



*"Great things are done by a series of small things brought together."
Vincent Van Gough*

LIP Action Planning Almost Complete

The Toronto South LIP is in the process of completing its initial Action Plan!

The final draft of the Toronto South LIP Action Plan will be submitted to the LIP Council for approval at its meeting on January 22, 2013. A variety of approaches have been used to include a broad range of perspectives in the Action Plan. Processes supporting the Action Plan's development included:

- Breakout Discussions – September 2012 LIP Planning Workshop
- Preliminary LIP Member Input Survey – October 2012
- Draft Action Plan Review and In-Session Survey – November 2012 Council Meeting
- Draft Action Plan Review Feedback Survey – December 2012/January 2013
- LIP Member Draft Action Plan Feedback Survey – December 2012/January 2013

The Toronto South LIP's Draft Action Plan for the first year of implementation include a diverse array of activities designed: (i) to foster collaboration among newcomer service providers in the Toronto South LIP area, and (ii) to support newcomers in achieving full social, cultural, economic, and political inclusion.

To download and print the LIP's Draft Action Plan for the first year implementation, please go to :

<http://TorontoLIP.com/documents/Toronto-South-LIP/draft-tslip-year-1-action-plan>.

For more information, please contact Jacqueline Lawrence at jlawrence@wisesolution.ca or Sandra Guerra at sguerra@woodgreen.org.

Forum for Settlement Workers and Seniors' Services

**Monday, Feb 4, 2013
1 to 4 pm**

**St. Christopher House,
Stan Meek Hall
248 Ossington Ave
(at Dundas St. West)**

Guest Presentation:

St. Christopher House – Health Action Theatre for Seniors (HATS)

Guest Speakers:

Bill Sinclair
Odete Nascimemto
Akin Falode
Avvy Go
Amy Casipullai

Please RSVP to Bill Sinclair
sbill@ststephenshouse.com

Website and Communication

Website

We are currently working on updating the content on our website. Agencies that have not completed their profiles or listed their programs and services will be contacted over the next few months. We are hoping to be able to add some new and exciting features to the site over the next year. We are also planning another website training session for agencies to learn how to use the site and post their program and service information. For more information about the website, please contact Sandra Guerra at sguerra@woodgreen.org.



Communication

The Toronto South LIP uses several different communication tools to keep their members and the community updated. Find information about our committees and working groups in our quarterly newsletters at www.torontolip.com/newsletters. We also send a weekly email which features new events and programs featured on our website. Follow us on twitter for highlights @torontosouthlip

Partnership and Service Coordination Committee

The Partnership and Service Coordination Committee continues to work on a number of initiatives. The committee's last meeting was held on December 13th, and progress was made on a number of fronts. Great work has been done by Parkdale Community Information Centre (PCIC) and Parkdale Intercultural Association (PIA) on developing a common referral form in Parkdale, and this is currently in its final stages and will be ready to roll out in early 2013. The Committee has also begun to discuss the development of a partnership template in earnest and continues to develop plans for a research project on Private Career Colleges and a common feedback mechanism. These and other projects are ongoing and the progress made has been exciting!

An identified priority of the committee is to continue events that support frontline work. To this end, with the help of committee members, LIP staff was able to organize Toronto South's first Frontline Staff Meeting on Friday December 7, 2012 at WoodGreen Community Services (815 Danforth Ave.). At this event, resources and information were provided to frontline

staff, including settlement and education pathway maps for newcomers as well as fact sheets on both foreign credential recognition and Private Career Colleges. The Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (*Hope After the Horror* course on refugee mental health and settlement) and the Federation of Metro Tenants Associations (Connecting Communities Tenant School Project) presented on training opportunities they offer for frontline staff. The Learning Enrichment Foundation and Fred Victor's Housing Access and Support Services for Newcomers (HASS-N) program also provided **information** and training on housing access for newcomers. This event also gave an excellent opportunity to participants to network with other workers. Feedback on this event was very positive and we hope to be able to organize more of these opportunities in the future!

Lastly, a Toronto South LIP Frontline Staff Network Google Group is now up and running! If you would like to be added to this Google Group, or if you have staff and would like to forward



"Teamwork is the ability to work as a group toward a common vision, even if that vision is extremely blurry."

Author Unknown



"Cooperation is the thorough conviction that nobody can get there unless everybody gets there."

Virginia Burden

their email addresses to be added to the Google Group, please contact Haweiya Egeh at hegeh@woodgreen.org or by phone at **416-645-6000 ext.1328**

For more information on this event, or to register, please contact Haweiya Egeh at hegeh@woodgreen.org and/or at **416-645-6000 ext. 1328**. For more information on this committee, visit us at: <http://www.torontolip.ca/partnership->

How to contact our staff:

Newcomer Advisory, Mental Health and Emotional Supports and Newcomer Youth contact Nicole Watson at **416-363-1066 x 251** nwatson@ccvt.org or Kera Vijayasigham at **416-363-1066 x 249** kera@ccvt.org

Partnership and Service Coordination contact Haweiya Egeh at **416-645-6000 x 1328** or hegeh@woodgreen.org.

Systemic Issues and Social Change, website, newsletter and other communications contact Sandra Guerra at **416-645-6000 x 1329** or sguerra@woodgreen.org



"Strength lies in differences, not similarities."

Stephen R. Covey

Newcomer Youth Working Group

The Newcomer Youth Working Group is currently planning an Unaccompanied Youth Forum that will take place in late February or Early March 2013. The group has envisioned the forum as a dinner and social event for unaccompanied youth, which will include speeches, performances and booths hosted by community agencies who provide essential services for this target population. The group is currently in search of a suitable venue at a central location for youth, service providers and volunteers. Members also continue to look into funding options for the cost of space, food and takeaways and will be reaching out to newcomer youth within the community to make this event as successful as possible. If your agency is interested in hosting a booth at this event or if you have a youth group that would be interested in being involved, please contact Kera Vijayasingham at kera@ccvt.org for further information or come to the next Newcomer Youth Working Group meeting on January 28, 2013, from 10:00am-12:00pm at The 519 Church Street Community Centre.

