



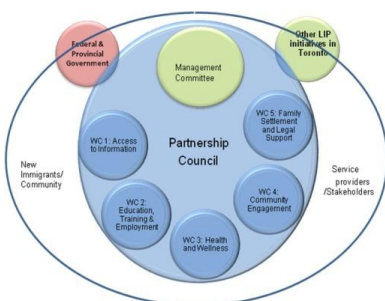
VOICE OF NEWCOMERS

NWS LIP Implementation Plan & Structures

As of April 2011 the North West Scarborough LIP has been in the Implementation Phase of Citizenship and Immigration Canada’s Local Immigration Partnership Project.

The NWS LIP team submitted a follow up proposal to CIC earlier this year for Phase 2 of the NWS LIP. The focus of this proposal was to respond to findings identified in Phase 1 (information and planning) and to capture and request resources to respond to the implementation of activities and

NWS LIP Structure



strategies identified by the completed NWS Settlement Strategy. With its new focus approved by CIC in the early spring, the Council members have moved forward to develop a new formation including governance structures to accommodate the direction of the implementation phase.

Partners

The NWS LIP currently consists of 58 individuals of which 34 are organizations and 9 are newcomer residents.

Over the course of Phase 2, the NWS LIP will continue to expand its membership. While we recognize that our current composition is robust, the addition of new and unique members will help to better respond to the strategies identified in the findings of the NWS Settlement Strategy. That said, since April 2011 our Council has grown to include 8

new resource partners. Each has committed to help support the implementation process.

Moving forward the NWS LIP plans to continue outreach to strengthen its partnership and forge new sustainable and beneficial ventures for and among its Council.

First Quarter Activities and Achievements

Over the period of April 2011- June 2011 the NWS LIP has accomplished many of its key activities. Throughout this issue, VOICE OF NEWCOMERS will highlight various achievements including a special feature from one of the LIP partners, Polycultural Immigrant & Community Services.

Please enjoy our first quarterly issue of “VOICE OF NEWCOMERS”!

Project UPDATES

Executive Directors' & Partnership Council Meetings

NWS LIP held its first Executive Director's meeting on April 29th, 2011 at Jack Goodlad Park facilities. The meeting was attended by Partnership Council organization Executive Director's and lead management staff. In total, 17 representatives were in attendance.

The objective of the meeting was to:

- Share the achievements of the NWS LIP in 2010-11
- Discuss overall objectives and future direction of the implementation phase
- Share the 2011-12 Work Plan
- Discuss the roles of member agencies/ organizations and renew organizational commitment

Participants were very eager to share their own ideas about the



NWS LIP initiative with those in attendance. They also took this opportunity to discuss how they

saw their organizations contributing to the future of the NWS LIP.

The next major meeting that took place was the Partnership Council meeting, held on June 14th 2011. The objective of this meeting was to brief the Partnership Council on the progress and future direction of the NWS LIP, present the Communications Strategy, showcase partner organizations, and share settlement sector related resource opportunities.

The next Partnership Council will take place in August.

Working Committee Meetings

Throughout the course of the first quarter, the NWS LIP conducted 10 Working Committee meetings in April and June.

During these meetings the Committee members discussed their work plans for 2011-2012, decided on their leadership roles for specific activities, support needed to effectively initiate each activity, and revised inventory surveys to collect information from Council members to proceed with some key activities. Members also revised their work plans to include additional activities that best suit their implementation actions.

There were also 2 follow-up meetings conducted in May to consult with the web developer



for the redesign of the NWS LIP website; revisit the review of newcomer online information sources and welcome package, and with the Employment consultant to identify areas where the LIP will need support to accomplish

IN THIS ISSUE

Executive Directors' & Partnership Council Meetings	2
Working Committee & Management Committee Meetings	
PICS Featured Story	3
L'Amoreaux Community Centre Spring Fair	4
Asian Heritage Month Event	
TDSB Information Fair	
NWS LIP Partnership Council Members	5
Contact Information	

Important dates:

- ✚ Management Committee Meeting - July 12th, from 10am-12pm at ACSA, 4155 Sheppard Ave.
- ✚ Working Committee #2: Education, Training & Employment Meeting - July 19th 2011 from 10am-12pm at VPI inc., 3443 Finch Ave. East

Project UPDATES con'd and FEATURE AGENCY

a number of Education, Training & Employment activities.

Management Committee

During the first Management Committee meeting held on May 10, 2011, the participants reviewed and finalized the Terms of Reference for the Partnership Council. The role of the employment consultant was also discussed during this meeting.

Another significant topic was selected training for frontline staff of the Partnership Council during 2011-12. Based on the needs, LIP staff was able to organize a two day training workshop through Hong Fook Mental Health Association, 'Journey to Promote Mental Health' for front line staff members.

Polycultural Immigrant & Community Services

In a few months, Olivier Camara will write his citizenship test. Originally from Ivory Coast, Oliver's journey to become a citizen has been a rollercoaster.

Yes, he's now working in his field of expertise – as an account manager for a multinational computer company - but finding a job wasn't easy.

There was a time when I didn't have enough money to keep

my cell phone on. I had enough for a MetroPass and rent, and little else," he says, his face awash with anxiety as he remembers the early part of 2010.

Arriving in Canada in 2008, Olivier landed in Montreal and quickly found work in technical support. Full of optimism, Olivier resigned from the position after five months and enrolled in a MBA program at Université de Sherbrooke. By the end of 2009, Olivier graduated and moved to Toronto.

