



County of Simcoe
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Children & Community Services
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MINUTES

MEETING DATE: 5/23/2013

MEETING TIME: 9:00 am – 11: 30 am

ATTENDANCE: H. Hie (Georgian College); B. Hoysa (MTCU); D. Newell (Northern Lightsw); K. Scott (County of Simcoe); M. Terance (Social Enterprise for Canada); R. Wisken (LIP-recording secretary); M. Poisson (MTCU);

By teleconference: M. Whal (YMCA-Employment)

REGRETS: P. Whittington (Georgian College); L. Woodrow (Carrer Centre-Barrie); S. Plewes (LHINS)

SUBJECT: LIP Employment Sub-Council

1. Welcome / Introductions

R. Wisken welcomed the group on behalf of the Sub-Council Chairs.

2. Roundtable Updates

M. Terrance thanked the LIP for featuring the Welcome Centre in Issue 5 of the Mosaic. The Welcome Centre is developing two new sites in Simcoe County – at Northern Lights in Orillia and the Community Health Centre in Wasaga Beach.

3. Newcomer Case Studies

No new Newcomer Case Studies were shared at the meeting. R. Wisken reiterated the decision made at the previous sub-council meeting to leave “Newcomer Case Studies” as a standing item on the agenda and for sub-council members to contact her prior to a meeting.

4. Portal Launch Update

The Portal Launch was held in Alliston at the Gibson Centre on May 3rd. In attendance were approximately 90 people, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Michael Coteau, and ten local politicians. A choir, a newcomer speaker, dancer and a marketplace after the formal launch where all highlights of the event. Excellent feedback was received by community stakeholders and newcomers who attended the event. The portal site is now linked to the provincial webpage.

H. Hie commented that the Marketplace was a good chance to connect with newcomers and other service providers. She was able to speak with about 25 newcomers during the event.

5. Review Work Plans and further Develop Action Items

- **Employer Education: Brochure**

The Newcomer Education Brochure has been put on hold for the time being, as there are further edits to be made. It was agreed that when the document is ready for sub-council review, it will first be circulated electronically 2 weeks prior to a sub-council meeting and then be put on the agenda to discuss in-person at the meeting.

- **Professional Development: Competency training session**

P. Whittington provided an update on the cultural competency training session electronically. The half-day training will take place in the afternoon on June 24 and the morning of June 25th (repeating sessions) at the County of Simcoe's Administrative Office in the Conference Room. Each session can hold up to 48 participants. The sessions will be facilitated by Suzanne Mardon, who has worked extensively with newcomers for many years. She will be looking at what culture is, the role culture plays in our lives, and how we start to identify who we are and how we relate to others. There will be stories from the newcomers about their experiences. A registration form will be circulated to employment service agencies, literacy network, Ontario Works, and the Employment Sub-Council.

- **Newcomer Education: Newcomer Workshop**

H. Hie provided an update from the Newcomer Education Working Group. The group is in the final stages of developing a Newcomer Employment training workshop. The final workshop will be distributed to employment service agencies and Ontario Works for sites to organize the training for their staff. The information is being developed from the Newcomer Resource Guide and other employment resources. The working group is interested in having it branded similar to other LIP resources (like the Mosaic or the Portal). H. Hie will share the presentation with the sub-council for review in June.

- **Immigrant Employment Council**

The Immigrant Employment Council (IEC) Working Group met on May 1st. This meeting was opened up to the entire sub-council to attend; however only members from the working group were represented. The focus of the meeting was to re-evaluate the role of an IEC in Simcoe County and how it could best support employers and internationally trained professionals. The working group agreed that the Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board would be a good home for the IEC because of its partnership and role in the community and its partners. S. Lee will be providing a presentation to the SMWDB Board of Directors on May 27th.

6. Hireimmigrants.ca

R. Wisken has been in conversation with a representative from hireimmigrants.ca and inquired about obtaining promotional materials and whether the organization engaged in speaking opportunities. Hireimmigrants.ca is has a postcard of their "Roadmap" available and is open to discussion regarding speaking opportunities. The Roadmap postcards can be viewed at:

<http://www.hireimmigrants.ca/resources-tools/roadmap/>

Discussion took place regarding potential sites for speaking opportunities. It was suggested that hireimmigrants.ca might be a good topic to cover at one of the brown bag lunches as well as hosting booth at the job fair in Barrie (Fall 2013).

The sub-council discussed other resources that could be shared with employers including Skills International (www.skillsinternationals.ca) and Career Bridge (www.careerbridge.ca).

Action: Agencies who are interested in obtaining postcards from hireimmigrants.ca can email Stephanie Saunders at ssaunders@maytree.ca.

7. Other Business

- **Newcomer Recognition Awards**

The LIP will be hosting the First Annual newcomer Recognition Awards in October 2013 during the week of Oct 20th (National Citizenship Week). The awards will honour local immigrants for their contributions to the community and businesses/organizations that support them. The sub-council would like to hear more information at the June meeting regarding who is invited to attend and where it will be located.

- **Review of Where in the World by Roberta Neault, Life Strategies**

Sub-Council viewed the presentation “Where in the World” by Roberta Neault, available [here](#). Discussion took place on the relevance of a presentation like this acting as a follow-up to the Cultural Competency training on June 24/25.

Documents Circulated:

The LIP Shared copies of the Mosaic (Issue 5) and the Settlement Brochure. These resources, among others, can be viewed online at <http://sclip.simcoe.ca>.

8. Next Meeting Date: Jun 27, 2013; 9:00 am -11:30 am.