



County of Simcoe  
Social and Community Services  
Children & Community Services  
Department  
1110 Highway 26,  
Midhurst, Ontario L0L 1X0

Main Line (705) 722-3132  
Toll Free 1-866-893-9300  
Fax (705) 725-9539  
simcoe.ca



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## MINUTES

**MEETING DATE:** 6/6/2013

**MEETING TIME:** 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

**ATTENDANCE:** M. Greaves, CHAIR (Georgian College); S. Green (YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka); R. Griffiths (recording secretary); H. Keery (Simcoe County District School Board); T. Khrystynko (Simcoe County District School Board); S. Lacrois (Conseil Scolaire Catholique CS); S. Lee (Local Immigration Partnership); M. McCann (Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board); R. Milne (County of Simcoe); P. Sloan (Simcoe County District School Board); E. Vanderwater (Simcoe County District School Board); R. Wisken (Local Immigration Partnership); S. Wang (Welcome Centre)

**REGRETS:** L. D'Ambrosio (County of Simcoe); S. Hobbs (Simcoe Muskoka Literacy Network); I. Olivira (BICS)

**SUBJECT:** Local Immigration Partnership Education Sub-Council

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Education Sub-Council June 6, 2013

1. Welcome

M. Greaves welcomed the group, noting this would be the last meeting until the sub-council returns in September 2013.

2. Roundtable Updates

**T. Wong** (Welcome Centre, Mobile Unit) – New flyer will be available shortly indicating all areas they service. In Orillia they will be hosting a Canadian pot luck lunch for newcomers. The event, in the past, has proven to be an excellent opportunity to share with other newcomers. In Alliston they have started to work in partnership with Y. Konrad.

ACTION: T. Wong to provide new Welcome Centre flyer to R. Griffiths to post on the portal and LIP page.

**P. Sloan** – Remarked on the [portal](#) launch and how well received the event was.

**M. McCann** - Indicated he will be retiring end of July. He will connect with S. Lee to introduce his replacement. ESL being offered at St. Joan of Arc school this July.

**Tatiana Khrystynko** – Adult ESL courses being offered in the summer in addition to international language classes.

ACTION: T. Khrystynko will provide an electronic course schedule to post on the Portal.

**S. Green-** This will be her last Education Sub-Council meeting, she is retiring Jun 17<sup>th</sup>. Linda Schut will be her replacement on the Education Sub-Council. She will be incorporating the Portal into a resource document that will be distributed to her board.

**S. Lee** – Attended the Barrie cultural event hosted by Mayor J. Lehman on May 29<sup>th</sup> at the City of Barrie rotunda. Newcomers in attendance expressed need for resources as well as employment and self-employment support.

The first Google analytics report after the official launch of the portal indicates that after the welcome and living, education pages are the next most visited pages.

**M. Greaves** – After a major restructuring at Georgian College, he is now working at the Midland campus full time. In September a representative from the International Centre at Georgian College will be joining the Sub-Council.

**R. Milne** – Spoke about how positively received the portal launch was and reported that after the portal launch Minister Michael Coteau cancelled a meeting to stay and enjoy refreshments and the marketplace.

### 3. Celebration Package

#### *Review Similar Toolkits*

R. Wisken recaptured the sub-council's chosen priority of an Education Cultural Diversity Tool Kit. She demonstrated a resource she found from Northern Ireland. **ADD LINK** After extensive research she was unable to find any tool kits similar to the Sub-Council's vision; however, she noted that aspects of other tool kits incorporated some of the ideas.

R. Wisken presented a draft of the project's purpose and objectives for the sub-council review. Revisions were made by the sub-council:

#### **1. Purpose**

To develop a toolkit that promotes and celebrates Simcoe County's wide range of cultural diversity. This resource will be shared throughout the variety of learning environments in Simcoe County.

#### **2. Objectives**

- Strengthen understanding of different cultures
- Increase acceptance of individuals from different cultures
- Enhanced engagement of students and families who may otherwise withdraw from learning activities
- Create a more inclusive environment for all of Simcoe County's residents, including students, families, professionals, community members and visitors.

**ACTION:** R. Wisken to complete an outline for meeting September 19, 2013.

**ACTION:** R. Griffiths to email purpose and objectives to group.

**ACTION:** In September the sub-council will form a Working Group of individuals who would be able to speak towards the content in relation to their organization.

4. Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS)

Discussion points on next steps

- S. Lee commented that there was a possibility that CIC will be issuing a call for proposals before December.
- S. Lacroix reported his school board have their own SWISS in Peel. They have partnerships in Durham and Toronto.
- M. Greaves expressed that it would be beneficial for Simcoe County to have a dedicated Settlement worker in schools.
- Working with all organizations around the table together to make a proposal to CIC would be beneficial.
- Partnerships should be established and a Simcoe County model agreed to in advance of the call for proposals. Agreement among those present that a proactive approach to the idea of SWISS would be advantageous.
- Consensus arrived at was it would be of great value to meet and further discuss the possibility and opportunity of SWIS.
- S. Lee will discuss with E. Albiser to possibly set up a meeting to discuss further.

5. Newcomer Recognition Awards

S. Lee shared with the group the awards ceremony will be held in October . This is a priority established by the Welcoming Communities Sub-Council. Included in the awards categories are a youth and a school award.  
A steering committee will be assembled to review and score the nominations.

6. Other Business

None at this time

7. Next Meeting Date: September 19, 2013 1:30pm – 3:00pm