"I didn't come to North America only to speak French. I came to speak English and moved to Toronto to learn," he says, sitting in a former classroom.

Immigration Canada funded agency that provides services to help immigrants in their integration and adaptation process.

Like hundreds of other Newcomers to Toronto, Olivier enrolled in English classes at Polycultural Immigrant and Community Services (PICS) – a Citizenship and

Quickly advancing in the English classes, Olivier transferred to PICS English Language Training (ELT) program after three months. It was a dark time, he remembers, as money was very tight. "I needed to find a job and this was very, very helpful,"

Olivier remembers...The ELT program provided occupation-specific training and workplace communication skills. Tips on



Olivier Camara, 36, arrived in Canada from Ivory Coast in 2008. Today, he works at a large computer company as

interviewing, networking and resume writing were offered at the end of the program, internationally trained professionals are offered unpaid work placements that match their area of expertise. During his 12-week work placement, Olivier was connected with people who worked in sales and marketing at a computer company.

"As immigrants, we come with another experience in how to find a job. In Canada, when you're looking for a job the most important thing is the connections. This program helped me make those valuable connections," the 36-year-old says.

FEATURE AGENCY con'd and Buzz in NWS!

When an opening for a bilingual Account Manager came up at the computer company, Olivier applied.

"I was interviewed on Friday morning. By Friday afternoon, I was given a job offer."

For more information about job training for internationally trained professionals, please visit:

www.polycultural.org or call one of PICS three offices at 416-233-1981 (Etobicoke), 416-261-9687 (Scarborough) or 905-823-5461 (Mississauga)

L'Amoreaux Community Centre Spring Fair

Just before the start of the first quarter the NWS LIP was closely involved in the L'Amoreaux Community Centre Spring Fair held March 19th 2011.

To support this event the NWS LIP team connected with Partnership Council members, circulated promotional information among its members and were able to generate 8 LIP member organizations to participate in the fair.

The event was very lucrative in that over 300 northwest Scarborough residents attended throughout the day.

Many showed great enthusiasm in learning about the different agencies and their services. The fair also created opportunities for frontline staff and community members to interact and exchange information.

This event highlighted the benefits of working together and developing closer relationships with the community as well as other organizations in NWS.

Special thanks to all who attended and participated in this event. It would not have been a success without you.

Asian Heritage Month Event

Another highly successful event held at L'Amoreaux Community Recreation Centre was the Asian Heritage Event. Once again the NWS LIP team helped by supporting outreach activities and connecting new and unique talent such as the Tamil cultural dance group to



*L'Amoreaux Community Centre,
2000 McNicoll Ave.*

perform at the event. There

were three different cultural groups that performed at this event.

These types of events help to create a platform for different cultural groups to share their values and practices while other community members learn about their culture.

They also contribute to creating a socially inclusive community where all nationalities and people are welcome and respected. We look forward to supporting and participating in more of these events as they come about in NWS.

Toronto District School Board Community Information Fair

TDSB organized a community fair for its ESL students on April 6th at the Highbrook Learning Centre.

The NWS LIP helped to promote the event among the Partnership Council members and encouraged their participation. Six partner organizations participated in this event.

The LIP team made a presentation regarding its initiatives to an audience of 35 newcomer students. Participants were also invited to join the Working Committees.

The LIP looks forward to extending its support to such events.

North West Scarborough LIP PC Members

Member Organizations

ACCES Employment
Aisling Discoveries Child and Family Centre
Agincourt Community Services Association (ACSA)
Arab Community Centre of Toronto (ACCT)
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT)
Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)
Carefirst Seniors and Community Services Association
Catholic Cross Cultural Services (CCS)
Canadian Tamil Youth Development (CANTYD)
Centre for Information and Community Services (CICS)
Chinese Family Services of Ontario
City of Toronto: Social Development, Finance & Administration
East Metro Youth Services (EMYS)
Elizabeth Fry Toronto
Hong Fook Mental Health Association
Mennonite New Life Centre of Toronto (MNLCT)
Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities (SCHC)
Polycultural Immigrant & Community Services (PICS)
Scarborough Housing Help Centre (SHHC)
Toronto Employment & Social Services (TESS) – Scarborough North
Settlement Assistance and Family Support Services (SAFSS)
The Scarborough Hospital (TSH)
The Tamil Eelam Society of Canada (TESOC)
Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) - Continuing Education Department

Toronto District School Board (TDSB)
Toronto Park, Forestry and Recreation
Toronto Public Health (TPH)
Toronto Public Library (TPL)
Toronto Police Service (TPS)
TransCare Community Support Services
VPI inc.
West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre
YMCA Newcomer Information Centre (Scarborough, Milner)
Youthlink

Resource Partners

Action for Neighbourhood Change – Steeles/L'Amoreaux (ANC S/L'Am)
Community Resource Connection Toronto
Correctional Service of Canada
Muslim Welfare Centre
Operation Springboard
South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario
Steeles L'Amoreaux Youth Empowerment (SLYE) Network
The Salvation Army – Agincourt Community Church
West Scarborough Community Legal Services

Recognitions to:

George Brown College
Seneca College
Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)

To contribute or get involved
in the production of the next issue of the
VOICE OF NEWCOMERS please contact
North West Scarborough LIP

**331 Glendower Circuit Unit 6
Scarborough, ON M1T 2Z7**

Tel: 416-609-9393

Fax: 416-609-3896

Website: www.nwslip.com