

**TORONTO SOUTH LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP**

**NOTES – COUNCIL MEETING**

*Wednesday, June 5, 2019, 10am to noon*

*WoodGreen Community Services, 815 Danforth Ave, 1st floor Boardroom*

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome, Introductions
2. Emerging Issues and TSLIP Business
  - TSLIP Executive Committee Vote
  - Legal Aid Cuts + Safe Third Country
  - Provincial and City Budget implications
3. Debrief from the CFP process
4. Presentation: What are Microaggressions?
5. TSLIP Diversity Survey Results and next steps
6. 2019-2020 TSLIP Working Group Projects
7. AOB

<b>IN ATTENDANCE</b>	
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>REPRESENTATIVE</b>
ACCES Employment	Aimee Holmes
St. Stephen's Community House	Bill Sinclair
Toronto Newcomer Office	Ruth Antiwaa
West Neighbourhood House	Jovie Galit
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture	Mulugeta Abai
DIA	Francey Blair
DIA	Jennifer Chan
WoodGreen	Diane Dyson
University Settlement	Sharifa Sharif
Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport	Shannon Todd
Parkdale Community Information Centre	Cassandra Wong
Kensington-Bellwoods Community Legal Services	Tim Maxwell

CCLCS	Dawn Michael
York University	Ranjith Kulatilake
The Neighbourhood Group	Kathleen Roath
Toronto District Schoolboard	Oscar Chimenti
Centre for Education and Training	Marjorie Girdharry
Together Project	Anna Hill
Afghan Women's Organization	Adeena Niazi
CARE	Ruth Lee
Family Services Toronto	Liyu Giao
CAMH	Norma Hannant
COSTI	Trudy Small
Kababayan	Loida Gatchalian
Catherine McNeely	University Settlement
WoodGreen	Mohan Doss
MCIS Language Services	Lester Korbely
Toronto Public Health	Michele Ashem
Inner City health Associates	Alena Ravestein
George Brown College	Pamela Glaser French
Welcome Home TO	Rania Younes
Crossroads Clinic	Vanessa Wright
Together Project	Andrew Lusztyk
<b>LIP PROJECT TEAM</b>	
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture	Giovanni Rico
St. Stephen's Community House	Paulina Wyrzykowski

**Facilitation:** Paulina Wyrzykowski, TSLIP Project Director

## 1.0 Welcome and Introductions

## 2.0 Emerging Issues and TSLIP Business:

- **TSLIP Executive Committee Vote**

Jennifer Chan was acclaimed as member of TSLIP Executive Committee effective immediately.

- **Legal Aid Cuts + Safe Third Country**

Paulina Wyrzykowski presented updates on recent provincial and federal developments as regards Legal Aid cuts in Ontario and the possible expansion of the Safe Third Country agreement.

Discussion:

CCVT is concerned as there will not be funding for a lot of the services that refugee claimant clients access via Legal Aid, such as psychiatrist reports

We need to work together to advocate for refugee claimants, as there is concern about client vulnerability; in the absence of Legal Aid, refugee claimants can easily be misdirected by unskilled or unscrupulous “helpers”

Crossroads clinic- don't know how this will affect services and looking for clarification

Costi- Looking at how the housing situation is hurting the claimants as most of them are coming out of the shelter system.

CAMH- no impact yet but concerned about the cuts to mental health reports which in the past were covered by Legal Aid.

Form filling can be a concern. Many refugees are confused about the system and are looking for help, but looking to get legal information and need someone who they can get who can protect their confidentiality.

Friends are being used to help navigate the system, or through their religious communities. This can lead to getting wrong advice.

Refugee claimants don't only need help with immigration issues but also landlord and tenant, work legislation and social assistance and the cuts will affect access to those services.

- **Provincial and City Budget implications**

Bill presented on what the overall cuts are going to affect

- Library
- Public health
- Transitional Child benefit
- Municipal transfers
- Education
- Health care
- No cuts to NSP as of yet

There needs to be a coordinated advocacy effort. Consider joining OCASI if you are not already a member, as this can increase our overall advocacy effectiveness. Municipalities all over the province protesting has gotten the govt attention.

Discussion:

We need to look at what the boards will do to with the school board cuts, need to push the IFH plan to help cover the costs of what is being cut in Legal Aid.

Recent survey done about Canadians attitude towards refugees was alarming. We need to focus on how these cuts affect the general population, make it clear impact will not be limited to refugee claimants.

### **3.0 Debrief from the CFP process**

Paulina Wyrzykowski reviewed steps taken by TSLIP in the lead up to the CFP and asked for feedback on the CFP process:

- What worked? What didn't work? How was it different from prior calls?
- How can the TSLIP facilitate future collaborations?
- Feedback for IRCC?

Discussion

Concerns about the short time lines; hard to develop partnerships; not set up for real collaboration.

Challenging that the proposal always treat the applicants as strangers despite some agencies having been funded for years.

Word counts were challenging

Hard to do detailed work plans for five years, but overall the 5 year span was a positive.

Appreciate all the consultations and collaboration done by IRCC and LIPs ahead of CFP to identify priorities they did not fund before like mental health

Felt supported by the LIPs

IRCC Info sessions could not answer questions

Desire for there to be a parallel word document that could then be transferred to the application

Professional grant writers are good thing to help in the process; LIP did grant writing workshop before and maybe we can move to do a second version

Did not like the character count vs word count

Conversation on how it always hard to make the connection with the organization

Would be helpful to have a repository of articles and report to use in proposals

Extend application process to help facilitate collaboration

**TSLIP undertook to take these reflections back to IRCC via the next narrative report.**

### **3.0 Presentation: What are Microaggressions?**

Ranjith Kulatilake presented on Microaggressions asking Council members to reflect on how these might present in the newcomer context.

- Please see presentation, attached.

### **4.0 TSLIP Diversity Survey Results and next steps**

- Please see report, attached.

### **5.0 2019-2020 TSLIP Working Group Projects**

- Please see presentation, attached.

### **6.0 AOB**