



County of Simcoe  
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## MINUTES

**MEETING DATE:** March 7, 2012

**MEETING TIME:** 1:30 p.m., County of Simcoe Administration Centre

**ATTENDANCE:** Desbiens, M. (College Boreal); Douglas, L. (recording secretary); Greaves, M. (Georgian College, Chair); Green, S. (YMCA Newcomer Services); Helmerichs, R. (Georgian College), Hobbs, S. (Simcoe Muskoka Literacy Network); Holt, R. (LIP); Keery, H. (SCDSB); Lagace, H. (SCDSB); Lacroix, S.; Lee, S. (LIP); McCann, M. (SMCDSB); Rodford, E. (Barrie Learning Centres); Vanderwater, L. (SCDSB); Villella, M. (Le Cle d'la Baie)

Regrets: Boulanger, F. (College Boreal); Gamache, G. (Le Cle d'la Baie); Lacroix, S. (Conseil Scolaire catholique); Oliviera, I. (BICS); Whittington, P. (Georgian College)

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

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1) Greetings & Introductions around the table

The Chair greeted members of the sub-council, and members introduced themselves.

2) Guest speaker: Mr. Cecil Roach, Superintendent, Equity & Engagement, York Region District School Board

Mr. Cecil Roach was warmly welcomed as the guest presenter at today's meeting. He spoke on his current appointment with the York Region District School Board, YRDSB's community liaison programs, reception centre, settlement workers, transition workers, the projected growth of East Willimbury (all from immigration), the impact on existing communities, the value of having a strategy to welcome and integrate immigrants and for Boards to see how they fit into that strategy, the importance of Boards to develop an equity policy to ensure schools are warm, welcoming respectful places, and the importance of well-being for the student and their family, etc.

The floor was opened to questions. In response, Mr. Roach further expanded on:

- SWIS program (available only to immigrants)
- NOW program – over 200 students attended (Newcomer Orientation Week)
- Funding comes from core board budget
- Liaison positions funded from base budget
- Cultural proficiency – ran for 5 years – many staff trained – inclusive schools and community program
- Development of a 3-5 year learning program for whole system
- The strength of diversity → move towards how we can become inclusive & making children feel integrated, culturally, socially, etc. → not so much by cultural celebrations
- Student success teachers, liaison, guidance – heightened sense of importance – mapping on where kids hang out, discourage specific groups

- Struggles of parental involvement → offer ESL for parents & grandparents
- Specialized schools? – best to engage students in school, inside of separate schools → having all schools reflective and respective of all students
- Older communities must be prepared for influx of new community arrivals.
- Diamond days – no scheduling of exams, field trips → faith-based calendar worked well
- Moving towards eliminating congregational gatherings all together
- legal challenges of separating of sexes for prayer
- How is board dealing with influx of new immigrants as in East Willimbury? – build schools, equity training, place of worship, meet with local community organizations and build partnerships
- Attend banquets – donate scholarships.

### 3) Update on LIP Sub-council Activities (S. Lee)

S. Lee provided a brief update on the other LIP sub-councils and their identified priority areas.

*Welcoming Communities:* (a) public education strategy; (b) community hub model – possibly libraries; (c) development of an immigrant directory, which SMWDB has offered to fund. CIC has been approached to provide funding for translation of the directory into 5 different languages. Timeline – 2013.

*Human Services:* (a) map a strategy for translation, interpretation services; (b) best practices conference (2013)

*Employment:* (a) professional education; (b) employer education; and (c) newcomer education. An Immigrant Employment Council (IEC) working group has also been established. A booklet for employers, *Hiring Immigrants makes Good Business Sen\$e*, which was funded through the Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board, is expected to be available in May.

*Business Development Sub-council:* currently in the development stage. Hope to have it up and running by the time electronic portal is functional.

### 4) Best Practice Discussion (continued from January 19)

#### Susan Green

- Deliver program through CIC settlement services - social services, legal, sponsorship breakdowns, health care, housing, recreation, etc.
- 1 person in Barrie; 1 person that travels to meet clients throughout county; and 1 person in Bradford to deliver services
- employment counselling
- referrals to education, government and community services
- Language classes
- Language training (LINC assessment program) – reduction of funding to those for higher level language training
- Home study (LINC by correspondence – 12 hours online work). Teacher provides ½ hour instruction per week by phone.
- Child care services provided for those in language training.

#### Stephanie Hobbs

- Literacy and basic skills training for adults – reading, writing
- Upgrading programs
- Goal-setting
- Specific upgrading – trade, employment – based on client's goals – own learning program

- Assessment informal – where they are; delivery model they prefer - benchmark 6
- Variety of formats – one-to-one, small groups, classroom, computer-assisted learning available
- Addresses specific learning challenges, not classroom comfortable
- Current centres in area – 16 centres in North & South Simcoe, Barrie & Orillia and 4 in Muskoka
- Area covered excludes Collingwood and Bradford
- MTCU-funded agencies → clients must be able to well enough versed to function orally
- Cannot deliver ESL services with funding that is available
- Muskoka influx of immigrants – no language services available
- Barrie not an issue – outside the challenge
- Would refer client to school board if they have higher skill levels in reading and writing.

#### Mélissa Villela, Le Clé d' la Baie in Huronie

- Variety of services – regional – employment centre – Franco-dominant in Penetanguishene; LBS services in Barrie and GED
- Work in partnership with 2 French language school boards
- Youth Work program
- Services - French language, children's services – mental, child and youth, cultural services; work with community liaison officer in schools;
- Different program than Simcoe – use PLE
- Challenges for newcomer Francophones different – newcomers have French as an official language; different cultural barriers
- Deliver AFB program
- Relocating services in Barrie.

#### Manon Desbiens/ Frederick Boulanger

Tabled.

#### Mac McCann – Update

- Coordinator of Continuing Education (not ESL)
- St. Mary's Parish – supporting families from Iraq who fled to Syria and now need to get out of Syria. 1<sup>st</sup> family arrived – went through the Barrie Learning Centre for ESL. 100% sponsorship by Church
- Families from Iraq all doing well
- Employment appears to be major issue.
- Employers not hiring due to economy

#### Mac Greaves– Update

- Georgian College will be offering a diploma program, Acute Complex Care for Internationally Educated Nurses, starting in the summer of 2013. The program is open to anyone but is geared towards internationally trained nurses.

#### 5) Exercise Establishing Priorities for Education Sub-Council

Tabled. The Chair recommended that the notes from the previous meetings be reviewed for reference purposes for this agenda item.

#### 6) Next Meeting Date

The next two meeting dates are scheduled as follows:

April 11, 1:30 p.m., County of Simcoe Administration Centre  
May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m., County of Simcoe Administration Centre.