

# London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership Inclusion & Civic Engagement Sub-council November 15, 2010

Present: German Gutierrez, Dharshi Lacey, Lourdes Assis, Saleh Alathamena, Suzanne Huot, Estela Quintero Weldon, Robin Armistead, Rose Aquino, Janette Butler, Bernie Koenig, Valy Marochko and Nina Hamou.

Regrets: Monica Abdelkader, Patricia Mazariegos, Andrea Hallam

## **Welcome & Introductions**

German thanked the Sub-council members for their attendance.

## **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were approved.

## **Chair remarks**

Nina gave an update on German's behalf regarding the Central Council Meeting as he was unable to attend. The Central Council heard from the Child & Youth Network and Strengthening Neighbourhood Strategy. Project staffs are working to connect the shared priorities between all three initiatives. This Sub-council is on the right track in making those connections.

Central Council is also working on a Multi-media Communication Plan which will encompass some of the strategies brought for by this Sub-council

## **Updates:**

### ***Media Literacy Council***

German reported that the Central Council has included it in the first Draft of the Multi-media Communication Plan. An Advisory Committee will be formed and German will be the Inclusion & Civic Engagement representative.

### ***Immigrant Neighbourhood Engagement Strategy***

Information Sharing Resources Document: Will continue to be updated via email. Instead of live editing the final draft will be uploaded to the Immigration Portal once the Sub-council is happy with it. This information will influence the access points for the Immigrant Neighbourhood Engagement Strategy.

Robin added that the Heritage Portal will be launched on January 13 and should be added to the list.

Lourdes shared that the South London Neighbourhood Resources London uses a church and school in the Westminster area which offers daycare and ESL classes.

Nina provided a summary of the implementation plan based on the October 5 discussion and developed in consultation with Michael who provided input on how this would fit with existing neighbourhood initiatives.

The goal of the *Immigrant Neighbourhood Engagement Strategy* is to promote neighbourhood based activities and events that will provide opportunities for immigrants to engage and participate in their community.

Creation of an *Engagement Strategy* will provide neighbourhood organizations with the tools for immigrant outreach and grass roots engagement (based on learning's from North park, Kipps Lane etc.).

From the creation of the event to the last days before, this guide will provide step by step processes for engagement and tools for communication.

The Strategy will outline ways of communicating and promoting the event based on the *Strengthening Neighbourhood Strategy* vision and the engagement strategies outlined in *Building a Community: A Manual of Successful Strategies* and *Characteristics of a Welcoming Community*.

- Face to face/ door to door communication
- Use of communication and information hubs (electronic communication , media and places)
- Connecting with local Settlement Providing Organizations to promote events to cliental.

It would detail the necessary steps during the planning stages of event.

### **Connection to other initiatives**

Strengthening Neighbourhood Strategy shares the same priority. There may be an opportunity to for partnership.

**ACTION: Nina will connect with Trevor Johnson, Strengthening Neighbourhood Strategy and discuss their needs with regards to immigrant engagement.**

Valy was asked to provide some information on what Cross Cultural Learner Centre is doing in terms of outreach.

**ACTION: Valy offered to have a staff person from CCLC come to the next meeting to provide information about their programs and what they are doing to connect with immigrants.**

### **Form a working group**

The group concluded that the Immigrant Neighbourhood Engagement Strategy will need to:

- Support what is existing in the community
- Support the engagement process
- Address how to get immigrants involved in decision making
- Engage the host community
- Strengthen and support organizations within the community

- Use “enclaves” as springboards- Look at how they connect to best practices and how they can be used to strengthen immigrant engagement
- Show the connections: what they would look like? Beginning to network? Who would be interested. Data collection to her?

In order for the Sub-council to do as much as possible it was proposed that we split up into the following tasks rather than form a working group.

**ACTION:** Dharshi to research best practices in other communities. She will connect with Vicki Esses to see if WCI has done work in this area.

**ACTION:** Bernie Koenig to connect with the Urban Neighbourhood League to see what they are doing in terms of engagement.

**ACTION:** Michael Goodmurphy to connected with the Life Resource Centre steering Committee to see if there were any best practices to share.

**ACTION:** Suzanne and Bernie are interested in looking at how to research what is working in other communities in terms of Engagement.

**ACTION:** Nina to circulate compiled best practices.

**ACTION:** Nina to send tasks to Sub-council and allow opportunity for others to volunteer.

### **Wrap up and next meeting**

Nina will work with the Sub-council to schedule a meeting after January 14.

Regrets to:

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