For more information, visit us at <http://www.torontolip.ca/youth-working-group>

Upcoming LIP Committee and Working Group Meetings

Partnership Council
March 19, 2013

Partnership and Service
Coordination
Feb 21, 2013 at 9:30am
CultureLink

Newcomer Advisory Committee
Feb 12, 2013 at 6:00pm
Canadian Centre for Victims of
Torture

Mental Health and Emotional
Supports
Jan 29, 2013 at 2:00pm
Sherbourne Health Centre

Language Supports
Feb 13, 2013 at 9:30
Can Cen for Language and
Cultural Studies

Newcomer Youth
Jan 28, 2013 at 10am
519 Church St

Systemic Issues and Social Change
Feb 14, 2013 at 10am
WoodGreen Community Services

Employment Sub-committee
Feb 6, 2013 at 10am
WoodGreen Community Services

Health Sub-committee
Jan 30, 2013 at 10am
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture

Newcomer Advisory Committee

The Newcomer Advisory Committee convened for their forth meeting on Tuesday December 4, 2012 at the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT). During this meeting, members were provided with a copy of the Toronto South LIP Settlement Strategy which they read individually and discussed as a group. Members' reactions to the document were very positive as they felt it address all of the key priority areas they had identified. Following this, the group also engaged in a small group exercise to give their input to potential projects arising from the Action Plan. They explored 5 topic areas including: Newcomer Welcome Package, Legal Information and Advice, Schooling for Children, Adult

Education and Housing. Members had a lot of input to offer. Some suggestions included, introducing standardized orientations to the Canadian school system for newcomer parents, ensuring newcomer university students understand the importance of networking within the Canadian job market, and information packages that are realistic, simple and concise. The next Newcomer Advisory Committee meeting is on February 12, 2013, it will be the final meeting of the committee for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

For more information on the Newcomer Advisory Committee, visit us at:

<http://www.torontolip.ca/newcomer-advisory-committee>



Individual commitment to a group effort – that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work!"

Vince Lombardi

Contact Us:

Toronto South LIP
info@torontolip.ca
www.torontolip.ca

For information about this newsletter, contact Sandra Guerra at

sguerra@woodgreen.org



Systemic Issues and Social Change Working Group

The Systemic Issues and Social Change Working Group is a cross-LIP initiative that is working to address some of the systemic barriers faced by newcomers. The working group has developed two sub-committees: one to address Employment issues and one to address Health issues. The Employment sub-committee will be working with TRIEC and other organizations to address the barrier of requiring 'Canadian Experience'. The committee has chosen to work specifically with small and medium-sized employers to develop resources and increase awareness of how this is a barrier for newcomers. Our next Employment sub-committee meeting is scheduled for Feb 6, 2013. The Health sub-committee will be working with Health4All and other health-related groups to address the issue of Health Equity.

The committee is working on a social media campaign to raise awareness of the importance of Health Equity for a healthy and civil society. Our next Health sub-committee is scheduled for January 30, 2013.

The Working Group is also planning Social Change Fair – an opportunity for organizations and groups across the city to showcase their social change campaigns to the general public. This event is currently in the planning stages and we hope to hold it in the spring 2013. Our next Systemic Issues and Social Change meeting will be held on Feb 14, 2013. For more information, visit us at: <http://www.torontolip.ca/systemic-issues-social-change-working-group>.

Mental Health and Emotional Support Working Group

The Mental Health & Emotional Supports Working Group is currently planning a Mental Health Information Forum that is to take place on February 22, 2013 at Metro Hall. This event will give settlement workers the opportunity to learn more about a variety of topics, including how to make successful referrals, the importance of practicing cultural sensitivity and specialized mental health programs and initiatives within the Toronto South region. Ultimately, the goal of this event is to create informal partnerships between settlement workers and mental health workers in

order to provide more efficient services for clients. The next Mental Health & Emotional Supports Working Group meeting will be held on January 29, 2012. All interested TSLIP members are welcome to attend!

For more information, please contact Nicole Watson at nwatson@ccvt.org or Kera Vijayasingham at kera@ccvt.org or visit us at: <http://www.torontolip.ca/mental-health-working-group>



"A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality"

Yoko Ono

Our Partnership Council Members

ACCES Employment
Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services
AIDS Committee of Toronto
Bangladeshi-Canadian Community Services
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture
Centre francophone de Toronto
Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre
Collège Boréal
Conseil scolaire de district catholique centre-sud
COSTI Immigrant Services
CultureLink
Dixon Hall
Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre
Family Service Toronto
FCJ Refugee Centre

Fred Victor Centre
George Brown College
Kababayan Community Centre Multicultural Services
Madison Community Services
Massey Centre for Women
Neighbourhood Centre
Neighbourhood Legal Services
Neighbourhood Link Support Services
Parkdale Community Information Centre
Parkdale Golden Age Foundation
Parkdale Intercultural Association
Polycultural Immigrant & Community Services
RDEE Ontario
Red Door Family Shelter
Scadding Court Community Centre

Sherbourne Health Centre
Sojourn House
St. Christopher House
St. Stephen's Community House
TCDSB Adult Education Program
Toronto Community Housing Corporation
Toronto Community & Culture Centre
Toronto District School Board
Toronto Employment & Social Services
Toronto Public Health
Toronto Western Hospital
University Settlement
WoodGreen Community Service
Working Women Community Centre
YMCA of Greater Toronto

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