



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

MEETING DATE: 6/21/2013

MEETING TIME: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

ATTENDANCE: D. Brown (Social Enterprise for Canada); J.Duncan (YMCA); R Griffiths (LIP-recording secretary); Y. Konrad (ESL-Gibson Centre); S. Lee (LIP); R. Milne (County of Simcoe); C. Persaud (Turning Points); C. Vanderkruys (Barrie Public Library-CHAIR); R. Wisken (LIP)

REGRETS: W. Crown (Town of Midland); M. Fisher (211 Community Connections); C. Gouldson (Nottawasaga Futures)

SUBJECT: Local Immigration Partnership - Welcoming Communities Sub-Council

1. Welcome

C. Vanderdruys welcomed the group.

2. Round Table Updates

S. Lee - reported on Municipal Deputation Presentations; fourteen municipalities have scheduled; Oro, Clearview, Tay and Severn have been presented to at this time. Interest was expressed by several municipalities in the Library Hub Model. The Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board has passed a motion to support an Immigrant Employment Council (IEC). They are currently researching funding opportunities including; Trillium Foundation, and future call for proposals.

J. Duncan - S. Green has retired. Some staff changes within the YMCA have occurred.

C. Vanderkruys - Canadian Urban Library has signed a new agreement to give first year immigrants free passes to cultural venues. The information will be forwarded to R. Griffiths to post on the portal.

3. Public Education Framework

- Review cover letter

R. Wisken gave a brief overview of the Welcoming Communities Framework and provided members with a draft outline for the Introduction. Members provided feedback.

DRAFT Introduction Outline	
Purpose of the Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reduce discrimination and racism and encourage cultural competency
What the individual/organization/company can do with the framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - read the whole document (see the fit) - It can be incorporated it into daily practices
General Statistics about Immigration in Simcoe County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - info on Simcoe County growth projection - Age trends of immigrants (working age and dependents)
Benefits of a welcoming community	
Framework description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an integrated approach - diagram of how it works
Brief description on what is found on the following pages	Strategy for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General Public - Broader Public Sector - Employers - Immigrants
Where to find additional resources / who to contact for more information (locally)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sclip@simcoe.ca - slip.simcoe.ca

ACTION: Discussion Points:

- Change “Employers” to Employers/Employees.
- D. Brown suggested adding examples under each heading as well as directing the reader to specific pages within the document to promote people to continue reading.
- S. Lee pointed out that the Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board needs to be added.
- Benefits of welcoming community: Diversity of thought, diversity creates opportunities, enriching the fabric of Simcoe County, highlight civic awareness, opportunities for newcomers to learn more about Canada. e in being a Canadian and how much newcomers learn about Canada?
- Keep the language neutral and positive.

4. Library Hub Model

- S. Lee recapped the concept paper that was previously submitted to CIC. She suggested that the paper could be further developed to consider costing of such an undertaking. D. Brown suggested the sub-council search other funding opportunities as well to support the project.

ACTION: S. Lee will coordinate a meeting between the Library Co-Operative, Barrie Public Library and Orillia Public Library to further discuss the opportunity of moving the project forward.

5. Newcomer Recognition Awards Update

R. Wisken provided an update from the Newcomer Recognition Awards working group. Group discussion occurred with the following key points:

- Funding Proposal: S. Lee updated the group on request to CIC for space and refreshments. The request was granted. Surplus funds from the MIIO Portal Project have been allocated to use for marketing the Awards on the portal (immigration.simcoe.ca).
- C. Kouassi and M. Desbiens applied for a grant, no update this time.
- C. Vanderkruys spoke to Rock 95 and Cool FM and they have agreed to support the project. He will need a script developed for the radio announcers to read.
- Ministry of Culture Tourism Ontario, Cultural Strategic Fund could be a possible funding opportunity.
- Event Date: October 23, 2013

6. Newcomer Resource Guide Update

R. Wisken presented the draft document. It is currently in its final editing stage. The Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board will be printing it in English and French. The Local Immigration Partnership has translated it into Traditional Chinese, Spanish and Arabic.

The document will be printed and distributed to the Welcome Wagon as well as other organizations this fall. Electronic versions will be available on immigration.simoce.ca and sclip.simcoe.ca.

7. Future Sub-Council Priorities

Suggested priorities for the Sub-Council;

- Multicultural Centre
- Multicultural Day
- Week of Welcome
- Celebrate Simcoe County
- Passport Event similar to an event held in Durham in the 1990's.

Discussion regarding a multicultural centre in Simcoe County took place. The following were key discussion points.

- The facility could house the settlement service agencies throughout working hours and during non-business hours the building would be dedicated for use by ethno-cultural and faith-based organizations.
- The City of Barrie is thought to be the most logical location, taking into consideration the current downtown core revitalization that is occurring and its central location.
- Core service providers (such as the City of Barrie, ethno cultural organizations, and the County of Simcoe) would all work together and be included in the planning process.
- This would be a long term plan, 5-10 year plan.

ACTION: Place two new priorities on the Sub-Council Work Plan; (1) Start conversations around the multicultural center and (2) facilitate more multicultural events in the community.

8. Fall Meeting Schedule

- July 11, 2013 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – Newcomer Recognition Awards
- August 22, 2013 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- October 3, 2013 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- November 7, 2013 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- December 19, 2013 10:00 am – 12:00 pm