

Agincourt Community Services Association

Steeles/L'Amoreaux Local Immigration Partnership

Community Conversation Underway

S/L'Am LIP Partnership Planning Meeting

The Steeles/L'Amoreaux Local Immigration Partnership Council gathered on Feb 11, 2010. The objective of the workshop was:

To co-create a common vision for S/L'Am LIP project, provide an overview of the methodology and of the steps in the project, define the role of Council members and advancing the overall progression of the project.



The planning workshop was facilitated by Danny Nashman of Potential Group. As the first step, participants explored what they already do well for newcomers. Participants expressed how their personal experiences with both newcomers and service providers contributed to the successes of newcomers.

In the next step, participants brainstormed their ideal newcomer situation. From this, the LIP project wants to extract the positive ideas to optimize its efforts to enhance newcomer experiences in the neighbourhood.

Partnership Council decided to use two main elements:

1. Appreciative Inquiry (strength based assessment)
 2. Action Learning (Questions and Stories to inspire change)
- Council members then decided to conduct community conversations where community members and key stakeholders are to be interviewed and the findings will be shared at the next planning session to be held on Mar 30, 2010.

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Phases of the Project

Council members that participated in the initial planning workshop agreed that S/L'Am LIP will define the project period into two phases;

Phase 1: Engagement and creating a vision and mandate

In phase 1 we will focus on gathering stakeholders together, bringing voices from all levels including newcomers, residents, local business owners, faith-based groups, agencies who support newcomers, employers, funders and politicians.

Phase 2: Creating the Settlement strategy and implementation plan and ongoing engagement

In phase 2 the partnership council and other interested stakeholders will work together to explore the key areas of innovation and enhancement that were identified in phase 1.

Community Conversation

As our focus in the phase 1, bringing voices from all levels, the Project management team together with council members has designed a community conversation guide.

Objectives of the community conversation are:

- Gain better understanding about what is working best in terms of newcomers' services & support
- Highlight what key stakeholders are wishing for to enhance the newcomer and communities' experiences

This will enable us to:

- Consolidate common themes about what is working best in the system and what stakeholders wish for the future
- Create a clear and compelling vision for what newcomers and community members could experience if the newcomers' start in Canada were enhanced
- Define key areas of innovation and enhancement to help enable the desired vision

Council members and animators are being asked to interview the following stakeholder groups:

Newcomers/ Residents/ Community Groups

- Newcomers
- Conventional Refugees
- Individuals waiting for refugee status
- Residents
- Disabled
- Youth
- Community leaders
- Vulnerable groups
- Faith-based groups
- Service clubs—neighbourhood Associations
- Recreation centres

Other Key Stakeholders

- Housing providers
- Settlement agencies
- Libraries
- Other government sectors
- Legal Clinics
- Employment organizations
- Politicians
- Interpretation services
- Private businesses - Local employers
- Media—Local newspapers
- Educators
- Hospitals/ health centres
- Banks

Partnership Council Expands

The Project management team has contacted more institutions who serve in Steeles/L'Amoreaux neighbourhood and successfully brought them on board. Currently there are 34 members in the Council representing 32 organizations. Following the community conversation and community summit, active community members will be added to the Council and clusters.

Partnership Council Member Organizations

- Acces Employment
- Afghan Association of Ontario
- Agincourt Community Services Association (ACSA)
- Action for neighbourhood Changes – S/L'Am
- Canadian Arab Federation
- Canadian National Institute for the Blinds (CNIB)
- Carefirst Seniors & Community Services Association
- Catholic Cross Cultural Services
- Centre for Information and Community Services
- Chester Le Community Corner
- City of Toronto - Social Development, Finance & Administration
- Hong Fook Mental Health Association
- Mennonite New Life Centre of Toronto
- Operation Springboard
- Scarborough Housing Help Centre
- Scarborough Support Services for the Elderly
- South Asian Family Support Services
- North West Scarborough Youth Centre
- The Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture
- The Tamil Eelam Society of Canada (TESOC)
- Toronto Catholic District School Board
- Toronto District School Board
- Toronto Employment & Social Services
- Toronto Community Housing
- Toronto Public Health
- Toronto Public Library
- West Hill Community Services - Scarborough West Community Health - Satellite
- West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre
- Young Men Christian Association (YMCA) (Scarborough) Newcomer Centre, Milner
- Youthlink

Clusters Committees

With the expansion of the Partnership Council, membership in the clusters also increased. We reserve space for community members and the private sector to make it complete. A steering committee will be established in April 2010 by selecting representatives from each cluster committee. The updated cluster committees are listed below.

