

London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership Central Council Meeting Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Present: Asma Ahmed, Lauren Touchant, Trevor Hinds, German Gutierrez, Dev Sainani, Anne Langille, Vicki Esses, Jo-Ann Hutchinson, Salah Badawi, Henri Boyi, Debbie Turnbull, Naeem Qureshi, Jean-Pierre Cantin, Kelly McManus, Elisabeth White, Huda Hussein and Nina Hamou.

Regrets: Mohamed Al-Adeimi and Munira Ahmed.

Welcome & Introductions

Kelly welcomed and thanked the group for their attendance. She noted that there is much work ahead of this Council as the strategic plan comes together.

Updates

Elisabeth welcomed Jo-Ann Hutchinson who was able to join us from the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI).

Elisabeth announced that Windsor and Essex Local Immigration Partnership have finalized and submitted their strategic plan to CIC.

ACTION: Project staff to share Windsor and Essex report with Central Council.

An agenda item was added regarding an editorial in the London Free Press.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the Central Council.

Welcoming Communities Initiatives (WCI) Update

Vicki reported that momentum has been building up towards the WCI Action Research on LIPs event coming up April 30 and May 1. Our LIP is part of a movement to be a stronger voice on immigration issues across the province. An update on the event will be presented at the next meeting.

Terms and Reference: Principles and Outcomes

Huda presented two new principles that have been added to the Terms of Reference, based on discussions from last our last meeting:

- **Accessibility:** We aim to facilitate access to services.
- **Accountability:** We will encourage the shared responsibilities between immigrants and service providers.

Outcomes were discussed and reviewed. A model prepared by project staff depicts the immigrant at the centre and the overarching themes identified by Central Council at the previous meeting.

Review of Templates and Discussion

The Chairs presented the final draft priorities templates. Nina presented the Settlement priorities template on behalf of the Settlement Sub-council Chair. Council reviewed the recommendations, asked for clarifications and suggested some edits to the templates.

Points of clarification and suggested edits with regard to the Settlement:

- Need to broaden the scope of the existing programs like Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) and Library Settlement Partnership (LSP) rather than “enhance them
- Point D: to be rephrased from "targeting economic immigrants" to "attracting economic immigrants".
- Point E: should be rephrased to “advocate to expand services”.
- The role of the London and Middlesex Immigration Portal is attraction and retention. It will continue to evolve to meet the needs of the community.
- Need to be more explicit on what types of programs are needed.
- Need to keep CIC Modernized Approach in mind.
- Need to be careful how we word strategies, for example, topics related to parenting.

Employment, *Anne Langille, Chair*

It was acknowledged by the Employment Sub-council that London and Middlesex is rich in employment services. The main challenge is how to keep service providers and clients up-to-date and how to market these services.

Points of clarification and corrections:

- Advocate for the removal of barriers that impede employment. This effects ability to attract immigrants.
- Communication between different levels of government is important to avoid duplication. More funders are needed at the table such as the Ontario Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities.
- Managing expectation of immigrants and community speaks to a mutual understanding between employers and immigrants.
- The issue for more pressure on employers to become equal opportunity employers was raised. This Sub-council felt that the Canadian born workforce is diminishing and there will be an economic need to hire immigrants.
- It is understood, but not written, that endorsing and supporting the work of the London Middlesex Immigrant Employment Council (LMIEC), need to be captured in the strategic plan. LMIEC are focused on building employer awareness, involvement and commitment.
- It was felt by this Council that we should continue to consider the role of employers on a larger scale. For example, advocate for providing incentives for hiring immigrants, based on the model of hiring summer students.

Justice & Protection Services, *Trevor Hinds, Chair*

Points of clarification and corrections:

- Provide some examples when mentioning existing strengths in the community, such as Women's Community House and Changing Ways, which are preventative services.
- The role of Children's Aid Society needs to be more visible.

- Need to explain what the justice and protection services are in the London and Middlesex.
- Should look at immigrants as consumers. How do we provide immigrants with the information they need?
- It was agreed that it is not the goal of this Council to create parallel services for different cultural groups.

Education, *Jean-Pierre Cantin, Chair*

Points of clarification and corrections:

- When discussing the second priority, supports, the group could not decide on priorities as they felt that supports for the teachers, parents and students are of equal importance. The group reached consensus by very close votes and accordingly decided on the following order: parents, teachers and students.
- Clarification was made around the fact that the first theme targeted adults and the second theme targeted services and children.

Health & Wellbeing, *Debbie Turbull, Chair*

Points of clarification and corrections:

- In terms of the rationale, some may not be aligned well.
- There is a need to work with ethno-cultural communities in planning.
- Mental health issues are not the same as mental health illness
- There was a lot of focus on a centre or place for families to interact together and neighborhood based services.
- There is a need to consider traumatic experiences and increase services for trauma survivors.
- London is rich with services but people may not know how to access them.

Inclusion & Civic Engagement, *German Gutierrez, Chair*

Points of clarification and corrections:

- Civic inclusion and engagement connects to the work of all the Sub-councils.
- There is an overlap between education and inclusion and civic engagement.
- Shared space and neighbourhood services overlap with strategies identified in Health and Wellbeing.
- Pre-migratory information provided ahead of time is an advocacy piece which refers to information provided at embassies prior to immigration.

Discussion

Everyone is encouraged to go through the documents and provide input by Monday, May 3.

Funding and programming is touched on by all sub-councils but we need to be realistic in what we ask.

On May 26 we need to have content for a strategic plan to share with the community. Therefore there needs to be clarity on content and agreement on interconnected themes.

It was also recommended that the priorities document be updated and shared with the Central Council. Our last meeting before May 26 will be on May 5th however there will be correspondence via email. It was indicated that May 5 meeting may go for three hours.

London Free Press Editorial

A disturbing and inaccurate editorial which labeled some countries as terrorist producing countries and called for screening on refugees from those countries, was forwarded by Valy Marochko, Executive Director of the London Cross Cultural Lerner Centre (CCLC). It was requested that the Co-chairs of the LMLIP respond to the article.

Although the Terms of Reference mandates this Council to advocate on behalf of the immigrant, we have not yet developed parameters on how to respond. It is important that this has been brought to our attention as it has made us think about how to respond to the media in the future. It was also indicated that there needs to be a strategy from a sub-council that addresses such issues and based on this, the parameters will be developed.

ACTION: Elisabeth will respond to CCLC.

Next Steps:

ACTION: Staff will work to identify overlap and connections between Sub-councils.

ACTION: Chairs are encouraged to make amendments based on discussion today and send to Huda by Monday, May 3.

Next meeting:
Wednesday, May 5, 2010
4:30p.m. -7:30 p.m.
Kinsmen Recreation Centre, Room 2b
Regrets to nhamou@uwlondon.on.ca

Funded by:



**Citizenship and
Immigration Canada**

**Citoyenneté et
Immigration Canada**

Co-led by:



United Way
of London & Middlesex

