

Toronto Newcomer Council

Quadrant Meeting Minutes

February 27th, 2017

6:00 to 8:00pm

215 Spadina Centre for Social Innovation

Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. What is The Toronto South LIP
3. Anti-Oppression introduction
4. Baseline Survey/ Terms of reference
5. Pathways to Canada
6. Strategic Plan Review

Attendance	
Ashani Ponnampereuma	Luxsiga Ambigaibagan
Gitanjali Verma	Richard Villavicencio
Harold Bisase	Ivan Claude Romero
June Deng	Wendy Ramsumair

Staff	
Paulina Wyrzykowski	Toronto South Local Immigration Partnership/St. Stephen's Community House
Giovanni Rico	Toronto South Local Immigration Partnership/ Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture

1. Welcome and Introductions

Each member was welcomed by LIP staff, and given a chance to introduce themselves and to say something about themselves

2. What is the Toronto South LIP

All members were presented to what the Local Immigration partnerships are. With some of their history and their purpose. They were shown the Toronto south lip structure as well as given the mission and mandate to give some context to the program.

3. Anti-Oppression Frame work

Lip Staff gave an introduction into Anti-oppression. With a definition of what anti-oppression is. It was followed by an exercise so that members could be more aware of their own personal privilege. Members were very grateful and appreciated given them this perspective as they said it would help more in discussion. They all agreed to be part of an inclusive group and that they would be aware of their privilege and how that may change perception.

4. Baseline Survey/terms of reference

Members were given the baseline survey to fill out. After all were completed they were presented with the terms of reference. The terms were explained and all members agreed to them. They thought there would be no need to make any changes.

5. Pathways to Canada

Members were presented with all the various ways that newcomers come to Canada. They were shown immigration numbers and definitions on what each stream means and the benefits and restrictions that they all have. Members asked questions to further get an explanation on the different types of newcomers and shared their own personal experiences.

6. Strategic Plan Review

Members were presented with the upcoming strategic plan for the Toronto South LIP. They were shown the priorities of the next upcoming funding cycle and gave their opinion. They thought that the following needed to be addressed in the plan:

- Labour Relations, underground economy, have the government review companies that hire undocumented workers and then puts them at risk.
- Language concerns: oppression based on accent and Language ability in the workplace
- Abuse from the Live-in-caregiver program: advocate for an oversight mechanism, and with victim services to help victims of abuse.
- Centralized information: add settlement services information in a centralized manner where newcomers are already accessing information
- Engagement in LINC classes: revamp classes to keep students engaged, by creating a safety net, and adding case management. Also work on ending the duplication of services
- There is no exact data of what newcomers are actually going through: the system reinforces and gives feedback, there needs to be a supported supervision that also ends up building capacity.

- Need to create more defined definition of what a newcomer is: how to tap into the expertise of newcomers
- Connecting with accountants to get referral and information
- Quality of services should always be a priority
- Remember that newcomers should be self identifies and not all finish the settlement process at the same time spent in Canada
- French language support

Paulina than said she would take their feedback to the Council to be implemented were possible.

7. Next meeting:

still to be determined