Education, Training & Employment

- Acces Employment
- Canadian Arab Federation
- Canadian National Institute for the Blinds (CNIB)
- Centre for Information and Community Services
- Mennonite New Life Centre of Toronto
- Operation Springboard
- The Tamil Eelam Society of Canada (TESOC)
- Toronto Catholic District School Board - Continuing Education Department
- Toronto District School Board
- Toronto Employment & Social Services
- Toronto Public Library

Inclusion and Engagement

- Afghan Association of Ontario
- Agincourt Community Services Association (ACSA)
- Action for neighbourhood Changes (ANC) – Steeles/L'Amoreaux
- Canadian National Institute for the Blinds (CNIB)
- Chester Le Community Corner
- City of Toronto - Social Development, Finance & Administration
- Mennonite New Life Centre of Toronto
- Operation Springboard
- North West Scarborough Youth Centre
- Toronto Community Housing
- Tropicana
- West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre (cont'd. on pg.4)

Settlement Cluster (cont'd. from pg.3)

- Afghan Association of Ontario
- Agincourt Community Services Association (ACSA)
- Canadian National Institute for the Blinds (CNIB)
- Carefirst Seniors and Community Services Association
- Catholic Cross Cultural Services
- Mennonite New Life Centre of Toronto
- Scarborough Housing Help Centre
- South Asian Family Support Services
- The Tamil Eelam Society of Canada (TESOC)
- Toronto Community Housing

Inclusion and Engagement

- Canadian National Institute for the Blinds (CNIB)
- Centre for Information and Community Services (CICS)
- Hong Fook Mental Health Association
- Scarborough Support Services for the Elderly
- The Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture
- Toronto Public Health
- West Hill Community Services - Scarborough West Community Health - Satellite
- Youthlink

New members to Project Management Team

We have hired four animators and a new community engagement worker.

Our Project management Team:

Gael Gilbert - Executive Director (ACSA)

Mani Mahadeva - Project Manager

Rezwan Karim - Community Engagement Worker

Michelle Davis - Administrative Staff

Community Animators

- Lucy Xiaohong Ren
- Cyleta Gibson Sealy
- Deluxshan Pathmanathan
- Augustine J. Jeevananthan

Future Activities

Partnership Council :

- Expand membership by adding community members to the Council and clusters
- Conduct stakeholder interviews and community research
- Follow-up planning workshop (Mar 30, 2010)
- Establish Steering Committee and fix meeting dates

Community Consultation :

- Conduct community survey
- Community Summit (April 06, 2010)
- Community outreach and engage community members in developing settlement strategy

Future Meetings

Partnership Meetings

- Partnership Council planning meeting will be held on Mar 30, 2010 from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm at Agincourt Library, 155 Bonis Ave.
- Next Partnership Council meeting will be held on **April 13, 2010 Tuesdays 1pm-4pm** at ACSA, 4155 Sheppard Ave. East

Steering Committee Meetings

- S/L'Am Steering Committee will be established in April 2010 and meeting dates TBA.

Cluster Meetings

Cluster Meetings for the month of March is postponed and next meeting will be held in April 2010. Cluster meetings dates are :

- Education, training, and employment resources - April 27, 2010 - 2:30 - 5.00 pm
- Inclusion and Engagement - April 28, 2010 - 9:30 - 11:30am
- Settlement - April 29, 2010 - 9:30-11:30am
- Health and wellness - April 26, 2010 - 9:30-11:30am