

# **London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership**

## **Settlement Sub-Council**

### **Monday, March 1, 2010**

#### **SUMMARY NOTES**

Present: Mohamed Al-Adeimi, Brian Rhoden, Jill Tansley, Gaston Mabaya, Marel Fielding, Mersija Nuric, Maria del Pillar Silva, Mary Yanful, Ramona Lucan, Mustafa Zahid, Eugene Tremblay, Sunduz Shubbar.

Regrets: Nancy Santos, Maysaa El-Sayegh, Rifat Hussain, Fadela Ahmed.

#### **Minutes**

The group reviewed and approved the minutes. It was noted that the interpretation of int French may be used in this group if it does expand to include those who require it. Nina announced that as for now Citizen and Immigration Canada will be funding interpretation, but it is not yet known if they will fund translation of meeting minutes.

The Minutes were moved by Gaston and approved by Mary.

#### **Introduction:**

Individuals who were not present at the last meeting were introduced and welcomed.

#### **Contact List:**

The group gave its approval for the creation of a contact list which includes the names, emails and organizations of the sub-council members. Those who would not like their names on the list are to contact Nina directly.

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

The goal is the creation of a strategic plan for the Settlement area of focus, no later than April 23, 2010. The final Strategic Plan will be completed and submitted to Citizen and Immigration Canada (CIC) by June 30, 2010.

The group reviewed the gaps organized in the template. The template included information from the Community Action Planning Day, The Community Needs and Capacity Report and the February 19 discussion. The goal of this was to elaborate on points and suggest gaps which were missing.

Key priorities discussed:

- Need to acknowledge that London is a bilingual city and services should be available in French and English.
- Need up to date research regarding the types of immigrants and where they are coming from.
- Connecting newcomers to services
  - Immediate access to information upon arrival (Including the border and all other ways)
  - Communication
  - Welcoming process
- Navigating the system

- Difficulties for immigrants in navigating bureaucratic structures, filling out forms, responding to letters etc
- Managing Finances
  - Credit, transition from government sponsorship, taxes, Phone bills, student credit cards
- Family
  - Families who separate upon arrival (divorce, psychological barriers to adapting)
  - Families who separate geographically (some immigrate and some stay in home country)
  - Issues between Children and Parents (values, language)
  - Childcare (overarching)

**ACTION: Nina to update template with points discussed and send to group.**

The group also discussed compiling statistics related to settlement in the London Community.

**ACTION: Jill Tansley to send statistics on City website and connect with Mo Jeng.**

**ACTION: Nina to connect with Vicki to find out what the University of Western Ontario, Welcoming Communities Initiative, is doing in terms of settlement statistics.**

**ACTION: Nina to explore options for meeting space.**

### **Next Steps**

Next meeting:

March 22, 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

Central Library, Lerner Room

Regards to [nhamou@uwlondon.on.ca](mailto:nhamou@uwlondon.on.ca)