

# London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership Settlement Sub-council Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Present: Mohamed Al-Adeimi, Fadela Ahmed, Mustafa Zahid, Amani Radhaa, Nancy Santos, Eugene Tremblay, Gaston Mabaya, Marel Fielding, Jean-Claude Kilubi, Mayssa El-Sayegh, Rifat Hussain, Lily Johnson, Brian Rhoden, Jill Tansley, Debora Szelepski, Monica Abdelkader, Valy Marochko and Nina Hamou.

## MEETING SUMMARY

### Meeting Minutes

A correction was made to the minutes of June 24, 2010. "Individuals who are abandoned by a sponsor *can* qualify for Ontario Works" Was changed to, "*may* qualify". The membership directory discussed at the previous meeting will be shared with the group after review by the Chair. Minutes of June 24, 2010 were approved.

### Update on Central Council

Mohamed 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: supports and services for immigrants and communication. The role of the Central Council and LMLIP Sub-councils were reviewed by Nina.

### The work of the Settlement Sub-Council for this year

It was suggested that after review of the strategies, each person around the table list the strategies they considered most important. They included:

- Ressources: Information packages/ Immigration Portal (ten votes)
- Collaboration: Enhance and strengthen communication (nine votes)
- Linguistics (one vote)
- Workshops/orientation (two votes)
- Media- advertise settlement services in various forms of media (one vote)
- Counseling for men (one vote)
- Volunteering and mentorship- can we fit it into orientation (two votes)
- Advocacy: how do we continue to support (one vote)

Following further discussion the group has decided to focus on the following strategies:

- Information- Develop a common information package, across the city and county, with all information related to services in a culturally and linguistically relevant way which includes brochures in different languages that explain settlement agencies and all the services they provide ( such as the Settlement Workers in Schools, the Library Settlement Partnership etc.).

- Collaboration/Coordination- Enhance and strengthen communication among service providers.

The group will further discuss the third identified strategy at the next meeting:

- Volunteerism/Mentorship- Create a volunteer management position within organizations whereby volunteers, recruited from both host and immigrant communities, can be trained to provide basic settlement services and ongoing support and follow-up with immigrants when eligibility criteria restrict serving certain population, such as new Canadians or refugee claimants. Goal: Information packages.

The discussion focused on the strategy related to information packages. The group agreed that it was important to leverage our existing resources such as the Immigration Portal website and newsletter. It is a matter of updating and coordinating the facilitation of information.

A sub-committee is needed in order to further guide the implementation of this strategy. Existing resources and detailed information of what needs to be included in the packages need to be developed.

In regards to the information sharing, Jean-Claude Kilubi is able send information related to settlement to be posted at Pearson Airport.

**ACTION: An expression of interest will be sent out by email to Sub-council members.**

### **Wrap up and next meetings**

The issue of the time available to implement the strategy was raised. Do we have one year to implement one strategy or can it be longer? Following consultation with Huda, it is best that our first priority be realistic to finish in our first year, however this question will be taken back to project team.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 10, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Location to be announced.

Regrets to: [nhamou@uwlonodon.on.ca](mailto:nhamou@uwlonodon.on.ca)

