

London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership Inclusion & Civic Engagement Sub-council Thursday, September 16, 2010

Present: Andrea Hallam, Janette Butler, Janice Walter, Rose Aquino, Suzanne Huot, Lourdes Assis, Monica Abdelkader, Valy Marochko, Joan Fisher, Bernie Koeing, Michael Goodmurphy, David Cottrill, Nassisse Solomon, Robin Armistead and Nina Hamou.

Regrets: German Gutierrez, Estela Quintero-Weldon, Jo-Ann Hutchison, Dharshi Lacey, Elisabete Rodrigues, Dieufert Bellot.

Welcomes and Introductions

In the absence of the Chair and vice Chair, Nina led the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of June 24, 2010 were approved.

Update on Central Council

Nina updated the group regarding the work of the Central Council. The Central Council went through a discussion in order to narrow down two priorities to focus on in the first year of implementation. They are:

1. **Supports and services for immigrants and**
2. **Communication**

The Sub-council was referred to the role of the Central Council and LMLIP Sub-councils on page 12 of the Strategic Plan.

The work of the Inclusion & Civic Engagement Sub-Council for this year

The Sub-council participated in a discussion and determined that the 2 priority areas for year 1 to be:

1. **Supports and services for immigrant:**

Strategy:

Promote neighbourhood based activities and events that will provide opportunities for immigrants to engage and participate in their new community.

Recognizing that at least 3 additional strategies in this priority area coincide and augment this strategy.

2. **Media**

Strategy:

Create a multilayered community based Communication Strategy by approaching both mainstream and ethnic media to include the voice of newcomers. For example, establish a process that encourages communities to challenge negative media coverage of immigrants by promoting the use of action alerts which notify the community and service providers to write to media outlets which label groups unfairly.

The group recognizes that both priorities are interconnected. We will begin tackling the first priority by gathering existing resources and leveraging existing information sharing tools in order to promote events in the community.

Action Steps

Two actions required:

1. Mechanism-identify how information is shared
2. Collect and coordinate the information

Goals

Our first goal is to determine an inventory of key neighbourhood information sources and existing networks that identify/promote/ list events and activities. The idea is to identify the existing mechanisms used to promote community, neighbourhood and city wide events.

We will:

- a. Collect existing information sharing resources.
- b. Review existing resources.

ACTION: Nina to create a template to collect information sharing resources.

ACTION: Sub-council members to fill out and send to Nina by Monday, September 27, 2010.

ACTION: Members to think about existing mechanisms for information sharing such as the Immigration Portal, schools, faith groups. How can we streamline communication?

ACTION: Bernie to explore avenues of communication within the ESL programs at Fanshawe.

The group acknowledges that resource supports maybe required based on determined tasks and direction on these initiatives ie: funding, staffing etc.

Valy mentioned the Cross Cultural Learner Centre (CCLC) is currently exploring the idea of a newcomer information and communication centre. CCLC may be able to look into the idea of hosting a person once tasks are more concrete.

Next meeting and Wrap up

The group felt that they would prefer to break out into task based committees in the future once resources were compiled.

Tuesday, October 5th, 1:30-3:30, Location to be confirmed.

Regrets to: nhamou@uwlondon.on.ca