

North West Scarborough Local Immigration Partnership

Voice of Newcomers

Development of Implementation Plan

December 2010 was another crucial month for Partnership Council of North West Scarborough as the Partnership Council and Project Management Team (PMT) invested time and energy to the draft implementation plan. Following discussions among Council members during the Partnership Council and Cluster meetings held in November, the PMT compiled all recommendations and discussed them in December's meetings. Between December 10th to the 15th, the NWS LIP held its second set of cluster meetings. There were five cluster meetings held in total where Partnership Council members worked on finalizing key activities and responsibilities, and identified feasible time lines and resource requirements for each key activity. These meetings were very significant since they were officially the last set of meetings in the cluster structure and for the year. The PMT then consolidated the recommendations to develop the draft implementation plan for submission to CIC.

The NWS LIP will be entering into the next phase in February 2011, changing the working structures and putting new mechanisms in place to meet the requirements of the implementation phase. The Partnership Council and Project Management Team will finalize the overall implementation plan in January 2011 and expect to start with short term activities during 2011-12.

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Upcoming Events

2nd Community Summit:

January 11th 2011 - The Scarborough Hospital (General Campus) Auditorium, 3050 Lawrence Avenue, 5:30pm-8:00pm

Partnership Council Meeting:

January 18th 2011 - The Afghan Association of Ontario (AAO), 100 Tempo Avenue, 9:30am-12:00pm

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For the various activities outlined for the Implementation plan there will be a number of Working Committees consisting of the Partnership Council members. The main responsibilities of the Working Committees will be to plan and deliver all key activities outlined in the work plan. They will also consult, partner, collaborate and involve necessary internal and external organizations and agencies, government and political bodies, private businesses, and community residents and newcomers.

Starting with the most feasible activities, the Working Committee's (Partnership Council members) will build upon and strengthen the existing frameworks of successful service delivery. Also they will tap into active pools of expertise of networks, training, workshops, individuals, organizations, and business to better assist newcomers.

As Partnership Council members and organizations take more initiative and control in the implementation phase, the LIP will act as facilitators in the implementation process, helping to seamlessly coordinate the key activities. The LIP staff will also act as an agent for communications among the Partnership Council members, disseminating important information and searching out and creating opportunities for partners to network more effectively.

By bringing Partnership Council members together to collectively pool resources, create innovative methods of service delivery, and advocate on behalf of immigrants needs and overall welfare, the NWS LIP plans to make North West Scarborough a newcomer-positive destination.

(New project Structure will be explained in detail in the future newsletter)

Government Settlement Service Funding Cuts

Overall the Conservative government will cut funding to immigrant service agencies by \$53 million in 2011, with \$43 million from Ontario alone.

To start off the process, mid December of 2010, five agencies servicing some of Toronto's top priority neighbourhoods have received letters from CIC acknowledging that their contracts and funding would not be renewed after April 2011. In total there has been 10 agencies that have received similar notifications according to Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI), with an additional 35 still to be cut off.

According to the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, Jason Kenney, some of the agencies that received funding cuts were not meeting objectives laid out by the government. This could be a referral to the "Modernization Approach" the CIC has been pushing for to be placed into practise by settlement agencies. Kenny also stated that changes to where newcomers are settling resulted in some regions receiving more cash than others. Previously, Ottawa had increased budgets in order to reflect the influx in immigration to Ontario, based on 2005 census reports. Since then, immigration to Toronto has significantly changed and adjustments to funding are now being done.

Unfortunately many of the services being cut are ethno cultural agencies and the government has not shown or acknowledged plans or capacity to absorb the thousands of displaced newcomer families. Also not to mention the thousands of settlement workers and service providers that will tentatively lose their jobs.

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

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

Don't forget to visit our website and blog @: www.nwslip.com, www.nwslip.com/blog

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Partnership Council Members

Clusters

Funding Support

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ACSA
Agincourt Community Services Association

OCASI
Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants

Administration

The Structure
Work Plan

Meeting Minutes

Partnership Council Meetings
Team Meetings

Terms of Reference

Deliverables

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Past Events

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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 new 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 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 neighbourhood it represents. 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.