

**LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIPS**  
**SYSTEMIC ISSUES & SOCIAL CHANGE COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING – APRIL 14, 2011**

**Attendees:**

Linda Cornwell, Women's Health in Women's Hands

Carrie Clayton, St. Christopher House (student)

Bill Sinclair, St. Stephen's Community House

Jacqueline Lawrence, WiseSolution Consulting

Pam Maxwell, WiseSolution Consulting

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting facilitator, Jacqueline Lawrence, introduced herself, and invited the Committee members to introduce themselves to the other members of the Committee by stating their name, the organization that they represent, and why they chose to sign up to be a member of this Committee. In general, the members present indicated that they chose to become a member of this Committee because they believe that addressing the systemic issues facing newcomers is a fundamental aspect of the purpose and mandate of the Local Immigration Partnership. Bill Sinclair commented that he is not a member of the Committee, and that he was attending on behalf of Randy Reynolds who will be the representative on the Committee from St. Stephen's Community House.

**2. Brief background on the West Downtown Toronto Local Immigration Partnership**

The Committee agreed that the meeting facilitator did not need to review the background and history of the West Downtown Toronto Local Immigration Partnership, given that all of the individuals present had been involved with the Local Immigration Partnership for some time or had attended the West Downtown Toronto LIP orientation session that was held in March 2011.

### **3. Possible Expansion of Committee to Become City-wide**

The Committee members discussed the possible expansion of the Committee to become a citywide Committee, rather than a Committee consisting only of representatives from the West Downtown Toronto Local Immigration Partnership. The Committee members noted that only 6 individuals from the West Downtown Toronto LIP had signed up to become members of this Committee. Bill Sinclair reported that there are approximately 14 Local Immigration Partnerships across the City of Toronto, and that these Local Immigration Partnerships have been holding monthly meetings together for approximately 1 year. Bill also reported that he had informed representatives of these other LIPs the fact that the West Downtown Toronto LIP is creating a Systemic Issues & Social Change Committee and had discussed the possibility of expanding the Committee to become citywide. Bill noted that a number of the other LIPs in Toronto expressed interest in participating in an expanded Toronto-wide Committee on systemic issues and social change.

The Committee discussed the benefits and possible challenges to expanding the Committee to become citywide. The Committee also reviewed the processes for expanding the Committee across the city, including issuing invitations to representatives of the other Local Immigration Partnerships and Toronto. The Committee noted that the mandate of this Committee is focused on systemic issues that affect all newcomers regardless of geographic area, and that the Committee therefore is probably best served by expanding to become a Committee with representatives from across Toronto.

After some discussion, the members agreed that the Committee should become a citywide Committee with representatives from Local Immigration Partnerships across Toronto. In addition, the members discussed the possibility of having the Committee be co-hosted by 2 Local Immigration Partnerships, rather than just by the West Downtown Toronto LIP, and that these two co-hosting LIPs could rotate on an annual basis.

Bill agreed to extend an invitation to the other LIPs across Toronto to invite them to become members of this Committee and/or to consider becoming a co-hosting Local Immigration Partnership for the Committee for its first year. New members would be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee, scheduled to be held on Thursday, July 14, 2011.

#### **4. Draft Committee Terms of Reference**

The Committee members reviewed the draft terms of reference for the Systemic Issues & Social Change Committee that had been circulated in advance of the meeting. In light of the discussion and decision of the Committee members to expand the Committee to become Toronto wide, the members present agreed that a number of changes should be made to the draft committee terms of reference. These changes included:

- Increasing the maximum number of Committee members to 30 members
- Deleting the requirement that Committee members must actively pursue the fulfillment of the vision, principles, values, settlement strategies, and action plans of the West Downtown Toronto Local Immigration Partnership
- Adding a requirement that at least 85% of the Committee members must represent organizations that are members of one of the Local Immigration Partnerships in Toronto
- Deleting the requirement that the Committee members must sit on one of the councils of the West Downtown Toronto Local Immigration Partnership
- Deleting the requirement that selected representatives from the committee will become liaisons to the three neighbourhood councils of the West Downtown Toronto LIP
- Adding the requirement that the Committee will be jointly hosted by two Local Immigration Partnerships in Toronto, and that these 2 LIPs may be rotated on an annual basis.
- Changing the quorum for the Committee from a minimum of four Committee members to a minimum of 40% of Committee members
- Changing the quarried requirement that in the event that consensus decision-making is not achieved, that decisions will be made by a 75% majority vote (rather than a simple majority vote)
- And other related changes to reflect the fact that the Committee will no longer be a Committee of the West Downtown Toronto LIP and will instead be a Committee of representatives of Local Immigration Partnerships from across the city of Toronto.

The Committee members agreed that the draft Committee terms of reference would be revised to reflect the amendments noted above, and that these new revised draft terms

of reference would be reviewed by the expanded Committee at the next Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 14, 2011.

### **5. Key Action Items for 2011**

The Committee members then reviewed the list of systemic issues and social change matters identified by the three neighbourhood councils during its development of settlement strategies last year. As part of this discussion, Bill Sinclair presented a list of existing social networks and community campaigns that are already in place and that may be related to or working on some of the identified systemic issues workshop social change matters.

The following list identifies the systemic and social change issues reviewed by the Committee members, and notes any existing community campaigns or coalitions that are currently working on these issues:

<b>SYSTEMIC ISSUE</b>	<b>EXISTING CAMPAIGNS OR COALITIONS</b>
<b>Elimination of 3-month OHIP waiting period</b>	Right to Healthcare Coalition
<b>Newcomer access to career accreditation</b>	No known campaigns or coalitions
<b>Eradication of employers Canadian experience requirement, including possible test case litigation as a human rights issue</b>	No known community campaigns or coalitions
<b>Regularization of immigration status</b>	STATUS Campaign
<b>Elimination of systemic barriers within Citizenship and Immigration Canada's service eligibility criteria</b>	INTERCEDE
<b>Equality and consistency in federal and provincial language training supports and resources</b>	No known community campaigns or coalitions
<b>Access to healthcare for non-insured</b>	No known community campaigns or coalitions
<b>Support for affordable &amp; flexible childcare</b>	Toronto Coalition for Better Childcare
<b>Newcomer access to dental care</b>	Right to Smile Campaign
<b>Newcomer seniors access to home care</b>	Care Watch

<b>Newcomer seniors caregiver support</b>	Care Watch
<b>Social change in the areas of racism, gender equity, homophobia, and all forms of oppression</b>	Colour of Change
<b>Social change in the areas of poverty, income security, housing stability, and viewed food security</b>	Campaign 2000 (child poverty), and "25 in 5" Poverty Reduction Campaign (general poverty)
<b>Legal policy reform to protect people in precarious work and ensure protection of workers in low-wage and precarious work</b>	Stop Wage Theft campaign

Carrie Clayton agreed to conduct additional research to identify other community campaigns or community coalitions that may be currently working to address one or more of the systemic or social change issues identified above. The Committee members discussed the possibility of combining this list of issues with any other systemic issues are social change issues that may have been identified by other local immigration partnerships across the city of Toronto.

In addition, the Committee members discussed the possible need for a definition of "campaigns", "coalitions", "networks" and "association".

The Committee members also discussed what types of support or participation the Committee may choose to give to one or more of these campaigns or coalitions. The Committee discussed the possibility of supporting existing coalitions by providing them with a support letter, or by designating individuals to join those coalitions as a member a representative of the Committee, or other possible approaches.

## **6. Other Business**

The Committee confirmed the following meeting schedule:

- Thursday, July 14, 2011 from 9:15 AM to 11 AM at Women's Health in Women's Hands
- Thursday, November 17, 2011 from 9:15 AM to 11 AM