



County of Simcoe
Social Services
Children & Community
Services Department
1110 Highway 26,
Midhurst, Ontario L0L 1X0

Main Line (705) 722-3132
Toll Free 1-866-893-9300
Fax (705) 725-9539
simcoe.ca



MINUTES

SUBJECT: Local Immigration Partnership Business Development Sub-Council

MEETING DATE: January 17, 2013 **TIME:** 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

LOCATION: Simcoe County Administration Centre, 1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, ON
Midland Penetanguishene Boardroom

CHAIR: C. Oosterbaan (County of Simcoe)

ATTENDANCE: R. Wisken (LIP), A. Dorsey (Barrie Public Library), C. Benedetti (Orillia CDC), C. Greer (BERN), Kouassi (CCO), M. Kuzma (Nottawasaga Futures), R. Milne (County of Simcoe), T. Plaxton- Smith (Barrie Business Centre), L. Thompson (City of Orillia), I. Pozgaj (LIP), R. Griffiths (LIP)

1. Welcome

C. Oosterbaan welcomed the group and everyone introduced themselves as there were new members at the table.

2. Survey on Newcomer Entrepreneur

The group began by reviewing the purpose and objectives of the study. “Newcomers” and “Immigrant” were defined as someone who was born in another country.

A full review of the survey questions was conducted. Feedback from the group was incorporated into the draft document throughout the meeting. C. Oosterbaan and R. Wisken will further revise the survey based on feedback and for consistency. Once the draft is complete, R. Wisken will circulate the completed version to sub-council members to begin in-depth interviews.

The group discussed the process of the study. It was agreed that first the in-depth interviews will be conducted and then the sub-council will debrief and see if revisions need to be made before the online survey is created. R. Wisken will email the sub-council members with the online survey to disseminate to their contacts and encourage participants to send to newcomers that they know.

Following a discussion regarding incentives for the study, it was agreed that R. Wisken would inquire what type of incentive the LIP could provide, T. Plaxton-Smith would offer a membership to the Entrepreneurs Club, and other members would see if their organizations are able to provide additional incentives.

3. Immigrant Directory “Starting Your Own Business”

The Sub-council reviewed the content of the “Starting Your Own Business” section of the Immigrant Resource Guide. Feedback was incorporated on the draft document.

R. Wisken will connect with the subject matter experts for the sections on: Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs), Small Business Enterprise Centres, Business Enterprise Resource Network (BERN), Barrie Public Library.

4. Succession Planning

Succession planning was recognized by the group as an important topic to discuss but was tabled until

next meeting due to time.

5. Portal Content Review

I.Pozgaj provided a content overview for the “Doing Business” section of the MIO Portal. The sub-council provided feedback and C. Oosterbaan agreed to meet with I. Pozgaj for further review.

6. Next Meeting – February 14, 2013, 10:00 am