

Minutes: TSLIP Newcomer Council Meeting

July 14, 2021 - 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm (Zoom)

Present: Jassi Ranauta (TSLIP - The Neighbourhood Group), Rozeta Aleksov (TSLIP – The Neighbourhood Group), Paulina Wyrzykowski (TSLIP – The Neighbourhood Group), Nadia Umadat (TSLIP – Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture), Chen Zhao, Gitanjali Verma, Temilola Awonuga, Ravi Yadav, Sergio Delaras, Zainab Lawal

Minutes: Jassi Ranauta (TSLIP – The Neighbourhood Group)

I= Information Di=Discussion Dc=Decision A=Action

	Agenda Item
I	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land Acknowledgement• Introduction/Check-In
I	TSLIP: A (Brief) Year in Review: 2020-2021 Strategic Plan Two Strategic Directions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting a “Just Recovery” from COVID-19• Improving outcomes for newcomers on 3 identified priority areas<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Access to services/access to technology2. Employment3. Health & Mental Health Supporting a “Just Recovery” from COVID-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anti-Racism/Anti-Xenophobia Initiatives<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Development and delivery of anti-racism professional development opportunities for LIP members

- National LIP Secretariat work included conducting a scan of capacity and existing knowledge around anti-racism work. The data from this scan was used to develop and deliver an Anti-Racism Workshop Series for LIP staff across Canada.
- Support for Sector Transition to Blended Service Provision
 - Creation of online repositories of learning and reopening protocols for agencies
 - Professional development opportunities for LIP members on how to shift to Engaged Virtual Volunteering to support their programs and on using digital messaging apps (e.g. WhatsApp and Telegram) and effective outreach to newcomers to engage with programming.
- Stakeholder Engagement and Feedback
 - Continued engagement by TSLIP with government through the National Settlement and Integration Council (NSIC) where feedback was provided from TSLIP's Access to Technology Report to the NSIC's Technology Task Force. Feedback also provided to federal government on delayed work permit renewals that lead to changes being made to that process.
 - Weekly update to all TSLIP members will continue once a new Communications staff member is hired
 - Several one-off consultations carried out by TSLIP and partners: School Board Round Table on Return to School, Toronto Public Health Consultations, and Newcomer Council input to Crisis Response Teams (City of Toronto).

Support for Newcomers on Priority Issues: Access to Services & Technology; Employment; Health and Mental Health

- TSLIP's Systemic Issues and Social Change Working Group conducted a survey with newcomer serving sector staff and newcomers on access to technology during the pandemic. The report was shared with various tables and decision-makers and was well received.
- TSLIP supported our Inter-LIP partners (TWLIP, TNLIP, TEQLIP, Toronto Newcomer Office) to conduct 3 joint newcomer needs assessments to identify emerging and changing needs throughout the year
- TSLIP developed 4 webinars for service providers on Employment and Workers' Rights, Tenants' Rights, and Financial Benefits during COVID-19. A complimentary resource document was created and shared with partners based on these webinars.
- A front-line support network was created for staff in the sector to talk to their colleagues about their experiences in the sector and featuring occasional guest speakers.

I	<p>TSLIP Strategic Planning 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs assessment survey was developed and shared with our partnership • Preliminary conversations have taken place to get input from our Working Groups, Newcomer Council, and TSLIP Partnership Council • The next steps will include conducting Focus Groups based on the most emerging needs and urgent topics from this data • Anti-Racism will be central in our strategic planning process and subsequent plan. This will include an organizational review of how TSLIP is structured with input informing how the Newcomer Council could potentially play a bigger role in our decision-making process as well. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Newcomer Council is considered experts on the LIP to an extent and we are exploring ways in which the current Newcomer Council involvement could go further to incorporate more decision-making if the Council is interested. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategizing on how to connect Newcomer Council better to our Executive • TSLIP will look to refresh the Newcomer Council and hope that existing members will agree to be mentors to those coming onboard if capacity allows. • Newcomer Council connections to the National LIP Secretariat (NLS) project, a national body connecting all LIPs across Canada together; along with Jasper LIP, TSLIP is one of 2 co-leads on the NLS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Currently over 80 LIPs across Canada, many with Newcomer Councils/Immigrant Advisory Committees ○ Looking to better incorporate newcomer lived experiences, expertise, into the NLS itself as well; TSLIP Newcomer Council will be approached on how best to do this. <p>Two opportunities for participation in strategic planning going forward will be available for the Newcomer Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the local level with TSLIP: via the Focus Group in September (date TBD) and a chance to review all of the draft documents • NLS: Fall planning event will include newcomer councils and an opportunity to give input to the actual structure of the NLS as its developed. <p>Suggestion: can NLS help create an opportunity to report their experiences with discrimination anonymously?</p>
---	--

- IRCC will be conducting something similar: focus groups with newcomers to share their experiences and how to respond. TSLIP will connect with Newcomer Council on this specifically when those dates have been announced.
- Mentorship of new Newcomer Council members will be informed by current Newcomer Council members and their experiences when they first joined (e.g., What would have been helpful for you?); What should the format and commitment be?

DI	<p>Newcomer Council Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members in attendance asked: “Are you, as the Newcomer Council, interested in a more central decision-making role with TSLIP? What are your concerns, if any? What would make it easier for you to on that role?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Additional clarity requested on the role and workload this would entail. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The intention is not to create additional workload and meetings, but to refocus the work of the Newcomer Council which does not mean more meetings but rather meetings that incorporate decision-making on specific actions. ○ Some Council members shared that this refocusing is welcomed; there were some feelings that the Newcomer Council was disconnected from other parts of TSLIP in the past • Focus Group in September to be determined by Doodle Poll in mid-August. • NLS is developing a podcast with a focus on newcomer experiences in Canada; this opportunity is open to TSLIP Newcomer Council members – Jassi will share more details by email on how to get involved.
DI	<p>Discussion on Emerging Newcomer Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts of the pandemic on networking and its impact on employment opportunities • Need for creating space for newcomer experiences on racism and discrimination • Disconnection between newcomer credentials and employment opportunities depending on sector (i.e. what is required in finance vs tech sectors); this needs to be addressed at the policy level • Pre-arrival support gaps in employment • Opportunities for future growth and employment advancement for newcomers • Access to information about existing programming and support for newcomers
I	<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>∄ TBD by Doodle Poll in August</p>

--	--