering, training and employment opportunities

Strategy # 9: Increase access to language training programs and provide multi-lingual settlement services

Strategy #11: Improve access to health services (physical and mental health)

Strategy #12: Improve services for housing and other basic needs

Participants also provided their valuable feedback regarding what they felt community groups needed in order to help provide better services for newcomers. The following was expressed by the participants:

- \* Explore alternative sources of funding – e.g. Fund sharing
- \* Community groups need more recognition and be educated more on newcomer issues and obtain supports from settlement agencies
- \* Better space and resource sharing
- \* Development training of volunteers, community members, and leaders

- \* Volunteers would appreciate additional support – honoraria, help with travel costs
- \* Some support services should be on call after hours for volunteers to answer newcomer questions



### Partnership Council Meeting

NW Scarborough LIP held its fifth Partnership Council meeting on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Centre for Information and Community Services (CICS), 2330 Midland Avenue. The objectives of the meeting were to review and rank strategies based on priority, feasibility and length of implementation, and discuss settlement related services which were not discussed in detail in the past.

The meeting was inaugurated by Gael Gilbert, Executive Director of ACSA. In her opening speech she emphasized on developing innovative and holistic strategies that serve the needs of the new immigrants to enhance smooth settlement and integration in North West Scarborough. It was reinforced that the Partnership Council needs to be proactive in engaging new stakeholders and forging partnerships among council members to ensure the long term sustainability of NWS LIP.

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The LIP Project Manager shared the high demand services based on the research findings and community consultations. The high demand services extracted from the research findings are:

1. Employment and access to labour market information
2. Language training and education
3. General health care
4. Housing and basic needs
5. Mental Health Services
6. Recreation Programs

Also based on the research findings and consultations, the Project Manager shared some of the services demanded by newcomers in NW Scarborough which had not been discussed in depth. These services are :

1. Food security and accessibility
2. Language interpretation services
3. Wellness services & support for baby boomers
4. Environmental adaptation
5. Language training in the work place
6. Support services and safe spaces for LGBTQ newcomers
7. Financial system orientation - e.g. banking, credit, mortgage, etc.
8. Mental Health and cultural accessibility
9. Community Safety
10. Caregivers (grandparents and children) support services
11. Transportation services (public awareness) / Transportation Orientation

Partnership Council members reviewed the draft settlement strategies and rank them according to the duration required to implement (long/short term), priority needs of newcomers (high, medium, low) and difficulty levels in implementation (easy, moderate, hard).

Partnership Council members regrouped into five clusters based on different service sectors. The new clusters will review the draft strategies relevant their sector and identify key activities to implement the strategies. The five clusters as agreed by the council members are:

*Cluster 1: Education, Training and Employment*

*Cluster 2: Settlement & Family Support*

*Cluster 3: Health and Wellness*

*Cluster 4: Community Engagement & Social Inclusion*

*Cluster 5: Housing & Basic Needs*

## Cluster Meetings

As decided in the Partnership Council meeting, the newly formed working groups had their first meeting in the last week of November.

Each cluster group reviewed the strategies related to their sector and key steps to implement related activities. Some of the significant feedback from the Cluster meetings are as follows:

*Cluster 1 - Employment, Education & Training*

**Increase access to professional training and employment opportunities for newcomers in their community**

Key activities:

- \* Use agency staff to outreach to employers
- \* Service providers to connect with TRIEC to network with larger employers and to increase employment opportunities for newcomers and gain access to mentors in professional fields
- \* Organize employer event - employers explain their expectations to employment service agencies and newcomers

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*Cluster 2 - Settlement & Family Support*

**Enhance organizational capacity and individual staff capacity to provide improved services to newcomers**

Key activities:

- \* Form a committee to coordinate training and capacity building
- \* Committee will plan information fairs, workshops, and training sessions for partnering and outside agencies

**Create a mechanism and tools for inter-organizational collaboration and resource sharing**

Key activities:

- \* Review existing co-location models and select an appropriate one
- \* Develop tools for on-going evaluation to study the changing needs of partners in collaborations
- \* Establish a settlement services working committee to facilitate a sector network
- \* Develop tools to identify needs of those underserved demographics to find more opportunities
- \* Create outreach tools to promote services

