

## **London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership Education Sub-Council**

Monday, September 21, 2011(4-6 P.M.)

Location: Kinsmen Recreation Centre

**Present:** Jean-Pierre Cantin, Muriel Abbott, Susanne Quan, Janet Pinder, Imtiaz Shah, Kate Kennedy, Jo-elle Rinker, Becky Howse, Sheila Carson, Jennifer Smith, Ann Marie Curtin, Nancy Pollard, Denise Taylor Edwards, Mureed Shahid and Huda Hussein

**Regrets:** Shelley Taylor, Farahnaz Faez, Tamara Kaattari, Ramiro Castro and Helen Patterson Yamile Albarracine Cynthia Konnerth, Gebremariam Woldemicael

### **Welcome & Introductions**

Jean-Pierre welcomed the new member Jennifer Smith who leads the literacy group at the Child & Youth Network. He also welcomed the group and thanked them for their continued support and commitment.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

May 18, 2011 Meeting Minutes reviewed and approved

### **Update on Central Council**

Jean-Pierre informed the group that the Central Council is working with a consulting firm to develop a governance model for the LMLIP. Over the summer, the Consultants met with members from the Central Council and Sub-councils and asked several questions pertaining to roles and responsibilities, accountability, terms of office and the current structure of governance. A draft of the model will be presented to Council on Monday September 26 for further discussion and input. The final draft will be shared with all the Sub-councils.

### **Review of Implementation Plan**

Education and Employment Collaborative: Jean-Pierre noted that this Collaborative will be an ongoing committee and that he will be reporting back on a regular basis.

### **Mapping out resources: <sup>1</sup>**

Anne Marie reported on behalf of the work group and Tamara Kaattari. Enhancing Pathways is the project that is looking into mapping existing resources and developing tools to help service providers to identify the need of their clients. Anne Marie also reported that the work group meets on a regular basis and that there will be a round table discussion to be held on October 17 to discuss where language and literacy meet. The project will also address confusion around definitions and will develop checklist and a communication tool by March 31, 2012.

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<sup>1</sup> For details see attached

Anne Marie also shared information on the upcoming conference on literacy featuring Jacques Demers, on November 10 (6-8 p.m.) Details will be shared with the group later.

### **Support for Parents/Students**

Muriel Abbott reported on behalf of the group. Muriel noted that over the summer along with Jean-Pierre and Huda met with Laura Elliott, Executive Superintendent of Program Services at Thames Valley District School Board to inform and engage. LMLIP Education delegate shared with Laura and Diane Goodwin information on LMLIP, and the priorities of the Education Sub-council and how they align with the Board's goal of promoting a positive school climate and the outcomes from the Board's last consultation on equity and diversity. The group was invited to present to the TVDSB Program Council on September 26, 2011.

To get understanding and cooperation from Principals, coordinate efforts and inform about LMLIP and this Sub-council, the following recommendations were noted:

1. Sub-council develops a presentation on a DVD or any other device and this will be shared with Principals across London.
2. Connect with Jeff Robinson with regard to the SWIS Program
3. Education Sub-council can share information through the Board's website both the corporate and the internal sites

The relationship between this work group and the parent involvement committee at both the boards was noted.

Muriel also noted that the work group will meet to discuss their action plan which will involve a parent council that will be supported to apply for the Parents Reaching Out grant.

Denise noted that the school board can apply as well. She also noted that she will join this work group.

### **Other business:**

Jean-Pierre noted that he had a discussion with Denise earlier in the day and requested Denise to share with the Sub-council her decision. Denise noted that given her work condition and the fact that she had not been actively involved in her role as the Vice Chair, she opted to step down as the vice chair. Jean-Pierre thanked her for her role in the past. He requested Muriel Abbott who has been actively involved, coordinated the work of a couple of committees, and represented the Education Sub-council in meeting with the TVDSB, to fill in the position of the Vice chair. There was agreement from Muriel and the Sub-council. Jean-Pierre thanked Muriel for accepting the role.

### **Make Literacy a Way of Life (CYN) project:**

Jennifer noted that the literacy website offers information, links for adults, children, parents and service providers. She also noted that the Education Sub-council goals align with the CYN Literacy group's work. She noted that currently a project at Huron Heights is working with immigrants to promote literacy. Jennifer also noted the family child centers in four neighbourhoods (White Oaks, Westmount, Argyle and Carling) will provide holistic services under one roof. ([www.thisisliteracy.ca](http://www.thisisliteracy.ca))

### TVDSB initiatives:

Denise shared the following:

- the two school boards held the NOW (Newcomer Orientation Week) where 20 peer leaders were trained to receive new students in schools
- Welcome packages given to Elementary and Secondary students.
- Discussion on religious accommodation will be held in the first week of October
- November 14 is bullying awareness day 12 sessions for parents to check out

### Use of Acronyms:

It was noted that many acronyms are used and how we need to clarify them when we use them since there are several different sectors at the table.

**Action:** Jo-elle has a list of acronyms used in the education sector that she will share with the Vice Chair who will bring it to our next meeting with some additional acronyms used at this table.

### Wrap up

Jean-Pierre thanked the Sub-council and encouraged them to commit to the meetings.

### Next Meetings:

November 16, 2011

January 18, 2012

March 21, 2012

**Please note that all meetings will take place from 4-6 p.m. at Kinsmen Recreation Centre, 20 Granville Street**

