

TORONTO SOUTH LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

NOTES – COUNCIL MEETING

*Thursday, September 12, 2019, 10am to noon
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture, 194 Jarvis Street*

Agenda:

1. Welcome, Introductions
2. Emerging Issues and TSLIP Business
 - TSLIP Staffing Updates
 - TSLIP: The way forward
 - Debrief from Metropolis International
3. Presentation: How can Indigenous and Settlement organizations work together more closely?
4. Outcomes of the CFP process
5. AOB

6. Lunch and Networking

IN ATTENDANCE	
ORGANIZATION	REPRESENTATIVE
ACCES Employment	Tamara Sirota
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture	Adriana Lilic
Toronto Newcomer Office	Muna Gaye
West Neighbourhood House	Shaída Addetia
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture	Mulugeta Abai
Scadding Court Community Centre	Brenda Morse
Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic	Callandra Cochrane
IRCC	Fatima Saher
University Settlement	Catherine Mcneely
Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport	Shannon Todd
CMAS Canada	Heather Savazzi

Kensington-Bellwoods Community Legal Services	Tim Maxwell
CCLCS	Dawn Michael
CultureLink	Ibrahim Absiyeh
The Neighbourhood Group	Kathleen Roath
Toronto District Schoolboard	Sevgul Topkara
Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council	Lindsay Kretschmer
Together Project	Andrew Luszyk
Refugee Sponsorship Training Program	Nadine Nasir
Polycultural Immigrant and Community Services	Olga Bedrikova
Family Services Toronto	Sophia Ali
CAMH	Norma Hannant
YMCA	Sarita Bhatta
Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre	Tiffany Nananso
Urban Matters	Valentina Briceno Strocchia
CultureLink	Cassandra Wong
MCIS Language Services	Lester Korbely
Sistering	Zahra Bolouk
Inner City health Associates	Alena Ravestein
LIP PROJECT TEAM	
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture	Giovanni Rico
St. Stephen's Community House	Paulina Wyrzykowski
St. Stephen's Community House	Gabriela Casineanu
WoodGreen Community Services	Sandra Guerra

Facilitation: Paulina Wyrzykowski, TSLIP Project Director

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

2.0 Emerging Issues and TSLIP Business:

- TSLIP Staffing Updates

Sandra Guerra (Communications) has returned from leave. Gabriela Casineanu (Community Coordinator) has joined TSLIP on short term contract.

- **TSLIP: The Way Forward**

Both TSLIP CFPs have been accepted in principle. Negotiations will take place after federal elections. National LIP Secretariat: leadership TSLIP and Jasper LIP, separate governance structure, agreement to start in 2022, looking for bridging funding to carry on some activities until the grant starts. Presented National LIP Secretariat purpose (see presentation).

- **Debrief from Metropolis International**

Sixty percent of newcomers are projected to come from economic stream, there was some public acknowledgement by IRCC that irregular migration is not a real problem given the small numbers involved (especially as compared to rest of world.),

Canada seen as an example in the world, IRCC emphasized need for local support from LIPs and other local community of support,

To maintain support for immigration we must focus on positive messages and also show Canadians supporting newcomers – private sponsors can play a part in this.

3.0 Presentation: How can Indigenous and Settlement organizations work together more closely?

Presenter: *Lindsay (Swooping Hawk) Kretschmer from the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC)*

Lindsay began with an overview of the indigenous history of Toronto.

- 1787 Toronto Purchase is the treaty initiated by the colonial settlers to acquire land from the indigenous people in this area.
- Indigenous' ways of signing treaty is not through writing, but through oral agreement and through the "Two Row Wampum" which symbolizes Peace, Friendship, & Respect, and the importance of the treaty parties working alongside each other and not in interference with one another.
- City of Toronto's Coats of Arms-the 1998 amalgamation has removed Indigenous symbol from the Arms

Current Day:

- The Toronto Aboriginal Research Project (TARP) report, completed in 2011, highlighted three consistent themes including Poverty, Racism, and Visibility that have been witnessed across sectors serving and collaborating with indigenous people.
- Indigenous people still fight for basic rights (housing, clean water), reconciliation. Want to live in a Canada that is inclusive for all people (including indigenous). Are resilient. Both culture and children are the centre of indigenous community (culture passed along by elders, all contribute to raise children). The colonizers shattered the indigenous communities by forcing children to go to residential schools (outside of their community).

What now?

- Fulfill the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Allow the indigenous population to rebuild their community. Engage with urban community, leaders, stakeholders to establish trust. Read about/stay current on indigenous issues (books by indigenous authors). Participate in indigenous events. Empower indigenous people to author their own outcomes, self-determination. Build meaningful relationships with indigenous population. Bring indigenous considerations in policies, programs, and initiatives whenever possible. Include indigenous. Hire them.
- To engage productively with indigenous organizations, reach out with a clear ask if you need for more accurate information or to invite indigenous people to events you organize. More information: <https://www.tassc.ca/>

Discussion:

- The settlement sector is in a perpetual capacity crisis. How it can help? > engage in long-term planning, build and maintain connections
- If you need indigenous artists for your events > contact indigenous organizations and ask for recommendations
- To develop strategic partnerships with indigenous organizations > Be clear on your objectives and what's the benefit for them (e.g. space). It takes time (MOU with United Way took one year to develop).
- How can we do better? > Collaborate, build bridges (they want to understand us too)

- The Toronto Newcomer Office is very excited and interested > Builds a strategy on how to educate newcomers, to create resources (process similar to BC, but is in the early stages)
- ESL students, citizens > Need to be taught, to be aware. For training > Be aware what you select, local context
- We need to advocate (funders, government), we need to commit to reconciliation and recognizing indigenous people. In BC, government worked together with them to build resources
- If you want to organize an event an invite an indigenous speaker, how soon in advance > ASAP
- Ask yourself: who's in your circle and who else needs to be
- Email Lindsay if needed - she's happy to help (be patient)
- Appropriate ways to show up to an indigenous event: come as you are and be open to participate. In a ceremonial space, the elders will tell you what to do. For an older/elder: give an honorarium or a gift.
- We need to educate ourselves about reconciliation (in general meetings, PD days). Include someone in TSLIP Executive Committee. Meet them half way and do our best.

4.0 Outcomes of the CFP process

Mapping exercise: understand what organizations received funding

- Council members used Post-it notes to indicate on the Toronto map the location of services that received funding. The priorities previously identified by Council were reflected in successful CFPs: Mental Health, Youth, Seniors. All existing programs (among those present in the room) received approvals in principle.
- Several new proposals were not funded > suggestions: collaborate for group programs, look for other partners, new to IRCC - partner with an established IRCC funded service provider.
- Generally seeing average of 2% increases on existing programs.
- 79 new organizations across Canada received funding; at least one in Toronto.

5.0 AOB

Council Members voted to set TSLIP Council dates in advance for the whole year. Dates for Council meetings until end of March 31, 2020 will be sent out by the Director shortly.