

# Steeles/L'Amoreaux Local Immigration Partnership

## Working Together for Newcomers

### Community Summit

Community Summit was held on April 6th at The Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto located at 5183 Sheppard Avenue East, Scarborough. The summit participants included community members, resident leaders and partnership council members.

The objectives of the summit were as follows:

- \* Share the key findings from community consultation
- \* Share the newcomers stories with the group
- \* Create a vision for the future- what would be an ideal newcomer experience look like
- \* Identify major themes for newcomer service requirements

Continues on page 2 ...

### Upcoming Events:

#### Steering Committee meeting

- \* May 11, 2010 from 9:30am to 11:30am at ACSA 4155 Sheppard Ave. E

#### Cluster Meetings:

- \* Team 1: May 25<sup>th</sup> 2010, 10:00am -12:00pm, YMCA - 10 Milner Business Court – 6<sup>th</sup> Floor
- \* Team 2: June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, 10:00am – 12:00pm, Scarborough Housing Help Centre, 2500 Lawrence Ave. East - Unit 205
- \* Team 3: May 27<sup>th</sup> 2010, 9:30am -11:30am, ACCES Employment - 2100 Ellesmere Rd. Ste. 250 – free parking

#### Next Partnership Council Meeting :

- \* June 22, 2010 (location TBA)

### Inside this issue:

Community Summit & Upcoming Events	1
Community Summit continued Partnership Planning Session April 16th	2
Partnership Planning Session April 16th continued Cluster Meeting	3

Continued from page 1...

### Creating a vision for the future

Resident groups, community leaders and the partnership council members were divided into small groups to identify a vision for the future what would be an ideal experience for the newcomer to help them settle better in Canada.

Participants suggested that it would be ideal if the newcomers receive support and assistance at three stages, which are pre-arrival, arrival and post-arrival.

The recommendations made at the Community Summit were as follows:

- \* Arrival comprehensive package – what's in it and when the newcomer gets it
- \* Community support – how to design this program e.g. buddy system, mentorship
- \* Community hub/welcome centre – “one stop shop”
- \* Neighbourhood gatherings

These will be the focus areas for the newly assigned Teams.

### **S/L'Am LIP Partnership Planning Session - April 2010**

The Steeles/L'Amoreaux Local Immigration Partnership Council meeting was held on April 16, 2010 to review and consolidate the outcomes and themes from the Community Summit .

The purpose of the Planning Session was to:

- \* Review the themes suggested in the Community Summit

- \* Restructure the clusters in to 3 Teams
- \* Identify focus areas for each of the clusters
- \* Define areas of innovation and action
- \* Select Steering Committee members

As identified in the Community Summit that the newcomers require services at three different stages, which are Pre-arrival, Arrival and Post-arrival. The Planning Session participants recommended three teams so that each of the priority areas can be addressed by one of the teams. The current Teams names are:

**Team 1— Improving the Initial Welcome and Information Gathering Process**

**Team 2 – Community Engagement in Settlement**

**Team 3 – Making Services and Supports More Effective**

The three teams identified the following priorities:

#### Team 1

Improving the initial welcome and information gathering process-

- \* Community welcome centre and package
- \* Services at airport-referral to the welcome centre /settlement services in the neighbourhood
- \* Newcomers and agencies to connect early
- \* Arrival comprehensive package
- \* Finding ways to follow up with newcomers
- \* Pre-arrival advice to CIC– how newcomers can be oriented in their home country before they leave for Canada

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### Team 2

Enabling the community to play a valuable and coordinated role in settlement-

- \* Community support- how to design this program?
- \* Clarifying what the community does( relative to government and agencies)?
- \* Community gatherings

### Team 3

Making services and support more effective

- \* Customizing the services provided to newcomers
- \* Building capacity of all those who serves Newcomers
- \* Enhance diversified programs ( employment, JSW, language etc)
- \* Develop a model based on coordination of services

### **Steering Committee nominations:**

It was decided that from each of the Teams, two members will be nominated to represent in the Steering Committee. The working groups came up with the following nominations:

Group 1: Jorge Silvestri and Sulekha Sathi  
Group 2 : Glen Gifford and Edmond Crosbie  
Group 3 : Adair Heath and Mei Tin

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## **Cluster Meetings**

As decided in the partnership council meeting, the cluster members will meet once in a month to develop strategies according to their area of focus. All three Teams met in the last week of April .

Topics of discussion:

### Team 1

- \* Pre-arrival - Review existing information and explore the possibility for Canadian High Commission to provide information package to immigrants before arrival :
  - ◇ Make recommendations to CIC where they need to improve
- \* On-arrival - Review and recommend arrival welcoming package:
  - ◇ Review Welcoming package and make recommendations as to how it can be more effective
- \* Post- Arrival - Community Welcome Centre:
  - ◇ Review ongoing care or settlement support to newcomers and communities and provide long-term support

### Team 2

- \* Community to approach newcomers - community group awareness, keep them informed
- \* Outreach to the various neighbourhoods within Steeles/ L'Amoreaux
- \* Capacity building of the residents
- \* Other Stakeholders to be involved:
  - ◇ Police, Toronto Community Housing, Faith based, Toronto Public Library, Businesses/ employers, Grass-roots organizations, 2 Newcomers within S/L'Am, Legal Council, Community Residents

### Team 3

- \* Share Service Providers' profile – draft report to be shared with participants
- \* Other stakeholders to be included:
  - ◇ VPI – to be contacted (employment agency, Operation Springboard – already part of Partnership Council
  - ◇ Analysis of existing services to be done by participants on their service:
- \* Based on criteria emailed to all partnership council members by S/L'Am LIP Project Manager