

# QUINTE LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

...a better community for everyone

Minutes of the meeting  
15 February 2012

<b>MEETING :</b>	Quinte Local Immigration Partnership
<b>LOCATION</b>	Quinte United Immigrant Services, U2 Boardroom, 3rd floor 41 Octavia Street, Belleville, Ontario
<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>John Robertson</b> - Project Coordinator – Quinte Local Immigration Partnership - Email: <a href="mailto:lip@quis-immigration.org">lip@quis-immigration.org</a></li> <li>• <b>Orlando Ferro</b> – QLIP Facilitator Executive Director – Quinte United Immigrant Services</li> </ul>
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Robertson</li> </ul>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Paul Osborne</b> – President Quinte United Immigrant Services</li> <li>• <b>Michael McLeod</b> - General Manager Prince Edward County Chamber of Tourism &amp; Commerce</li> <li>• <b>Karen Poste</b> – Manager, Economic &amp; Strategic Initiatives – City of Belleville</li> <li>• <b>Roberto Almeida</b> – Program manager – Chronic Disease &amp; Injury Prevention - Health Unit – Hastings &amp; Prince Edward Counties</li> <li>• <b>Mike Hewitt</b> – Coordinator - Manufacturing Resource Centre</li> <li>• <b>Michele Dean</b> – Loyola School of Adult &amp; Continuing Education</li> <li>• <b>Pam Vlasic</b> – Lawyer (for Michele Leering) – Community Advocacy &amp; legal Centre</li> </ul>

## Agenda topics

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>Introductions</b>
Introductions were conducted	

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>Review - Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b>	
Reviewed		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
N/A		

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>Website Launch - 2012</b>	
The QLIP website was discussed with the Partners and it is still under construction, specifically changes to the content are being made, and will be ready for an official "Launch Event" to be held sometime in the spring of 2012 once official approval has been requested and granted.		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Partnership members may still provide to the QLIP Project Coordinator their organization logo, a brief statement on services provided, and a link to their web site. All will be included in the QLIP website to be launched in 2012	QLIP Partners	Voluntary

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>Statistical information from the data base</b>	
The Project Coordinator distributed for discussion the revised final copy of the previous draft chart and graphic of the percentage breakdown for "country of origin" in the QLIP Database. The copies were revised based on comments by the Partners at the last meeting of the QLIP in January 2012. Revisions will be required		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Draft Chart and Graphic on stats from database to be revised	John Robertson	March 15, 2012

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>Open Discussion</b>	
<p><b>Discussion Topics and Open Discussion:</b></p> <p>Discussion Topics and Open Discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. QLIP Local Settlement Strategy and Action Plan</li> <li>2. Database profile chart and graphic</li> <li>3. Focus Groups / Interviews Information</li> <li>4. ESL night school information – format for employer awareness</li> </ol> <p><b>1. QLIP Local Settlement Strategy and Action Plan</b></p> <p>The draft QLIP Local Settlement Strategy and Action Plan - the most recent logic model was presented to the partners for more discussion. It was noted that there are to be tangible outcomes for all aspects of the plan for 2012 -2013. It will be in essence a living document in that at all times if the partners wish to move in a certain direction to pursue a strategy that has promise for a substantial positive outcome for newcomers the decision of the partners will forge the way. (Basically it involves what the QLIP findings are, what the QLIP recommends to resolve issues and what the QLIP expectations are for outcomes.)</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The QLIP Strategy and Action Plan will need to incorporate short term goals or outcomes, mid-range goals and long term goals that may range over the next few years, and beyond that in some cases.</p>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Project Coordinator to revise the Strategy and Action Plan	John Robertson	March 15, 2012

**Orlando Ferro** discussed the need to have the QLIP more involved with the Association of Municipalities to facilitate a higher level of engagement and to discuss strategies. How do we in the greater Quinte area compete for newcomers in the critical time frame of the next five years? The need for planning is now. There will also be a need for submissions to such organizations as Ontario Works for statistics in terms of the numbers of newcomers who are working, have found work, or are without work. The need may also arise for an intervention in some cases to have QUIS help.

**Karen Poste** discussed the possibility of seeking data from Hastings County for Social Services data.

**Michael McLeod** discussed the needs for Prince Edward County

**Orlando Ferro** discussed that there will soon be a study finalized and available which researched the needs of newcomers that included as part of the study the city of Belleville along with four other small centres with a rural urban mix along with larger centres. The study did extensive research and analysis into the Belleville area and will prove very helpful to the QLIP Project.