**Improve legal support services and immigration support in North West Scarborough**

Key activities:

- \* Inventory cultural specific issues related to immigration fraud
- \* Lobby for legal clinics regarding immigration issues (Legal Aid to fund) – advocate with Province
- \* Explore existing legal assistance providers and forge partnerships to access their expertise

*Cluster 3 - Health & Wellness*

**Establish close working relationships among all the organizations fostering physical and mental health services**

Key activities:

- \* Build relationship between community and local hospitals
- \* Organize training and workshops for settlement workers and community on mental health issues to break stigma
- \* Advocate for more support of support groups and counselling programs (e.g. For cancer patients/ parent support groups/ persons with mental health issues and family members)
- \* Create awareness and enhance access to existing alternative medical services

*Cluster 4 - Community Engagement & Social Inclusion*

**Strengthening the capacity within faith-based and residents groups and other community based organizations (not including service providers) to help newcomers**

Key activities:

- \* Inventory faith-based and community groups that serve newcomers and assess their capacity
- \* Facilitate selection and training of different faith-based and community groups
- \* Develop training guide or customize existing guides
- \* Recruit, screen, and properly train volunteers
- \* Promote and support civic awareness programs and projects through providing opportunities to engage all stakeholders

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Cluster 5 - Housing & Basic Needs

Build a network among organizations providing services to fulfill basic needs and housing to coordinate and enhance access to assistance

Key activities:

- \* Make an inventory of food, furniture, and clothing banks, as well any agencies providing other forms of basic needs supports
- \* Organize an information sharing session to help establish a network of basic needs organizations
- \* Form a resource mobilizing team
- \* Mobilize resources from private sectors by first consulting with existing lists of present donors (e.g. United Way 'Protected List')
- \* Promote and conduct educational workshops and sessions for apartment management and community on pest control and maintaining hygienic living conditions
- \* Connect with City of Toronto to train community on environmental adaption and promote awareness
- \* Conduct training on household money/ financial management
- \* Advocate for more civic awareness programs for newcomers – education about legal rights

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@agincourtcommunitiservices.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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North West Scarborough Local Immigration Partnership

Administration

The Structure  
Work Plan

Meeting Minutes

Partnership Council Meetings  
Team Meetings

Terms of Reference

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Meeting Schedule

Past Events

Newsletter

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Administration

What is Local Immigration Partnership (LIP)?

Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) will provide a collaborative framework for, and facilitate the development and implementation of, sustainable local and regional solutions for successful integration of immigrants to Ontario. LIPs seek to help communities put immigration on their overall planning agenda in order for communities to benefit from the successful social and economic integration of immigrants.

What is the North West Scarborough LIP Catchment Area?

North West Scarborough Area which is bordered by Steeles Ave. to the north, Markham Rd. to the east, Highway 401 to the south, and Victoria Park Ave. to the west.

What are the Objectives?

- Objectives of the LIP in North West Scarborough area are:
  - To improve access to and coordination of immigrant integration services (Education, language training, Employment, settlement and labour market integration)
  - To improve labour market outcomes for immigrants. This may include initiatives such as engagement of local employers, mentorship initiatives, coordination of local employment services and non-paid internships.
  - To strengthened local awareness and capacity to successfully integrate immigrants.

Who Will Implement LIP Project in North West Scarborough?

Agincourt Community Services Association (ACSA) has been serving the North West Scarborough community since 1976 and was chosen by its peers to lead the local LIP implementation in collaboration with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI).

ACSA will implement North West Scarborough LIP by establishing a Partnership Council, a Steering Committee, Cluster Committees and Project management team.

What is Partnership Council?

Partnership Council is a group of relevant stakeholders that come together regularly to develop a coordinated, comprehensive and strategic approach to immigration and integration that fits the needs of the neighborhood's residents. The partnership council includes participation from a wide range of stakeholders including the City of Toronto, community organizations, settlement agencies, language training providers, local associations and employers.

The Partnership Council will be responsible for the oversight and guidance to develop a comprehensive local settlement strategy and implementation work plan.

331 Glandower Court Unit 6  
Scarborough, ON M1T 2Z7  
Tel: 416-609-2923  
Fax: 416-609-2896

Partnership Council Members

Clusters

Funding Support

Other Related Links

Contact Us

