



County of Simcoe  
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## MINUTES

**MEETING DATE:** January 19, 2012

**MEETING TIME:** 2:00 p.m., County of Simcoe Administration Centre

**ATTENDANCE:** Boulanger, F. (College Boreal); Douglas, L. (recording secretary); Gamache, G. (La Cle d'la Baie); Greaves, M. (Georgian College, Chair); Helmerichs, R. (Georgian College); Hobbs, S. (Simcoe Muskoka Literacy Network); Holt, R. (LIP); Keery, H. (SCDSB); Lagace, H. (SCDSB); Lacroix, S. (Conseil Scolaire Catholique); Lee, S. (LIP – Acting Chair); McCann, M. (SMCDSB); Rodford, E. (Barrie Learning Centres); Sloan, P. (SCDSB); Vanderwater, L. (SCDSB)

Regrets: Green, S. (Newcomer Services); Lacroix, S. (Conseil Scolaire catholique);  
Oliviera, I. (BICS)

**SUBJECT:** LIP Education Sub-Council Meeting

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1) Introductions around the table

Members were greeted and introduced themselves.

2) Review of the Notes of November 10, 2011 Meeting

The notes of the November 10, 2011 meeting were accepted as presented. At the last meeting discussion ensued on who needs to be at the table. More members were actively recruited, and pre-school to university are now represented on the sub-council. It was further suggested that the sub-council include newcomer representation, and actively recruit membership from colleagues or larger cultural associations. Contact has been made with the York Region District School Board regarding a guest presenter at the next meeting. Details will be confirmed at a later date.

3) Update on LIP Practices

S. Lee provided an update on LIP research activities, the current status of the LIP Council and sub-councils, including the development of a 5<sup>th</sup> sub-council on business development, and the additional focus groups planned in the next few months to engage employers and more newcomer groups. Research from the focus group clearly indicated the school was one of the first points of contact for newcomers. The summary will be forwarded electronically to the sub-council. Members acknowledged the challenges of navigating the education system and the need for cultural awareness training.

4) Best Practices Discussion/Future Organizational Directions

Georgian College

- Language training programs for clients over 18+
  - OSLT specific language training – funded program
  - Full-time ESL program 65-100 for international students (not immigrants) - allows them to go directly into post secondary school
  - Focus is on academic language training
  - Language training only available at Barrie campus
  - Academic upgrading – mostly language
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- Credential recognition → college under certification guidelines – OSAP restrictions;
- Do credential recognition for universities and colleges
- WES – high school credential recognition – other governing bodies.
- Equivalency is complex – years of study, etc.
- Career driven
- Employment side → Employment Connect
- MTCU – information for immigrants on employment
- Immigrant community is a priority for Georgian College – develop employment plans, academic plans
- International Centre for international students
- Project in Midland for Chinese teachers taking ACE program to enter into post-secondary school.

#### Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board

- Coordinator for ESL studies
- 2 teachers who go out to community to offer programs to students
- All teachers are offered ESL courses
- Language training – 1 period per day per semester
- Developing to launch E-learning programs for ESL to all schools
- Preparing local parishes to supporting Christian refugees from Syria, Iraq, and Iran – 5 families over the next 3 mos.

#### Simcoe County District School Board

##### Full service program

##### *Newcomer Welcome Centre in Bayfield Mall*

- Full adult program – ESL/LBS – can move into credits
- Partners with YMCA – settlement services
- Work with families to get students registered
- Proficiency assessments
- Students undergo a CLB-related assessment here before ESL
- Career counselling
- Assessment of high school courses, if diploma required.
- Immigrants in a hurry to get started with new life – similar to second career adults
- CLARS centre possibly by September
- Workshops for parents how to navigate school system – parents rights, advocacy.

##### Heather Keery – ESL program

- Teaching people to read and write English when skills are not in their own language
- Upgrade skills due to loss of job
- Teach survivor and more advanced English
- ESL offered in Barrie & Bradford
- Provincial funding available for additional ESL courses if demand there

##### *Liz Vanderwater – ESL coach – elementary panel*

- Services 5 schools in Barrie: 3 in south Barrie and 2 in north – greatest ESL population
- Do assessments for language proficiency
- Assesses students who are new or Canadian born whose home language is not English
- Referrals from E. Rodford
- Coach teachers or small groups of students
- Determines where range of literacy is
- International component → permanent residents, refugees, work visas

##### *Heather Lagace – ESL*

- Elementary and secondary school students
- Assessment of proficiency to institute learning program for particular student
- Works with teacher or alongside student
- Bradford growing

- ESL courses available in good number of high schools
- Provides services to schools outside Barrie
- Will do individual basis
- Do special education
- Coaching – for the teacher working with parent

The discussion on best practices will be continued at the next meeting.

5) Decisions on Priorities for Education Sub-Council

Tabled.

6) Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Education sub-council is scheduled for March 7, 2012, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m., at the County of Simcoe Administration Centre.