

QUINTE LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

...a better community for everyone

Minutes of the meeting 16 May 2012

MEETING :	Quinte Local Immigration Partnership
LOCATION	Quinte United Immigrant Services, U2 Boardroom, 3rd floor 41 Octavia Street, Belleville, Ontario
FACILITATOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Robertson - Project Coordinator – Quinte Local Immigration Partnership - Email: lip@quis-immigration.org • Orlando Ferro – QLIP Facilitator Executive Director – Quinte United Immigrant Services
NOTE TAKER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Robertson
ATTENDEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roberto Almeida – Program Manager – Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention - Health Unit – Hastings & Prince Edward Counties • Malika Séguin-Gervais - Agente de projet / Project Officer Réseau de soutien à l'immigration francophone de l'Est de l'Ontario / Francophone Immigration Support Network of East Ontario • Mike Hewitt - Coordinator - Manufacturing Resource Centre • Michele Dean - Loyola School of Adult & Continuing Education and TESL Teachers of English as a Second Language - Kingston • Carmela Ruberto - Hastings County • Marcela Rezac - Social Worker - Quinte & District Rehabilitation Inc.

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION	Introductions	
Introductions were conducted		
The QLIP welcomed a new member to the Partnership, Malika Séguin-Gervais - