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## MINUTES

**MEETING DATE:** 2/28/2013

**MEETING TIME:** 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE:** J. Davie (Career Solutions Corp), M. Desbiens (College Boreal), B. Hoysa (Ministry of Training Colleges & Universities), S. Laycock (Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board), S. Lee (LIP), K. Low (Northern Lights), Councilor R. Milne (New Tecumseth), D. Myers (LIP; recording secretary), D. Newell (Northern Lights), M. Terrance (Social Enterprise for Canada), R. Wisken (LIP), L. Woodrow (Georgian College)

**SUBJECT:** REGRETS: M. Wahl (YMCA)  
Local Immigration Partnership Employment Sub-Council

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### 1. Welcome

On behalf of the chair R. Wisken welcomed the group. P. Whittington and S. Plewes joined the meeting via teleconference.

### 2. Roundtable Updates

M. Terrance: Conversation circles continue in three locations across the County. Midland Community Health Centre is a new location for service, in addition to a new service at Barrie Health Centre.

R. Milne: Community Transportation bus service to expand from Barrie Go Station to Base Borden; other areas outside of Barrie are surveying needs to also determine bus service.

### 3. Ethno Culture Event

R. Wisken provided an overview of the goals for the first ethno-cultural event held on January 23, 2013 at SuiteWorks in Barrie. One of the goals is to build trust relationships with the individual groups and to provide resources and service awareness throughout Simcoe County. The group identified Employment and Self Employment as key information needed for their groups. This echoes the Settlement Strategy as an area of need for newcomers. A second meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2013. S. Lee extended an invitation to the Employment Sub Council to participate and present information at the event. The dinner event will host a marketplace of service providers, a formal presentation and a question and answer period. As a take away, binders will be provided to facilitate collection of materials from participating service providers and to act as a reference guide.

**ACTION:** Five tables with information from service organizations to be set up by area at the event. Organizations will share the tables based on their geographic region in Simcoe County Main presentation will be prepared by S. Laycock & B. Hoysa with support from sub-council members  
S. Lee and R. Wisken will share presentation method with Business Development Sub-Council.

Break

#### 4. Newcomer Case Studies

The information gathered so far has been of value and members will continue to share at Sub-Council meetings. Organizations will continue to collect data from their individual newcomer case studies and share with the sub-council. Reporting can be informal. R. Wisken will take notes on the stories and send back to the presenter to confirm details. Case study reporting may be a topic at the upcoming conference. Concern regarding confidentiality was brought forward.

**ACTION:** Continue to make this activity an ongoing item for the benefit of members to learn from shared experiences.  
Sub-Council members to explore opportunities to have a “release document” established.

#### 5. Updates on Working Groups

Front Line Staff Professional Development – P. Whittington reported ongoing planning of a training and information event in Spring 2013 centered on cultural competency; training for employment services providers. Colleagues from the Muskoka area may be invited. A second event (fall 2013) will involve working with employment service providers to develop best practices for newcomers. It was suggested to include the best practices training in the Human Services Sub Council fall conference; to be discussed further at the Sub Council chairs meeting.

Newcomer Education – P. Whittington for H. Hie – Awaiting release on the Immigrant Directory. The working group is developing a workshop that builds on the employment related information provided in the Immigrant Directory. This workshop will be offered to Employment Ontario Service Providers and Ontario Works locations in the region to promote and deliver within their sites as a vehicle to reach out to the local newcomer community. The workshop is still in development.

Employer Education– R. Wisken – Geared towards local employers the *Hiring Immigrants Makes Good Business Sense* brochure development is ready to finalize. The sub-council members had an opportunity to review the brochure as a group. Discussion determined printing/distribution methods to employers. S. Laycock will arrange printing brochure by March 31, 2013. Translation and quantities will be determined. PDF of brochure also to be provided to the group.

**ACTION:** Electronic copy of brochure will be circulated to sub-council members for content feedback. Printing arranged by S. Laycock.  
Add brochure to websites and print hardcopies for distribution.

Immigrant Employment Council – S. Lee – no activity report at this time. S. Lee shared a detail from the MCI municipal conference; the first provincial settlement strategy document contained 70 % content referring to employment; MCI has expressed interest in Simcoe County.

## 6. GIS Map

S. Lee provided an overview of the purpose of the map on behalf of newcomers. The map highlights services important to newcomers. Services are colour coded on the map and provide specific location details. Map will be embedded in the Municipal Immigration Information Online (MIIO) portal. Updates to the map will occur as location details change. R. Wisken demonstrated use of map. A concern was brought forward regarding two locations overlapping in Barrie. It was agreed, if IT is able, that the two sites could be represented on the same point on the map with both agencies being equally represented.

**ACTION:** R. Wisken to follow-up with IT regarding service locations on map.

## 7. Sub Council Priorities / Momentum for 2013

Update of Work Plans / 2013 Priorities - Work plans and the purpose of the document were explained by R. Wisken. Tasks and timelines on the document were identified. The workplan will be used as a guide when creating meeting agendas.

8. Other Business - no items reported

9. Next Meetings: April 11, 2013, May 23, 2013

Adjourn 11:20 am