

Working Together Better

August 2017 Volume 4 Issue 1



LIP LOCAL IMMIGRATION
PARTNERSHIP
TORONTO SOUTH

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Toronto South LIP Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020

The Toronto South Local Immigration Partnership (TSLIP) is a community collaboration focused on developing local settlement strategies that coordinate and enhance service delivery to newcomers while promoting innovation and efficient use of resources. The TSLIP seeks to engage various stakeholders in the partnership development process, including employers, school boards, boards of trade, levels of government, local associations, ethno-cultural associations, faith-based organizations and the community, legal, health and social services sector. Members have been engaged in the development of our Strategic Plan for the past several months.

The process took a collective impact approach, asking the following questions:

- What is the impact that the TSLIP wants to make on the lives of newcomers?
- What will we do to achieve this impact?
- What impact can we hold ourselves accountable for in this timeframe?

The Toronto South LIP recognizes that many newcomers experience some form of marginalization after arriving in Canada, and that marginalization and discrimination are

barriers to successful integration. Over time, marginalization can also contribute to a deterioration in newcomers' physical and mental wellbeing, further complicating the settlement process.

The Strategic Plan was approved in May 2017. This newsletters is a summary of the plan, **a full detailed version of the Strategic Plan can be found on our website here:** <http://bit.ly/2ia9tXJ>



Toronto South LIP Strategic Plan - Summary

The Strategic Plan for the Toronto South LIP is comprised of **3 Strategic Directions**. Below is a summary of the plan and projects for the upcoming year.

For a full detailed version of the Strategic Plan, go to <http://bit.ly/2ia9tXJ>

A. Welcoming & Inclusive Community

Develop Toronto South as a world class 'Welcoming Community' for newcomers – a community that is inclusive, diverse, non-discriminatory, barrier-free and proud of being a world model of welcoming inclusion for others.

1. Ensure newcomers are included, engaged and welcomed.
2. Take a stand against hate, discrimination and xenophobia.
3. Identify and support the delivery by member organizations of shared community activities such as art, sport, and culture.

Projects Include:

- Developing a 'Newcomer Speakers Bureau'
- *Being an Active Citizen* leadership curriculum
- Toronto South Newcomer Council
- Research on what makes a successful welcoming campaign
- Developing a Communication Strategy to illustrate how projects create a welcoming community
- Showcasing stories about finding housing for Privately Sponsored Refugees
- Continuing to develop 'Welcome2School' website
- Promoting schools as welcoming hubs
- Participation in Toronto Newcomer Week

B. Seamless Newcomer Settlement

Work to create a seamless newcomer settlement experience in Toronto South through easily accessible services that are coordinated, high-quality, culturally appropriate, barrier-free, and available regardless of immigration status or length of time in Canada whenever possible.

1. Enhance the accessibility of newcomer services in Toronto South by supporting:
 - a) policy and service delivery changes to permit service eligibility regardless of immigration status or length of time in Canada whenever possible.
 - b) partnership development between large and small service agencies and
 - c) partnership-based itinerant services, service co-location/hubs, and cross-sector service coordination.
2. Begin to build an integrated service navigation system in Toronto South that provides a 'No Wrong Door' experience.
3. Ensure that services available to newcomers in Toronto South are high quality, culturally appropriate, and barrier-free.

Projects include:

- Collaboration Award
- 'Mental Health Ambassadors' Project
- Updating Pathways to Settlement Tool
- Partnering with neighbourhood networks on service navigation projects
- Participating in 'Bridges 2018 Collaboration Forum'
- Parkdale 'Common Intake and Referral' protocol (ongoing)
- Participating in 'Pathways to Prosperity' conference planning

C. Emerging Issues & Policy Responses

Ensure that the Toronto South Local Immigration Partnership remains relevant to newcomers and responsive to emerging community needs.

1. Review existing research or conduct new research to identify changing local demographics, emerging newcomer service needs, existing gaps in services available to newcomers, patterns or trends in newcomer service access.
2. Developing a 'Policy Framework.'
3. Identify and respond to critical and emerging issues affecting newcomers in Toronto South.
4. Continue to critically review and strengthen TSLIP processes.

Projects include:

- Identifying emerging research needs
- Undertaking research that support current Strategic Plan priorities
- Interpretation of data for community use
- Developing a policy framework
- Ongoing engagement with other networks
- Seeking new sources of funding/membership fees
- Renewing engagement/recruitment of TSLIP membership
- TSLIP annual evaluation

LIP Working Groups

With the completion of the Toronto South LIP Strategic Plan we are now engaging our current members and outreaching to new members to collaborate with us in fulfilling our goals.

The projects outlined in the Strategic Plan are achieved through the dedication, hard work, ideas and vision of our Working Group members who work with and support newcomers in our catchment area.

In addition to the projects outlined in the Strategic Plan, the Working Groups will be completing existing projects currently on their work plans. New members are always welcome and now is an exciting time to join as we embark on new and innovative projects. (See listing on following page)

Interested in collaborating with us? Don't hesitate to contact us for more information.



Interested in joining a Toronto South LIP Working Group?

**Contact Giovanni Rico at
grico@ccvt.org**

LIP Working Groups – Projects for 2017-2018

Health & Mental Health Working Group

- ‘Mental Health Ambassadors’ project – connecting settlement workers with identified ‘champion’ Mental Health Practitioners

Settlement Services Working Group

- Work on updating the ‘Pathways to Settlement’ tools, making sure to also include resources for ineligible clients.
- Promoting schools as welcoming hubs

Social Inclusion Working Group

- Developing a ‘Newcomer Speaker’s Bureau’ jointly with Toronto South Newcomer Council
- *Being an Active Citizen* leadership curriculum
- Promoting schools as welcoming hubs



Systemic Issues & Social Change

- Showcasing stories about finding housing for Privately Sponsored Refugee
- Research on what makes a successful welcoming campaign
- Interpretation of data for community use
- Completing research on ‘IRCC Service Usage’ and on ‘Recent Immigrants in TDSB Schools’
- Identifying emerging Policy issues and proposing a policy framework
- Identifying emerging research needs and conducting research

Toronto South Newcomer Council

- Developing a ‘Newcomer Speaker’s Bureau’ jointly with Social Inclusion WG
- Advisory role to Council and Executive

