

Minutes: Newcomer Services Collaboration Working Group

June 17, 2021 - 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm (Zoom)

Present: Jassi Ranauta (TSLIP - The Neighbourhood Group), Alla Minasova (YMCA – Newcomer Information Centre), Cindy Kwan (MotherCraft), Angelica Hernandez (Salvation Army), Sidney Coles (Windmill Microlending), Michelle Gordon (CARE Centre for Internationally Educated Nurses), Laura Dowding (ACCES Employment)

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	Strategic Planning Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An update on strategic planning with findings from the TSLIP needs assessment and Council meeting will be shared next meeting• Jassi provided an update of where TSLIP is with its strategic planning process and an overview of next steps:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ TSLIP has developed and shared a needs assessment with partners, members are encouraged to fill out and share if they haven't already done so.○ TSLIP Council will build off of the findings of the needs assessment to narrow down the most urgent themes to inform direction of strategic plan○ Focus groups based on these themes to identify specific issues○ Working Group to develop our workplan based on identified themes and specific issues.

DI	<p>Debrief/Emerging Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space created for those in attendance to debrief and discuss recent news of Islamophobic hate-motivated terrorist attack in London, ON and news of 215 unmarked graves of Indigenous children at Kamloops, BC residential school site. • Important to acknowledge, place and identify these events with newcomers so that we are having honest conversations about Canada • Huge increase in Anti-Asian racism and discrimination during the pandemic • Some organizations have been creating spaces for staff to debrief and discuss recent events • Hard but necessary conversations to be had around how newcomers are positioned as settlers which can be difficult to navigate, especially among newly arrived newcomers • Important to remember that experiences with racism and discrimination, while shared among peoples of colour, are unique to specific communities (i.e. Indigenous, Black, South Asian, etc.) with varying degrees of access, privilege, etc.
DI	<p>Strategic Planning Discussion</p> <p>Continued discussion on sector needs and emerging needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression will be more central in TSLIP's strategic plan • Suggestion: working with LINC/ESL programs to ensure curriculum content includes residential schools, settler colonialism, BIPOC community experiences/histories in Canada. • More anti-racism/anti-discrimination education geared towards employers, particularly in those where racialized newcomers are highly represented • POC Representation within the physical space/environment of places of employment • POC Representation in upper management and boards
DI	<p>Sector Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRCC – Toronto Community Planning Consultations – Date TBA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify potential funding gaps and community needs for rest of the fiscal year <p>Funding Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Intersectoral Action Fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/funding-opportunities/grant-contribution-funding-opportunities/call-for-applications-intersectoral-action-fund.html ● World Education Service (WES) Mariam Assefa Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.wes.org/fund/partner-with-us/
I	<p>Organizational Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New YMCA Agincourt building to be completed by 2025.
I	<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>€ Thursday July 15, 2021 1-2pm</p>