



Settlement Services Working Group  
Meeting Minutes  
George Brown College (Casa Loma Campus)  
160 Kendal Avenue, Building C, 4th Floor C400 Room  
November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
2:00pm to 4:00 pm

**Agenda**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of minutes
3. Settlement Pathways
4. Schools as community Hubs
5. Updates on Issues
6. Community Update

**Attendance**

**Present:**

Behnaz Azad  
Mary Choy  
Virginia Trotter  
Abdul Abubaker  
Alla Minasova  
Natasa Boskovic  
Tamara Sirota  
Amanda Cho  
Tracy Cummins  
Gwim Philipp  
Michelle Gordon

University Settlement  
Street haven Learning Centre  
New Circles  
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture  
YMCA Newcomer Information Centre  
Newcomer Women's Services  
ACCES Employment  
Woodgreen Community Services  
George Brown College  
Woodgreen Community Services  
CARE

**Staff:**

Giovanni Rico  
Paulina Wyrzykowski

Canadian Centre For Victims of Torture/TSLIP  
St Stephen's Community House/TSLIP

**1. Welcome and Introductions:**

Each member was welcomed by LIP staff and then provided with a copy of the Meeting Agenda. Members were then given an opportunity to introduce themselves

## **2. Approval of minutes:**

Copies of the previous meeting's minutes were distributed to members. Minutes were approved.

## **3. Settlement Pathways**

All members had reviewed the google doc of the shared resources and determined that there was a need to add refugee determination, youth, mental health, pre-arrival, short-term and temporary housing. Members agreed that the tool needed to be interactive path but that would streamline so that it only identifies programs that the specific client is eligible, like Education, literacy programs, mentorships, internships. Members also agreed that due to the classification by the Ontario Human rights Commission that Job readiness need to replace Canadian experience as a category. Staff will send out the link of the google docs with a deadline for Nov. 17. Staff need to find out a sustainability function of the tool so that it will be used in the future. Research need to be done on how this can be turned into an app.

## **4. Schools as community Hubs Community Engagement**

Members were briefed on the sub-committee meeting and what the plans for the next phase of the pilot project. Group is trying to find a system that would help bridge a gap from schools that are truly welcoming and those that may not have access to resources

Culturelink staff was asked to give some views on how their program works and the benefits of the SWIS program in the schools. They work both at high school and elementary schools. 14 settlement workers in school and are in 40 locations on a regular basis. At 70 itinerant schools, in both school boards. It was first based on partnership 5 years ago it was moved to a more data driven based system. With the school board, backing it has become easier. Western Tech is a very big school with many newcomer youth. The school gives a very cooperative feeling.

If there were a school that has needs, there would be an idea to get SWIS involved. Maybe starting a project about at a couple of champion schools to then take the success to the board to implement citywide.

Look to invite the administrative staff of the school boards to get an inside track. North York Community House in the North, TNO, Northwood Community services, Catholic Cross Cultural Services, CCICs.

The idea is to find a champion school, bring the community agencies to help develop the checklist, and have a focus group with newcomer parents. Involvement of the newcomer council. Western Tech, and Rose Ave. public school. St. Mary's and Stella Maris, in the catholic board.

To create meeting with the community agencies in those schools to invoke a meeting and create a checklist of the best practices. Group will try an host the meeting at one of the schools.

## **5. Updates on past issues**

Legal Aid Ontario got money from Law Foundation of Ontario and Federal govt. TTC and change over to presto, NLT and Interlip keeping an eye on the issue, on the language barrier.

IRCC advocacy clause: there is ongoing discussions with IRCC on how to go around Section 91- Paulina will forward memo to send to the members- talked about the reasons behind the section and how the rationale behind how it affected the sector. Wording from IRCC will be forwarded to all members. OCASI pushed for more instructions and is waiting for response .

Quotas for IRCC were talked about. In regards to the amount of newcomers coming, no new funding structure has been said. Members talked about the funding cuts that were negotiated into their contracts and how they have been told not to worry.

Housing issue, bidding war being held by landlords. City committee run by city staff that strategize on issues serving newcomers. Not very linked into city systems but more on bringing people to the table to connect them. Newcomers are being asked for guarantor letters, and to come with their own credit scores.

United way report that Toronto is the Poverty capital of Canada. Toronto is becoming more inundated with long term newcomers and even citizens due to this issue. Daily food bank has seen an influx on immigrant senior using their services due to the lack of access to pension programs.

## **6. Next Meeting**

**January 23, 2018 at Salvation Army Harbor Light Ministries**