

TORONTO SOUTH LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

NOTES – COUNCIL MEETING

*Monday, June 11, 2018, 10am to noon
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture
194 Jarvis St, Toronto*

Agenda:

1. **Welcome, Introductions**
2. **Emerging Issues**
 - LIPs on the national scene
 - 2019/20 IRCC CFP
 - Toronto refugee claimant influx
3. **Working Group Update**
4. **Provincial Elections: Where do we go from here?**
5. **AOB + Council Meeting Dates**

IN ATTENDANCE	
ORGANIZATION	REPRESENTATIVE
ACCES Employment	Cameron Moser
St. Stephen's Community House	Bill Sinclair
Toronto Public Health	Lisa King
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture	Mulugeta Abai
Toronto Newcomer Office	Ruth Antwiwaa
Toronto Public Health	Pam Haines
Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada	Lorna Harmon
Toronto South LIP – Newcomer Council	Richard Villavicencio
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives	Sean Meagher
Toronto District School Board	Sevgul Topkara-Saru
Access Alliance Multicultural Health and CS	Shankari Balendra
Kensington-Bellwoods Community Legal Services	Tim Maxwell
Neighbourhood Legal Services	Jenny Stone
University Settlement	Behnaz Azad

Polycultural Community Services	Olga Bedrikova
Social Planning Toronto	Peter Clutterbuck
CONC	Akeya Dixon
CET	Marjorie Girdharry
Afghan Women's Organization	Adeena Niazi
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture	Abdul Abubaker
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture	Teresa Dremetsikas
FCJ Refugee Centre	Francisco Rico
LIP PROJECT TEAM	
Social Planning Toronto	Angelica de Jesus-Bretschneider
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture	Giovanni Rico
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture	Mariam Azimi
St. Stephen's Community House	Paulina Wyrzykowski
St. Stephen's Community House	Nadine Nasir
Woodgreen Community House	Sandra Guerra

Facilitation: Paulina Wyrzykowski, TSLIP Project Director

1.0 Emerging Issues

LIPs on the National Scene

- 15 LIPs were invited to attend the NSC+ Meeting in Ottawa on June 14 and 15th, purpose was to collect insight and obtain insight from participants on recommended priorities for the National Call for Proposals coming out in spring 2019.
- LIPs are starting to organize nationally, including working on a proposal for a National LIP Secretariat (process led by Calgary LIP).

Toronto Refugee Influx

Toronto has seen a significant influx of refugee claimants since 2016, increasing the proportion of refugee claimants in city shelters per night from 11.2% to 40.8%.

Due to lack of shelter space, refugee claimants are being temporarily housed at Centennial College Residence and Humber College. These residences will need to be

vacated by August 8 in preparation for students returning. There is currently no plan on where refugee claimants will be relocated to.

Toronto LIPs have been asked to help coordinate provision of services to refugee claimants, especially those housed in the residences. We have conducted a scan of our member organizations to determine service capacity and are hoping for further insight on needs and available resources from this meeting.

Discussion:

Services Being Provided:

- Toronto Public Health is providing some services in the dorms.
- TDSB is running summer youth camps in the hotels.
- FCJ is providing presentations in hotels, shelters etc on Introduction/Orientation to the Toronto system of services available, deadlines, etc.

Service Needs:

- Housing, employment, guidance through immigration process and related requirements (medical exams, work permits, OW),
- Children's services in the dorms and hotels.

Challenges:

- Rise in uninsured people seeking services at ER (some are refugee claimants who do not yet have IFH some maybe undocumented migrants who have not made a claim).
- Refugee Claimants do not get processed at port of entry; they are given a piece of paper with website information where forms can get downloaded and within two weeks they will then have appointments to be input in the system. Because refugee claimants are not being fully processed at port of entry, they cannot apply for ODSP/OW immediately (don't have proper documentation until claim is fully made), which delays their access to income support.
- Organizations are feeling overwhelmed with increase in refugee claimants requiring support, are conducting triage to make sure they attend to most urgent cases.
- Timelines with capacity are complicated because needs are filtered by multiple deadlines for different stages in the immigration process.
- TDSB: We have no more capacity in Youth Summer Camps in hotels. Schools have an increase of 200 students in 2 weeks and our newcomer resources are exhausted.

Suggestions:

- The 519 should be included in any service coordination efforts as many among the refugee claimants identify as LGBTQ+.
- LHIN's should be included in the discussion around health care.
- Black Cap should be contacted to see if they are getting an influx.
- We should reach out to faith based Nigerian churches or organizations to increase their capacity to help.
- Childcare is FULL, however there is no need for Child care if the parents do not have work permits/ employment and are able to care for their children at home. Therefore, we might need to identify networks that meet other needs like mother and child orientation, early childhood development etc.
- We can have a website where we all share communications on different agencies and programs that can help. Also have a webinar to answer questions like "why are Nigerians coming?"
- Many organizations have funding that does not cover helping Refugee claimants so maybe put together a list of agencies that CAN help refugee claimants fill out forms, housing and medical needs. Maybe we can have a helpline where people call and they get the information.
- We have to advocate for expanding Federal eligibility criteria to include refugee claimants.

2.0 Working Group Updates

Overview of our current projects provided for Council.

3.0 Provincial Election

Overview provided by Sean Meagher from Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives:

The new Conservative government will likely move swiftly to implement their top priorities, and will be successful in doing so. The Provincial government is set up to afford the Premier a significant amount of power. We should expect to see a review of spending and scrutiny of social services. Ministries will likely be merged with others, including likely the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration.

The government is likely to be quite sensitive to the opinions of its base – in order to move forward on specific issues it will be helpful to find common ground with the conservative base. Other suggestions for moving forward include: building relationships

early with political staff, deputy ministers, and others in the “political machine”, thinking long-term, building partnerships with others across province.

4.0 AOB