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## MINUTES

**MEETING DATE:** 6/27/2013

**MEETING TIME:** 9:00 am – 11:30 am

**ATTENDANCE:** F. Boulanger (College Boreal); J. Duncan (YMCA); R. Griffiths (LIP, recording secretary); B. Hoysa (MTCU); D. Pacheco (Tracks Employment-Collingwood); M. Poisson (MTCU); M. Terrance (Social Enterprise for Canada); M. Wahl (YMCA Employment, Midland); R. Wisken (LIP); P. Whittington (Georgian College); L. Woodrow (Career Centre, Barrie)

**Regrets:** J. Davie (Career Solution Corporation); H. Hie (Georgian College); S. Lee (LIP); K. Low (Northern Lights); D. Newell (Northern Lights)

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

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### 1. Welcome /Introductions

P. Whittington welcomed the group, roundtable introductions were made. Welcome to J. Duncan from the YMCA, attending his first Employment Sub-Council meeting.

### 2. Roundtable Updates

- J. Duncan (YMCA) – L. Schut has replaced S. Green, as team leader, who retired.
- M. Terrance (Welcome Centre Mobile Services) – M. Zing has been hired for the new community liaison position. There are now two mobile team members on staff. On July 20<sup>th</sup> the Welcome Centre is hosting “Around the World Multi-Cultural Festival” at Fairy Lake in Newmarket from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.
- B. Hoysa (MTCU) – They are currently working on LBS agreements. He reported that a new Youth program will be rolling out in September; details will follow as they become available.
- D. Pacheco (TRACKS Employment –Collingwood) – They are beginning their next Skills Tracks session on July 15<sup>th</sup>. The Welcome Centre is now providing a conversation circle in the Collingwood area.
- L. Woodrow (Career Centre, Barrie) – The Career Centre is hosting a job fair for HGS on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Advised group to watch the local newspapers for more information.
- P. Whittington (Georgian College) – The next Occupation-specific Language Training (OSLT) sessions have been finalized. The first session will be hosted by Sheridan College starting early September. The program is a distance, multi-

site delivery program. The training consists of three hours a week in class via teleconferencing as well as the online portion. Second session will focus on business and will be starting the end of September.

### 3. Cultural Competency Training, June 24/25 – Debrief

R. Wisken shared the results of the questionnaires after the Cultural Competency training, offered in partnership with the Employment Sub-Council and the Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board. Overall the response from attendances was positive.

R. Wisken shared an email K.Scott received after Ontario Works staff attended the training:

“Two of the clerical came to me at the end of today, they were just raving how good the session was. They are so excited they want to show the video at our team meeting and talk about. They really enjoyed it and said they could have listened to them all day.”

### 4. Cultural Competency Learning Symposium: Learning Together, Growing Together - March 18 2014

This initiative is from the Human Services Sub-Council. The event will focus on cultural competency to support agencies and staff as the cultural demography in Simcoe County continues to changes. The target audience for the event are both frontline and management level service providers. CIC is a funder for this event. Discussion of the event occurred. Several suggestions where made including:

- P. Whittington reported that H. Hie had sourced a speaker that might be beneficial for this event Lionel Laroche. H. Hie will connect with R. Wisken with the details.
- P. Whittington suggested a presentation for funding opportunities for programs working with newcomers.
- Suggestion that the planned Newcomer Panel be a broad cross section of newcomer experiences.
- F. Boulanger suggested that the presentation of case studies could be a valuable workshop. The workshop would consist of a video presentation of a newcomer telling their story/problem. The workshop would be interactive allowing for discussion of how each participant’s organization would be able to assist with the particular issue presented.
- Niaomi Alboim formerly with CIC, now a researcher at Queens, provided a presentation on how the base of newcomers has changed. She uses statistical data but applies it in an accessible, practical way. She could be a possible workshop presenter.

### 5. Newcomer Education Working Group

- *Feedback on “Next Steps for Newcomers” workshop (previously circulated):*

R.Wisken reviewed the presentation drafted by H.Hie. This is planned to be distributed to service providers as an introduction to the Newcomer Resource Guide.

Service providers would conduct the presentation with newcomers and use the resource guide as a supporting document. R. Wisken captured minor edits/feedback provided by the sub-council and she will forward them to H. Hie. M. Wahl suggested some guidelines be provided to presenters/service providers (ex. addressing clients' questions and timeframe for the presentation).

#### 6. Immigrant Employment Council - update

R. Wisken shared that the Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board passed a motion to house an Immigrant Employment Council (IEC). A brief description of what an IEC would look like in Simcoe County was provided. Defining what the council would look like and ensuring there is not duplication in service provision is important. Education for employers and immigrants in their own country would be a large piece of the council's mandate. Brief discussion regarding the importance of private sector involvement occurred.

#### 7. Newcomer Recognition Awards – October 23, 2013

R. Wisken provided an overview of the Awards that is being hosted by the Local Immigration Partnership's Welcoming Communities Sub-Council. The event will be held at The Club at Bond Head on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm, during National Citizenship week. The Welcoming Communities Working Group has requested a representative from each Sub-Council to sit on the Selection Committee. M. Poisson and M. Wahl volunteered to sit on the Selection Committee for the Employment Sub-Council.

#### 8. Other Business

- Newcomer Case Studies

M. Wahl shared a story;

A Midland resident, originally from Nigeria, who lived in Spain before coming to Simcoe County, connected with the Midland office after being laid off. He did not feel he was receiving the assistance his family required. The team was able to connect with him establish his priorities and assist him. An important learning moment was the value of building strong rapport with clients. The individual turned to the employment centre for support to unrelated matters as he felt trust with the service providers.

- Any portal updates to be sent to R. Griffiths

#### 9. Next Meeting Dates:

- September 12, 2013 9:00 – 11:30 am
- October 24, 2013 9:00 – 11:30 am
- November 28, 2013 9:00 – 11:30 am
- January 16, 2014 9:00 – 11:30 am
- 2014 to follow a six week rotation