



County of Simcoe
Social Services
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MINUTES

MEETING DATE: April 12, 2012

MEETING TIME: 10:00 a.m., Welcome Centre for Immigrant Services, Newmarket

ATTENDANCE: Brislin, S. (Town of Innisfil); Brown, D. (Social Enterprise for Canada); Douglas, L. (recording secretary); Fisher, M. (211 Community Connection); Helmerichs, R. (Georgian College); Holt, R. (LIP); Lee, S. (LIP); Milne, R. (Town of New Tecumseh); Ryan, V. (Nottawasaga Futures); Skybin, Y. (YMCA Newcomer Services); Vanderkruys, C. (Barrie Public Library)

Regrets: Beattie, L. (CONTACT); Boulanger, F. (College Boreal); Crown, W. (Town of Midland); Davis, A. (Barrie Public Library); Kouassi, C. (Conseil de la cooperation de l'Ontario); Persaud, C. (Turning Points)

SUBJECT: LIP Welcoming Communities Sub-Council Meeting

1) Tour/Overview of Welcome Centre

D. Brown hosted today's meeting and provided an excellent tour and overview of the services of the Welcome Centre for Immigrant Services.

2) Update on LIP activities

S. Lee provided an update on recent LIP activities which included newcomer and employer focus groups which are currently underway, the schedule of the draft and final Settlement Strategy, and the activities and priorities of the Education, Employment and Human Services Sub-councils. The resource guide for employers on *Hiring Immigrants makes Good Business Sen\$e* is now being printed and should be available shortly.

Discussion followed on the limited funding for translation services for medical patients in hospital or doctor consultation, service mapping of existing services, the CFP for the Newcomer Settlement Program expected this summer, and work with Employment Ontario, a major recipient of employment funding agencies.

3) Review of 3 Priority Areas

1) *Development of an information resource directory*

- the Simcoe County Youth Directory (prepared by the Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board) will serve as a model.
- A working group has been set up with A. Davis/S. Mueller (Barrie Library), D. Brown (Social Enterprise), S. Owens (211), and S. Lee (LIP) in consultation with S. Laycock (SMWDB). The group will meet on April 19th.
- The directory is to be translated into 5 languages.
- Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board to provide the funding
- Will be disseminated to the Sub-councils for consultation and input before printing.

- Recognize the fact that printed data could be outdated quickly.
- Conversations with Welcome Wagon, who are keen on getting more information for their handouts.

2) *The development of a single point of contact*

Library as a community hub model

- Lots of interest from CIC on this aspect
- desirable as a community hub
- 29 libraries in Simcoe County
- Barrie & Orillia libraries are separate from other Simcoe County libraries
- Accessible
- Offer flexible hours
- an excellent common denominator
- offer volunteer opportunities
- non-competitive
- run by library boards
- LIP will be doing a presentation to the libraries on May 23.

3) *Public Education/Awareness Strategy*

- Train the trainer cultural competency training
- Establish who the target is
- Presentation to every municipality
- Specific tasks – what are we asking? Determine what we are asking from the community
- Get on agenda for staff meetings
- Different communities may support – financially or otherwise; some may not – how to process this.
- Identify key tasks and how they could support that particular task – could be data, community consultation, etc.
- Determine how strategy aligns with municipalities' vision
- Find out their priorities – “asks” will be different. Move forward with the support in these areas.
- Go to school boards, EDOs.
- use immigration myth busters – true or false

Next steps for Public Education/Awareness:

- V. Ryan invited LIP to do a short presentation on immigration as economic development at the next meeting of the South Simcoe Economic Alliance on June 15 at 10:00 a.m. Data should be specific to South Simcoe.
- Begin moving forward with drafting concepts (i.e. consider setting up a working group).

4) CIRRO Training

Flyers were distributed on the upcoming CIRRO training being held on May 1 in Barrie. OMAFRA's Community Attractiveness Indicators for Newcomers tool that includes 44 assessors will be made available to all municipalities. The tool will be launched at the training workshop. The Business Development Sub-council will also be launched at this time.

5) Opening Doors Project Workshops

A flyer on the upcoming *Opening Doors Project* workshops was circulated. The workshops will take place on June 12 and 14th.

(6) Next Meeting

C. Vanderkruys offered to host the next meeting at the new branch of the Barrie Public Library, located at 48 Dean Avenue, Barrie, ON, on May 17, 10:30 a.m.

D. Brown announced the launch of the [Settlement Series.ca](http://SettlementSeries.ca), a website which offers videos in 13 different languages that explain and translate government forms, including links to online forms.