



County of Simcoe
Social and Community Services
Children & Community Services
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MINUTES

MEETING DATE: 4/2/2013

MEETING TIME: 1:30 – 3 :30 pm

ATTENDANCE: M. Greaves (Georgian College-Chair); R. Griffiths (LIP, recording secretary); S. Hobbs (S-M Literacy Network); H. Keery (Simcoe County District School Board); S. Lee (LIP); M. McCann (Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board); T. Khrystnko (Barrie Learning Centres); R. Milne (Councillor, County of Simcoe);

REGRETS: E. Vanderwater (Simcoe County District School Board); P. Whittington (Georgian College); F. Leukam (CSDCCS)

SUBJECT: LIP Education Sub-Council

1) Welcome and Introductions

M. Greaves extended welcome, introductions around the table,

2) Roundtable Updates

M. Greaves

- Georgian College has begun an internal process to identify possible barriers within the organization regarding hiring immigrants. M. Greaves requested S. Lee to assist with a presentation he will be giving.
- Summer ESL program will run for college students entering into post secondary studies.
- The Friday before Labour day weekend, Georgian College, along with City of Barrie, will be hosting a welcoming event for the over 600 international students attending the college. The daylong event will include a multi-cultural fair, an opportunity to meet the mayor and a boat cruise among other activities to welcome students to the City of Barrie.

R. Milne

- On May 3rd, the Municipal Immigration Information Online (MIIO) portal will be launched at The Gibson Centre in Alliston from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. In attendance will be the Honourable Michael Coteau, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Warden C. Patterson and CAO M. Aitken, who will be the Master of Ceremonies.
- A transportation route connecting Wasaga Beach and Collingwood is now in operation. Penetanguishene & Midland are looking at a similar service. The

City of Barrie, Essa and Base Borden are also piloting a new route to connect these communities.

S. Lee

- The MIIO portal is now live and will be launched on May 3rd. There will be a “marketplace” at the Portal Launch. S. Lee made a request for representatives from each sub-council to host a booth on May 3rd. The presentation of the portal will be on PowerPoint and will be approximately ten minutes long.
- The LIP is moving forward with municipal deputations. The first step, a Human Services Committee report, will be presented in April.
- Two meetings with ethno cultural and faith based organizations took place, January 23, 2013 and March 20, 2013; an introduction and an employment/self-employment event. They were very well received. Another meeting is to be planned for fall 2013.

T. Khrystynko

- Summer school information will be sent to schools shortly for grades 7 and up. ESL will also be offered in the summer.
- New in September, FSL will be offered once a week.
- New international languages courses for full high school credit (Italian & German) will also be available.

S. Hobbs

- Immigrant directory review has been completed. The document is very instructive with a lot of information.

R. Wisken

- Immigrant directory is now in the process of being translated; Spanish, Chinese Traditional & Arabic. The Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board is completing the lay out and translating the document into French.

M. McCann

- Summer school courses also being distributed this week. ESL program, designed for newcomer high school students, is being offered in Barrie at St. Joan of Arc from July 7 to Aug 11. There are also select languages (non-credit) being offered this summer.
- The Board is currently in the planning stages for a French program.

3) Work Plan

R. Wisken presented the work plan for the group and discussed how they are being used within all the Sub-Councils. The Business Development Sub-Council was presented as an example of how that particular Sub-Council is using their work-plan. Dialogue of what priorities the group could focus on and what deliverable activities could be tied to those priorities occurred. Some key suggestions discussed were:

READINESS:

- **Settlement Workers In Schools (SWIS):** Funding for the program could be explored. The program was designed to help the whole family not just the student.
- **Living Books:** Living Books / Living Libraries are an activity where individuals share their stories aloud at the library for others to learn about their experience. Schools could host Living Libraries for newcomers to share their story. It could tie into International Literacy Day in September or Literacy month in January. Later it could be expanded to other settings like nursing homes and public libraries.
- **Cultural Competence:** Hosting cultural competence training for staff to reduce barriers
- **Canadian/Provincial Cultural Competence:** Increasing families' understanding of the Ontario school system. This may relate to the SWIS program.

OPPORTUNITY:

- The internal review M. Greaves is undertaking would fall under the **Opportunity** theme within the Settlement Strategy.

CELEBRATE:

- Interest in increasing number of multi-cultural events. The Sub-Council could prepare a "How To" package for schools as a guide on hosting multi-cultural events and celebrating diversity at school.

INSPIRE: Increase participation of immigrant parents on school councils

ACTION: R. Wisken will summarize work-plan discussion items and distribute to the group for review and further discussion at the next meeting.

4) Moving Forward with Areas of Priority: Cultural Competence

- Sick Kids “Journey to Cultural Competence” video was shown. Available at (13 minutes): <http://www.sickkids.ca/culturalcompetence/journey-to-cultural-competence-film/Journey-to-Cultural-Competence-Film.html>

5) Future Meeting Dates

There has been a specific request not to meet on Tuesdays.

ACTION: R. Griffiths to send out a Doodle for May and June meetings

6) Other Business

M. Greaves requested a volunteer to co-chair the Sub-Council. ; Item to be discussed at the next meeting.