

## **London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership**

Education Sub-council

Tuesday, February 22, 2010 (3:30-5:30)

Location: G.A Wheable, Room A220

Present: Muriel Abbott, Raja Al-Abed, Jean-Pierre Cantin, Sheila Carson, Gerardo Castro, Ahad Emami, Kim Goden, Becky Howse, Tamara Kaattari, Candace Miller, Sonia Muhimpundu, Jim Martin, Helen Patterson, Mureed Shahid, Rosanna Stumpo Bal, Denise Taylor-Edwards, Dr. Shelly Taylor, Susanne Quan, Nicole Loeters, Jo-elle Rinker, Kate Kennedy, Cynthia Konnerth, Ramiro Castro and Huda Hussein.

Regrets: Mo Jeng and Nancy Pollard

Facilitator: Sheila Carson

### **Summary:**

Welcome & Introductions

Sheila welcomed the committee members and thanked everyone for their interest. Roundtable introductions followed. 15 agencies were represented in addition to four volunteers from the immigrant community as interested citizens and a representative from the Chinese Canadian National Council, London Chapter **or (CCNC, LC)** . Members recommended that contact information be distributed among members.

**Action: Huda to send the members' list with contact information**

### **Terms of Reference:**

Sheila requested the group to review the Terms of Reference with the focus on the Roles and Responsibilities of the sub-council. Questions were asked around decision making process. Do we need to decide anything today? What model should we follow when taking decision? There was agreement to respect everyone's opinion so that members feel comfortable in bringing up any concerns and the Chair may help out in the process in the upcoming meeting. A question on the mechanism of consulting with researcher was asked. There was agreement that members will share with the committee any research relevant to the issue of education. It was also indicated that there is ongoing collaboration with the University of Western Ontario through Dr. Vicky Esses and we have sitting members from UWO as well. March 31 deadline was brought up and staff clarified that the extended deadline is now August 31, 2010. Sheila encouraged members to review the Terms of Reference to familiarize themselves with it.

### **Role of Project Staff**

Huda introduced herself and advised that her role is to provide the administrative support for the sub-council, Chair and Co-Chair in terms of taking notes, distributing them, sending agendas and receiving

communication from members. It was also indicated that Huda's role will involve clarifying or responding to some questions, as needed.

### **Follow up from Community Action Planning Day**

Sheila and Huda briefed the members on the Action Planning Day. Some members indicated that the collaboration with UWO was powerful and the mapping of resources was an excellent piece of work. It was also mentioned that listening to stories of immigrants trying to relocate and establish themselves by finding jobs and getting their credentials assessed was a great experience of learning. The process of integration that the LMLIP is now engaged in has been long overdue. It was mentioned that in the 1990's research was done and no action was taken due to lack of funding. Now there is an agreement that immigrants have a place in our province and as such the LMLIP with the funding support, we are now moving forward.

### **Review of Gaps and Priority Setting Results**

Sheila requested the group to break into groups and take 10 minutes to review the gaps outlined in the summary report. The meeting was reconvened and the discussion went around the priority exercise. How people voted, who voted, how many were present and how many of those were immigrants? Do we go by the numbers indicated in the graph, 35 out of 40 voted on the Internationally Trained as gap number one when the impact of this issue may be affecting a smaller number? Another member commented that International trained gap, impacts the whole family as well, there is the emotional piece attached to it. If the parent is underemployed, the self-esteem of the parent goes down and it impacts the whole families. Other members felt, that educating women with young children, an issue that has not been identified as a gap, may be looked upon as a small issue, but the impact is great as it affects families. Another comment was: can we alter the priorities – for example some members strongly felt that ESL should be the number one gap. It was also noted that there is a discrepancy in the priority exercise. For example, on page three of the summary report, under Educational Credential gap, the eligibility issue does not pertain to the gap of education credential, therefore there is need to review these gaps thoroughly to ensure that there is a shared understanding of the gaps.

It was noted that the community weighed on these issues and we need to respect the feedback received from the community. If we totally discount what the community told, this would mean that we do not accept transparency which is key in building trust. It was also noted that we have the foundation to begin working on the strategies. There was agreement that the role of this sub-council is to draft the strategy for education and the sub-council will look into all the gaps identified and will decide on their priorities.

Discussion went around the titles on the graph on page 3. There was an agreement that some titles do not capture the essence of the gap. Another comment was around the gaps- some of these gaps were also identified in other sub-councils: the international trained issue was noted as a gap in the Settlement Sub-council and may appear on the Employment Sub-councils as well. What do we do? It was agreed

that all gaps need to be reviewed and the sub-council will decide next steps when working on the draft strategy.

**Action:** Huda will enter the information from the report into the template. This will also help in clarifying some of the gaps.

Members also offered to provide some information on each gap listed on the graphs. The collected information will be sent to Huda who will compile them and share them with the group.

Some members suggested that more research is needed to move forward. It was indicated given the time line more surveys or more research is not the route for this sub-council to take. Huda shared with them the information on the template created by the Health and Well Being which is designed for members to capture any recent research on the issue of the health and well being of the immigrants in terms of gaps and suggestions. This will help the sub-council in drafting the strategy.

**Action:** Huda will share the template with the group

**Other:**

It was indicated that there is no representation from the elementary sector at the table.

### **Process of Selecting the Chair and Co-chair**

Five members put their names forth for the chair position.

Nobough Abuhelib (LUSO) and Dieufert Bellot (Centre Communautaire Régional De London) were absent.

Jean-Pierre (College Boreal), Rosanna Stumpo Bal (Fanshawe College) and Denise Taylor-Edwards (Reception Centre, TVDSB) introduced themselves. They were requested to leave the room. Members looked into representations: two of the three represented the adult education, undergraduate and post graduate. Agreement was since Jean-Pierre has the French education piece attached to his experience, he was selected as the Chair. Denise, who represents the middle and secondary education, was selected as the Co-chair. It was clearly stated that the Chair will be the sub-councils representative at the Central Council.

### **Meeting Times:**

- Monday March 1, 3:30-5:30
- Monday March 22, 3:30 -5:30
- Tuesday April 6, 3:30 – 5:30
- Wednesday April 21, 3:30-5:30

Location for all meetings G.A Wheable – Room A220

**Next Meeting: Monday, March 1, 3:30 to 5:30 at G.A Wheable , Room A220**