



County of Simcoe
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Comté de Simcoe
Services sociaux et communautaires
Services à l'enfance et à la communauté
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MEETING DATE: 11/27/2019

MEETING TIME LOCATION: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Simcoe County Museum; 1151 Highway 26

ATTENDANCE: D. Brown (Social Enterprise Canada); H. Cleare (Contact Community Services); A. Dubeau (County Councillor); M. Dunot (LIP); A. Dunning (OPP); A. Fletcher (South Simcoe Police Services); K. Fraser (Lakehead University) C. Gagnon (MTCS-RSB-CID); B. Grebic (BCHC); R. Griffiths (LIP, recording secretary); G. Hall (COS, Library Cooperative); D. Hamilton (for J. McGee-YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka); H. Hie (Georgian College, Employment Services); E. Jara (Credit Canada Debt Solutions); M. Kuzma (Nottawasaga Futures); S. Lee (LIP); K. Manners (Simcoe County Coalition); K. McKenna (COS, EDO); M. Norris (Conseil Scolaire Viamonde); L. Palson (Georgian College); J. Rajalingam (SMCDSB); A. Schroeder (Barrie Public Library); I Toor (SCDSB); M. Vandevs (COS, OW); L. Wild (City of Barrie); M. Wynia (COS, Long Term Care)

REGRETS: E. Garcia (Enrique N. Garcia Translations); I. Oliveria (BICS); S. Sarin (EMA); L. Woodrow (Career Centre SCDSB);

ABSENT: L. Moorhouse (Barrie Police); I Pavlik (pavliks.com);

SUBJECT: Local Immigration Partnership Meeting

1. Welcome/Introductions

Andrew Fletcher welcomed the group, new members were introduced. Round table introductions were made.

2. Community Updates & Other Business

K. McKenna shared she attended the Peel Newcomer Centre rural job fair, reporting the County of Simcoe EDO table was very well attended. She suggested that a similar event could be hosted in Simcoe County with local employers.

A. Schroeder shared there has been an increase in conversation circle participants at the Barrie Public Library with the addition of childcare/activities.

A. Fletcher shared the ongoing development of the community safety and wellbeing plan within the County, including health, social impacts, social development with focus on preventions instead of reactive responses. Data is currently being reviewed to assemble strategies to address the recommendations. The deadline for the plan to be in place is January 2021. Community consultations will be happening in 2020. Barrie is developing their own plan.

L. Palson shared that there will be a Rent Smart Ontario training session for international students. She will forward information to the LIP secretariat for dissemination to the rest of the Council. They are currently looking for ten organizations to host the training.

3. Approval of Minutes –September 25, 2019

MOTION to accept the minutes as provided. 1st M. Kuzma; 2nd A. Dunning; ALL IN FAVOUR.
Motion Carried.

4. IRCC/MCCSS Updates

C. Gagnon shared the name change to Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture. There are currently some new funding opportunities that emphasize culture, sport and tourism industries.

County of Simcoe semi-annual report to IRCC was provided to the group

5. County of Simcoe LIP Secretariat Update

- a. Multicultural Centre Funding Application – S. Lee shared the approval from County Council to move forward with applying for funding to the Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure: Community Culture and Recreation for a multicultural centre, in partnership with the Ethnic Mosaic Alliance. There have been several municipalities who have expressed interest in hosting space for the Centre. County Council was overwhelmingly in favour of moving forward with the application.

C. Gagnon shared there were over 50 applications were received from across Simcoe County.

- b. Federation of Canadian Municipalities Grant – “Learn to Walk before you Run” S. Lee shared grant for \$5,000. Final approval, through County Council has not taken place. A large focus of this project is reaching out to immigrant women. Three workshops will be included; Welcome to Canada, Constitution 101; Skills and Abilities; Local Opportunities, through local public libraries.

6. Sub-Councils/Working Groups

- a. Settlement Sub-Council – “New to Canada, New to Simcoe County” brochure will be updated in 2020.
 - b. Cultural Competency Working Group – The group is moving forward with planning for a day of learning, similar to the Cultural Competency Learning Symposium held in 2014.
 - c. #ITSTARTS Working Group – M. Dunot shared the background of the campaign to reduce racism and discrimination. This year the campaign will run the full month of March 2020, aligning with March 21st which is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.. A. Fletcher made a request of the group for their organizations to be community champions. M. Dunot requested the group to inform her if there was a specific week in March their organization would like to take the lead. In addition the LIP secretariat would like more varied representation on the working group.
 - d. 2019 Newcomer Recognition Awards - M. Dunot provided an overview of the 7th annual Newcomer Recognition Awards event. The LIP secretariat received 44 nominations, a 10% increase over 2018. There were 15 awards presented and 146 people attended the ceremony. There was also an increase in the number of sponsors supporting the awards ceremony.
 - e. International Experience Counts – Learning day for settlement workers and Employment Ontario workers took place on November 13th. M. Dunot shared the evaluation with the group. Good networking and positive feedback were received.
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7. Community Projects

- a. Immigrant Job Finding Club - H. Hie shared that the funding for five years has been approved. Final agreement negotiation is ongoing. There have been many referrals from conversation circles, YMCA, and Employment Ontario. There will be a networking event in January.
- b. Ethnic Mosaic Alliance – M. Dunot provided an update in S. Sarin’s absence. The silent auction at the Newcomer Recognition Awards raised over \$2,000 towards the Multicultural Centre.
- c. Libraries – G. Hall continues to promote the multilingual collections. Discussion with Lakehead University regarding how the Seniors Partnering with Immigrants in Conversation Exchanges (SPCE) program could be expanded to include Orillia international students is ongoing. Joint IRCC applications with Georgian College and YMCA are still awaiting confirmation.

8. Health Survey

S. Lee discussed the development of the survey. The survey has been closely reviewed prior to the final steering committee approval. The survey will then be reviewed by the County of Simcoe Ethics Committee. The final survey will be translated into; Mandarin, Russian, Farsi, Portuguese; Spanish, and Arabic. S. Lee requested the assistance of all Council members to help distribute the survey in order to meet the target of 700 respondents. Information post card is under development. There is a \$50 Walmart gift card draw as an incentive to complete the survey. Printed copies, of the survey, will be provided if requested. The primary collection method will be online. Tablets will be available in malls or events to complete surveys.

9. 2020 Progress Report

S. Lee shared the mock-up version of the 2020 Progress Report to the group. The group was encouraged to use the post-its provided to provide the LIP secretariat information to populate the report. S. Lee asked the group for thoughts/ideas of what they would like to see in the report keeping in mind the four themes; Readiness, Opportunity, Celebrate and Inspire.

Next Meeting – Wednesday January 29th 2020, 9:30 am to 11:30 am, Simcoe County Administration Centre, Simcoe County Conference Room

Educational Inclusions; Policy on Eliminating Racial Profiling in Law Enforcement; Newcomer Recognition Awards Program; IRCC Semi-Annual Report; 2020 Progress Report Mock-up
