

North West Scarborough Local Immigration Partnership

Voice of Newcomers

Planning/ Council Meeting

The June Planning/ Council meeting was held on June 22, 2010 at the Highbrook Learning Centre, 39 Highbrook Drive in Scarborough. The meeting was jointly facilitated by Mani Mahadeva and Danny Nashman.

The objective of the meeting was to review the LIP process thus far, share updates, revisit the team (cluster) focus areas and recommendations, and to decide future steps.

The Project Manager updated the process and activities accomplished since the LIP's inception and Partnership Council members worked in groups to review objectives, outputs and recommendations for each of the teams (clusters).



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Upcoming Events:

Steering Committee Meeting

- * September, 2010 (Date -TBA)

Cluster Meetings:

- * Team 3: July 8th 2010, 9:30am -11:30am, CICS - 2330 Midland Ave. Toronto, Ontario M1S 5G5

Partnership/Council Meeting

- * October 12, 2010 (Time and Venue- TBA)

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The groups also explored and identified some innovative ideas to be implemented into our Settlement Strategy. Participants worked in three groups to identify the best practices in information dissemination, optimising the role of community groups in newcomer integration and identifying different partnership models that will help make service delivery more effective.

It was agreed to postpone team meetings for the following months of July and August. In place of team meetings, LIP project management will contact Council members to arrange small group discussions and/or for individual consultations.

The Partnership Council also recommended to continue focus group discussions with different stakeholders in order to gain further insight on newcomer issues and resume team meetings in last week of September.

Steering Committee Meeting

The second Steering Committee meeting was held on June 1st, 2010 at ACSA head office located at 4155 Sheppard Avenue in Scarborough, and was facilitated by Mani Mahadeva, LIP Project Manager.

Following the updates of each Team, the Steering Committee discussed assessing the different aspects of community engagement in the newcomer settlement process, concluding that both formal and informal community groups are currently assisting newcomers in settlement.

They also discussed how community groups can become better equipped to aid in newcomer settlement, how to compensate them for their time and efforts, timelines for support needed by community members and what kind of training will they require.

The necessity to organize a larger meeting like another Community Summit in next quarter of the year was presented. It was decided to continue with more focus group discussions instead, and at the latter stage during the extended portion of the Project, organize such an event.

In regards to the working arrangement of the Teams, the Steering Committee expressed their opinion to continue with the three team structure until October with focus on the identified areas of innovation, but will re-group into sector specific Clusters thereafter.

Team Meetings

Team 1 Meeting: Welcome and Access to Information

The meeting was held on June 29th, 2010 at Mennonite New Life Centre of Toronto, 2600 Birchmount Road in Scarborough.

The objective of the meeting was to update on the progress of the LIP, review and match team outputs and recommendations and explore more ideas. Many valuable suggestions were made.

The highlights of the meeting were as follows:

- Use “gun-shot” approach to disseminate information about and to newcomer, using both traditional and non-traditional mediums
- Reviewed CIC’s website and made recommendations for improvement – increase resources listed, simplify search methods, and display more relevant content
- Reviewed and made recommendations to the arrival package handed out at the airport –should be more comprehensive, contain flyers/brochures of settlement agencies, have staff or a computerized kiosk to give general information
- Welcome Centres – streamlined

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Team 2 Meeting: Community Engagement in Settlement

The meeting was held on June 28th, 2010 at North West Scarborough LIP office, 331 Glendower Circuit in Scarborough.

The objectives of the meeting were to update on the progress of the LIP, share the outcomes of the planning meeting, review and match team outputs and recommendations and explore other areas to effectively use local resources (community groups).

The highlights of the meeting were as follows:

- Explored the existing capacity of community groups
- Decided that a needs assessment of community groups will need to be done before we can define what role they will play in newcomer settlement
- What types of training will need to be preformed
- Examined various types of “partnership models” that can be used in collaborations with community groups

- Identified best practises and areas for improvement
- Addressed the challenges of partnership relationships

North West Scarborough LIP Website

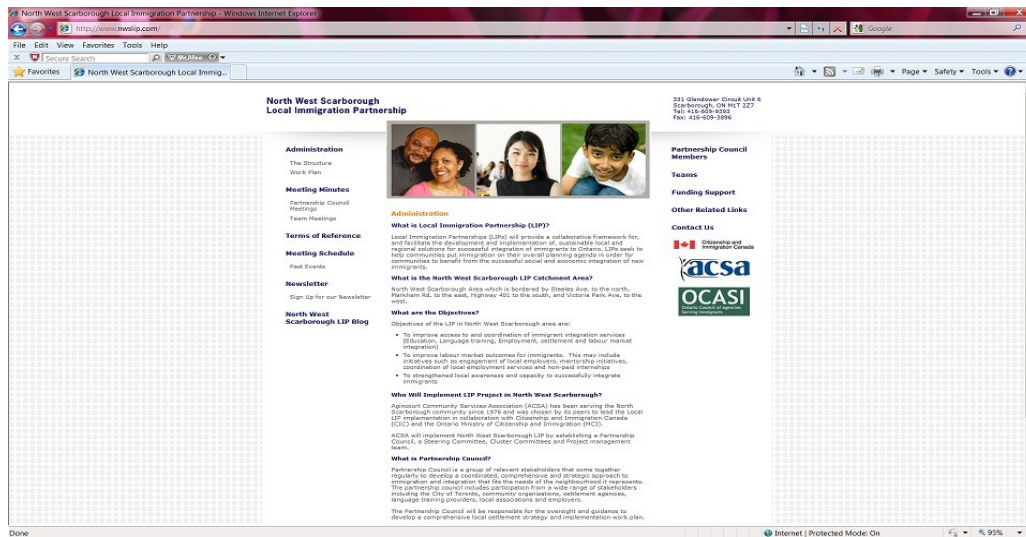
North West Scarborough LIP has launched its website:

www.nwslip.com

On our website you will have access to all meeting minutes , LIP progress, and general information.

We have also included a NSW LIP Blog that will regularly post relevant newcomer and service provider information.

We welcome all members to utilize this space to share their innovative ideas, important events, job postings etc. **To post to our blog, contact:**
dmichelle@agincourtcommunityservices.com



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