

**Toronto Newcomer Council**

**Quadrant Meeting Minutes**

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

6:00 to 8:00pm

720 Bathurst St. Centre for Social Innovation

**Agenda**

- 1. Welcome and Agenda**
- 2. Comments on last meeting**
- 3. Follow up on interest in Engagement Opportunities**
- 4. Survey on Newcomer Council**
- 5. Focus Group questions**
- 6. Priorities for Engagement**
- 7. Council Members participation/terms of reference**
- 8. Next Meeting**

<b>Attendance</b>	
Ashani Ponnampereuma	Luxsiga Ambigaibagan
Gitanjali Verma	Richard Villavicencio
Harold Bisase	Sergio De Lara
Wendy Ramsumair	

<b>Staff</b>	
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 then where given a small rundown of the agenda. All members approved the agenda.

**2. Comments on last Meeting**

After having received several concerns by the council members of the last city-wide meetings a space was created in the agenda to see how this could be remedied. The

members talked and had several points that should be addressed. There needs to be a more structured plan with better and stricter facilitation. Time management needs to improve as it seems that in order to compensate for presentations taking over the meetings the time for discussion is cut way to short. The group said there is also a feeling of the newcomers being taken for granted as they had all signed up to have their opinions used and that is what is usually dropped from agendas which has led to some members feeling patronized. They also wanted more information on how their input is being used, they did not want their opinions to be used just because there was a box to check on a work plan that involved consultation.

### **3. Follow up on Interest in Engagement Opportunities**

The members wanted a plan to be designed on how their input would be used in all matters not just in the city consultations but also in the LIP working groups. They decided to create a plan of action before all activities were members would be present so that they could have a coordinated voice. So in the future members would like a space to be able to meet before activities like the working group meetings of the LIP so they can be prepared and have a more consolidated input. Keeping this in mind there was also a call for a feedback mechanism for members who attend events so that can be brought back to the group. If more than one member attends an event, than one member would collect feedback and report to the group. All engagement opportunities will be resent to the group and Staff will collect the information and send to the respective contacts.

### **4. Survey on Newcomer Council**

Baseline survey was re issued and members were given time to fill out. Some members took the survey home and would submit via email.

### **5. Focus Group Questions**

1. What specific knowledge or experience have you gained in your involvement with the TNC this term?
  - Opportunity to discuss issues and that their input is being used
  - Members gained knowledge on how government works
  - A lot of new information has been received and knowledge on how to better utilize resources
2. As a result of your involvement with the TNC, what experiences have you gained while participating in any civic engagement activities on a local or municipal level?
  - Being able to engage in different aspects of the Toronto South LIP Council
  - Gaining leadership skills
  - Being involved in the Toronto south LIP civic engagement project was very beneficial training
3. What would you like to see happening in the 2nd term of the TNC?
  - The start of their own networking meeting
  - More engagement in the community
  - Mentorship programs for the council and by the council

4. Please indicate your availability for a potential project of interest.
  - Most of the members said evening and weekend for trainings only, while a couple said only evenings
5. Is there any other feedback or suggestions you would like to share?
  - More practice or opportunities to use what they have learned
  - need to work on how to effectively engage the diversity of the group and all the talents that the council possesses
  - there should be more opportunity for this from the beginning as there seemed to be too much hand holding.

## **6. Priorities for Engagement**

Members decided they wanted to prioritize more advocating for newcomers and helping direct newcomers. There was also more interest in involvement in newcomer activities. Members also wanted to initiate research that would really tap into the areas of need for newcomers. Members want to be added to the weekly updates. Want to see more on the numbers on how many newcomers are falling through the cracks.

## **7. Council Members participation/terms of reference**

Members were reminded on the terms of reference especially to their commitment of time as well as attendance. Members then decided that there was ample opportunity for the council member who has missed most of the meetings and that a replacement process should be started after the member has been given notice of his removal from the council.

## **8. Next Meeting**

The next council meeting will be a city wide meeting and it will be scheduled for October 18, 2017