

Toronto Newcomer Council

Quadrant Meeting Minutes

May 8th 2017

6:00 to 8:00pm

720 Bathurst St. Centre for Social Innovation

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Strategic Plan Presentation
3. Role of Newcomer Council
4. Priorities of Newcomer Council
5. Social Media and Personal Information
6. Next Meeting

Attendance	
Ashani Ponnampereuma	Maria Diaz
Gitanjali Verma	Richard Villavicencio
Harold Bisase	Sergio De Lara
June Deng	Wendy Ramsumair
Luxsiga Ambigaibagan	Ivan Claude Romero

Staff	
Paulina Wyrzykowski	Toronto South Local Immigration Partnership/St. Stephen's Community House

1. Welcome and Introductions

Each member was welcomed by LIP staff, to start conversation LIP Staff asked members for feedback on the first city-wide session. Members recanted that there was a lot of information given. They also talked about how there was great enthusiasm for action in the room, but that they were not clear how to translate enthusiasm into action. It was interesting to learn role of Mayor and Council and on how to engage effectively at different entry points. They were happy to learn how Municipal government works but also that none of them knew how to get things started. They were less concerned that there many detailed questions that presenter didn't know how to answer.

2. Strategic Plan Presentation and feed back

The strategic plan was presented to the council and the members were shown where their input affected the plan. Generally good, one insight is that in addition to working with Hospitals etc. to enhance accessibility of newcomer services in Toronto we should also focus on legal aid and the legal system as a whole.

3. Role of Newcomer Council

LIP Staff informed members on the concept of their role in the Toronto South LIP Structure, it was explained that that the role is both advisory and hands on. What that looks like partly up to them. After that the membership gave feedback and ideas on how this should unfold and was as follows:

- Not enough to just be engaged via working groups on existing projects: do want to join existing groups, but also want direct access to decision making and council, may want opportunity to create an additional project to the ones already listed in strategic plan.
- a lot of emphasis was placed on the group staying in communication with one another once people went off and joined different working groups – those people should come back to the Newcomer Leadership Table and report on what is happening at WG, then take that feedback to the WG again.
- Need to put together a plan of action with specific activities that can be suggested to the WG: a lot of discussion focused on connecting to schools and going in to present on what it's like to be a newcomer to Canada. Want to put together a written proposal for a workshop on newcomer experiences to be held in schools. Need to get parents, students and teachers all involved.
- Would like more information on what an “average immigrant” looks like based on Census.
- Value of Newcomer Council is as an “outsider group” that can offer objective feedback to stakeholders without having their own interests at stake.
- Proposed structure: NC members go to our WG gathering, decide what projects they might want to join in on. Once they join WG, feedback brought back from every WG meeting back to NC council table for discussion. Additionally NC wants 2 seats on our TSLIP Council. Rotating attendance (based on who can come on the date), but crucially, agenda and minutes should be sent to NC ahead of time for discussion, so those individuals can attend TSLIP Council meetings informed and as reps of the NC Council – Giovanni and group to discuss logistics.

4. Priorities of Toronto Newcomer Council

People commented that the Toronto wide council seemed preoccupied with employment and housing issues.

5. Social Media and Personal Information

Members discussed what to share on digital, printed and social media as well as a method that would be acceptable by all members. It is Ok to use full names and images in our annual report. For other TSLIP media use that includes name or image, need individualized and written consent each time.

It is ok to share e-mails within the regional newcomer council a blanket written consent will be needed and developed by LIP Staff. Things of a personal nature discussed at Newcomer Council to stay confidential. No tweets/other posts that include people's images/names without that person's explicit consent.

LIP Staff will work on written outline on how Newcomer Council can participate in TSLIP.

Discussion of logistics to happen at next meeting (how do all the meetings connect, how to make sure everyone stays in the loop).

6. Next Meeting

June 27, 2017 at 6:00 pm Location still to be determined