



Local Immigration Partnership  
Children and Community Services  
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## MINUTES

**MEETING DATE:** February 7, 2013

**MEETING TIME:** 9:30 am – 11:30 am

**ATTENDANCE:** R. Wisken, chair on behalf of C. Vanderkruys (LIP); M. Fisher (211 Community Connection); Y. Konrad (ESL-Gibson Centre); S. Lee (LIP); Councillor R. Milne (Town of New Tecumseth); C. Persaud (Turning Points); Y. Skybin (YMCA Newcomer Services Simcoe Muskoka); R. Griffiths (LIP); D. Myers (LIP recording secretary)

**REGRETS:** S. Brislin (Town of Innisfil); D. Brown (Social Enterprise for Canada); C. Kouassi (Conseil de la cooperation de l'Ontario); C. Vanderkruys (Barrie Public Library)

**SUBJECT:** Welcoming Communities Sub-council Meeting

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### 1) Welcome & Introductions

R. Wisken welcomed the group and invited updates from community organizations.

#### Round Table Updates

Y. Konrad, ESL – Gibson Centre, Alliston

- Hosted the first *Ladies: Lunch, Laugh, Learn*, a new event held each Wednesday at the Gibson Center. The first meeting was very well attended; 25 people attended (15 people were immigrants, 10 were Canadian born but new to the area); the event was well advertised in advance; flyers, newspaper ads & letters to the editor all went out prior to the day. The afternoon included a guest speaker and refreshments. The intention was to create an opportunity to meet people, offer connections and involvement while sharing talents and creating volunteer opportunities
- Tuesdays: *Walk & Talk* at the Alliston Recreation Centre continues
- New Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LadiesLunchAlliston>

Y. Skybin, YMCA Newcomers Services Simcoe Muskoka

- Webinar meeting was held for volunteer co-ordinating at YMCA and to discover languages available among volunteers.

- Innisfil YMCA is organizing a group for language and small business information. They requested support and information. It was suggested that LIP will connect with this group and share Ethno Cultural group connections.
- Penetanguishene detention centre is organizing a culture day to create awareness to frontline staff and the community. They requested assistance and support for information on how to support inmates on a cultural level.

R.Wisken, Local Immigration Partnership

- Distributed Issue 4 of the *Mosaic*

## 2) Public Education Framework Update

Draft document has been presented to the Partnership Council. Content and purpose of the document was discussed. A recommendation was put forth to rename the document to prevent confusion of the information pertaining to the public education system. Group analysed the document and the content while brainstorming to rename the document to make the purpose clear. Wording suggestion:

### **Welcoming Communities Framework:**

- **Raising awareness for the inclusion of newcomers in Simcoe County**
- **Building inclusive communities for newcomers in Simcoe County**

Discussion of gaps in the document content and more details to be added to specific areas took place. Additional information will be added to the “New to Canada” sector. Housing & landlord information, 211 resource information, and transit information will also be incorporated into the document.

*ACTION:* S. Lee and R. Wisken will revisit the document title before the March 2, 2013 meeting

## 3) Library Hub Model Update

S. Lee reported finding funding is in progress; new project officer and operations manager is progressing with LIP programs. An application will be processed at the next opportunity.

## 4) Immigrant Directory Update

R. Wisken listed the categories of Connecting, Living, Health, Evaluate My Credentials, Learning and Working. The “Connecting” section was reviewed. Discussion of what opportunities and circumstances connected people to communities took place. More content suggestions were collected.

## 5) Updates from Working Groups

Awards Ceremony – the working group is developing a nomination process. A simple nomination form to identifying success will be developed. An application form will be developed to recognize a variety of award categories (handout listed suggested areas). The nomination package will include information of weighting and a selection process. What the actual function will include was shared. Corporate (keynote speaker) and media (communication) sponsorship will be approached. What specific sources would be available for sponsorship was discussed. Event will be hosted in October.

Cultural Event – group is meeting this week.

S. Lee elaborated on an upcoming Penetanguishene Institution event. The purpose is to build awareness of multicultural awareness for the staff, as the facility houses multicultural people, and also educate the community. The LIP has been invited to be involved for information and support. S. Lee will sit on the steering committee. A template/tip sheet may be provided on how to organize such an event and what to include. More information will be shared of the event to be held in late June.

6) Welcome Package Content – tabled to next meeting (March 21, 2013)

7) Best Practices Conference

This event is a priority for the Human Services Sub Council and is scheduled for early fall. It is intended to showcase what practices in communities help newcomers. Each LIP sector will be represented at the conference therefore each sub council will be invited to contribute.

8) Other Business – no items reported

9) Next Meeting - March 21, 2013 9:30 – 11:30 am

Further meeting dates to be set when Welcoming Sub Council chair returns

Adjourn 11:35 am