

# London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership

## Central Council Meeting

### Monday, March 29, 2010

Present: Elisabeth White, Kelly McManus, Mohamed Al-Adeimi, Asma Ahmed, Henri Boyi, Jean-Pierre Cantin, Vicki Esses, German Gutierrez, Trevor Hinds, George Perez, Dev Sainani, Lauren Touchant, Debbie Turnbull, Naeem Qureshi, Huda Hussein and Nina Hamou.

Regrets: Salah Badawi, Anne Langille, Jo-Ann Hutchinson.

#### Introductions

Kelly McManus, LMLIP Co-chair, welcomed and thanked members of the Central Council for their commitment and attendance. Members introduced themselves.

#### Updates

Elisabeth White, LMLIP Co-chair, announced that the contract extension with the City and Citizenship and Immigration Canada was signed on March 26, 2010. Funding will continue until August 31, 2010.

Elisabeth also announced that the Welcoming Communities Initiatives is organizing a conference on April 30 to May 1 which will bring together different LIPs from across the province. Huda and Elisabeth will be representing the LMLIP.

#### Key Milestones

Key timelines include:

- April 23, all sub-council strategies will be completed and submitted to the Central Council
- May 26, the strategies will be presented to the community for input
- June 30, the draft LMLIP strategic plan will be completed

An invitation for our next Community Strategy Meeting of May 26, 2010 has been drafted with the new LMLIP logo.

All meeting minutes will be available on the London and Middlesex Immigration Portal at [www.welcome.london.ca](http://www.welcome.london.ca). It can be accessed by clicking on 'about us'. The LMLIP section will appear on the left side menu. Minutes will be posted after this group has reviewed and approved them.

Jean-Pierre recommended that the invitation be translated into French. German also offered to translate the invitation into Spanish.

**ACTION: Nina to send invitation to Jean-Pierre and German to be translated.**

A copy of the *Strategic Plan to Foster Immigration to Francophone Minority Communities* was circulated as an example of what our Council is aiming to develop.

Meeting minutes from Wednesday, March 3, 2010 were reviewed and approved by the Central Council.

### **Sub-council Chair Updates**

#### **Education, *Jean-Pierre Cantin, Chair***

The Education Sub-council has reviewed all gaps and will focus on two priorities:

- Access to education
  - Childcare/child minding
  - Status and eligibility issues
  - Internationally trained individuals
  - ESL and literacy- more information is still needed
- Supports
  - Teachers
  - Parents
  - Students

Strategies for the curriculum were not discussed because of the initiative by the province, Ontario Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy, which is looking at changing the curriculum to be more inclusive.

#### **Settlement, *Mohamed Al-Adeimi, Chair***

After discussion of the gaps, Settlement will focus on four priorities:

- Connecting Newcomers to Services :
  - Students
  - Differences between Refugees and Landed Immigrants
  - Temporary workers
  - Agency vs. ethno cultural references
- Navigating Systems
  - Bureaucratic system
  - Managing Finances
  - Education Systems
- Family Challenges
  - Youth
  - Seniors
  - The family as a whole
  - Parenting
- Housing
  - Landlord/tenant relationship
  - Affordable housing

There is overlap with the work of the other sub-councils in terms of family challenges and legal services.

#### **Justice and Protection Services, *Trevor Hinds, Chair***

Dr. Mohammed Baobaid was invited to share his recommendations on pre-migration experiences and on creating a preventative screening tool. Family supports and the consideration of the family as a whole was another area of focus.

The Sub-council will continue to focus on:

1. Issues of trust
  - Criminal Justice System
  - Protection Services
2. Lack of education/ cultural knowledge
  - Service Providers
  - Newcomers
  - General Community
3. Lack of Community Collaboration and inclusion of alternative solutions
  - Between service providers
  - Across systems- government and non- government
  - Across cultural groups

The way information is disseminated and the way communities perceive police continue to be a focus of discussion.

#### **Health and Wellbeing, *Debbie Turnbull, Chair***

The health and wellbeing sub-council began to think about what the ideal system would look like and what steps they need to take to get there.

The following priorities were identified:

- Mental health and addictions
- Supports for service providers
- Supports for families and individuals in a holistic manner
- Physical health
- Recreation

There was an opportunity for immigrants to share experiences and struggles within the system. The group will continue to identify strategies.

#### **Inclusion and Civic Engagement, *German Gutierrez, Chair***

After review, it became evident that group focused on identifying strategies rather than priorities. The group identified the following priorities:

- Limited knowledge amongst host community in engaging immigrants
- Barriers to engagement at various levels of society
  - a. Volunteering
  - b. Decision making at neighbourhood level
  - c. Decision making on municipal level
- Lack of shared space

- Engaging youth
- Barriers to accessing services (language, cultural, childcare)

At the next meeting the group will break out into smaller groups to address each and identify strategies.

**Employment, Huda Hussein on behalf of Anne Langille, Chair**

The Sub-council continued to build on the following themes:

- Communication/Integration
- Employer Connection
- Systemic barriers/technical issues

The group began addressing strategies for the first theme:

- A common assessment process that will respect the needs of the client
- Appropriate information timely referral will be undertaken in accordance with the Privacy Act
- Build on existing capacity and link it to welcome London – to enhance communication amongst service providers, one way will be to use existing tools, such as the Networking for an Inclusive Community network.

Lauren indicated that after reviewing the minutes she noticed the gap between immigrants and administration has not been identified.

**Next Steps**

It is important to continue to capture the larger advocacy and policy pieces while keeping in mind that there will be overlap between the sub-councils. The collective voice of all LIPs across the province may have an impact on decision making at the government level.

The Council needs to keep thinking about what we need and where we need to go. Funding is one piece but it is not the only piece but should not be the single driver of our work.

At our next meeting we will begin to examine emerging priorities.

Next meeting  
Tuesday, April 13  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Kinsmen Recreation Centre, Room 2a  
Regards to [nhamou@uwlondon.on.ca](mailto:nhamou@uwlondon.on.ca)