

London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership Education Sub-Council

Wednesday, April 21, 2010, 2:30 – 5:30
Location: G. A Wheable, Room A 220

Present: Raja Al-Abed, Jean-Pierre Cantin, Sheila Carson, Gerardo Castro, Kim Godin, Helen Patterson, Mureed Shahid, Denise Taylor-Edwards, Susanne Quan, Ramiro Castro, Jo-elle Rinker, Nancy Pollard, Janet Pinder, Muriel Abbott, Tamara Kaattari, Kate Kennedy, and Huda Hussein.

Regrets: Candace Miller, Sonia Muhimpundu, Mo Jeng and Becky House.

Welcome & Introductions: Group was welcomed and thanks for their participation and commitment.

Meeting Minutes: Minutes reviewed and approved

Updates

Jean-Pierre informed the group of the timelines of the Project. Group was requested to mark the third Community Strategy Meeting of May 26, 1-4:30 in their calendars. He also thanked the group for their immense contributions and recommendations and reiterated the fact that today's meeting will be the last one before May 26 Community Meeting and that the final template with the community's input will be emailed to the group in mid June. He also informed the group that the group will convene sometimes in mid June to review the Strategic Plan that will be submitted to Citizenship and Immigration Canada in July.

Review of Priorities:

Jean-Pierre mentioned that the focus of the discussion today is to review the supports theme, work on rationales and timelines.

With regard to supports, the group recommended some changes to the titles to reflect the existing gap. It was decided to be more specific in defining the Supports for Students. As a result, C3: will now read as:

“**Supports for English Language Learners and English Language Development Students**”. This theme will capture:

- Current teaching system (Parents and students identified the segregation in the mainstream classrooms as having negative impact and impedes the learning and the psycho-socio of the students.
- Mentorship across cultural backgrounds
- Insufficient leadership programs for immigrant youths
- insufficient supports for ELLs in content subjects
- Insufficient classroom supports for immigrant children with special needs (Please see attached Template for details)

The group reached consensus on identifying strategies and rationales to address the issues of supports. The group identified adult issues as well as students' issues. They also identified issues related to clients and issues related services.

The group was then asked to prioritize the topics that need to be submitted to the Central Council to ensure that these priorities will be addressed.

Immigrants, refugee claimants and new Canadians need to be eligible to access services that will enhance their education and employment. Therefore, it was deemed that eligibility and status needs to be the first priority followed by recognition of internationally trained individuals, training and upgrading.

The group then moved to the supports theme. It was quite a difficult task for the sub-council to reach consensus on this theme. The group felt that all the three recommended supports are of equal importance and need to be addressed. However, given the fact that critical issues will be selected by the Central Council, consensus was reached by voting. (There was agreement that had this discussion continued, the priorities would have changed) Accordingly, it was agreed that supports to parents are very crucial. It is about empowerment of the immigrant which is reflected in the Terms of Reference of the LMLIP and by building the parents' capacities, the students and teachers supports will follow. It was agreed that if parents are well informed, supported and given the necessary tools, they will in turn advocate for a better educational system, for extra supports for the teachers and students. The Chair thanked the group and reiterated the fact that this was a tough decision as the sub-council recognizes the importance of supports in the three areas.

The group was thanked by the Chair for their continued commitment and participation.

Next Steps: Community Strategy Meeting, Wednesday, May 26, 1-4:30 at the London Convention Centre

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