**Note:** QLIP Project Coordinator has a draft copy of this extensive study and has researched it as a source of data for the process of a strategy and plan of action to be established by the QLIP partners.

**Michele Dean** – advised the Partners that Loyola will lose their Taxi van service that brings in seven students to the Loyola school in Belleville for Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) training. The service brings one student in from Brighton and the rest from the Quinte West area. With the funding for the taxi for the four days per week will soon end [REDACTED]

Discussions ensued centered on transportation in the greater Quinte area

**Orlando Ferro** mentioned the bus service that was at one time available when it instituted flexible timetable. Also there is a level of risk management in terms of transportation with areas such as insurance and being bonded.

**Mike Hewitt** noted that a large percentage of people travel from Brighton to Quinte West and Belleville for work and other reasons including education and that reality might figure into the equation for offering transportation to more people coming to Belleville including LINC students.

**Karen Poste** noted that Deseronto Transit also offers transportation to many areas

**Michael McLeod** noted that there could be a few thousand commuters that travel from Prince Edward County to Belleville that could possibly use some form of transit.

Much of the transportation discussion involved all the partners and centred on the level of transportation and the lack of transit services in the area outside of Belleville and to an extent in Quinte West. In addition, the question arose: Are the numbers there to support transit from Prince Edward County, Brighton, Quinte West and other areas in the greater Quinte area.

**Note:** Project Coordinator added that as soon as the “transportation model for smaller centres” is made available from the Queens University Business Centre it may provide the counties, cities and towns a model that could be applied to the greater Quinte area planning.

**Orlando Ferro** – A strategy is needed based on the data available with a focus on such areas as housing, day care that may include private sector solutions as part of an infrastructure for a welcoming community.

Discussions surrounding the data from social service areas of Hastings and Prince Edward County including the issue of affordable housing and transportation.

**Orlando Ferro** discussed the changing environment of immigrating to Canada over the next two years (refugees excluded) including the provincial nominee program, and the evolving changes to settlement services. In addition there will eventually be a global competition for human capital including the competition between countries such as South America, Australia and Canada. There is a trend beginning now with job seekers and a movement to western Canada for employment, but we need to consider the question, that eventually newcomers will return or move back to areas like the Quinte area and there will be a need for an inventory on services and an integrated strategy for a welcoming community.

### **QLIP Website**

The QLIP website launch has been delayed as noted in past meetings but will hopefully be ready in the spring of 2012. It is still under construction, when ready it will have the potential to become a “hub” for the exchange of information on services available with the links to services and even potential employers. When the QLIP website is ready there will most likely be a launch event planned to promote it.

Much of the discussion then centred on the types of link ups that could be possible including a variety of portals like the:

- Community services data base <http://quinte.cioc.ca>
- Bay of Quinte Country <http://bayofquintecountry.com>
- the Quinte Employment Network Group QEN <http://quinteemployment.blogspot.com>

The discussions led to more ideas for inclusion in the QLIP site and the possibility of more partners joining the Partnership such as the Police Services, Fire Services, all areas to be investigated by the Project Coordinator including EMS services

### **2. Database profile chart and graphic**

Project Coordinator distributed data base information in graphic format for the partners providing an overview of the local area profile based on country of origin which will be updated and further refined.

### **3. Focus Groups / Interviews Information**

Project Coordinator discussed the results of the Focus Group/Interviews held at Loyola and advised that the concerns newcomers have when arriving in the Quinte area are on track with what the Partnership has discovered to be the top areas of concern to include employment, foreign credential recognition, culture shock, transportation, health care, daycare etc. Project Coordinator discussed the difficulties faced by newcomers who need to provide for their families and their unfulfilled expectations of employment agencies or employment service providers.

### **4. ESL night school information – format for employer awareness**

Project Coordinator advised that at the previous meeting of the QLIP the partners requested a pdf of the “Loyola ESL information package” for distribution to area businesses and employers etc. The pdf was provided to the QLIP Project Coordinator by Loyola staff. The partners were advised at this meeting that the method and content for distribution will be put together in an e-letter that will discuss how “... your company can benefit from the language training offered by Loyola for newcomers... If you are hiring or have hired a newcomer to the greater Quinte area and you believe that evening language training would be beneficial, Loyola has affordable ESL training just contact...”

## **CONCLUSIONS**

**DISCUSSION**

## Next Meeting

Next QLIP meeting scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.– Location Quinte United Immigrant Services - Room U2, 41 Octavia St., Belleville , Ontario

**CONCLUSIONS**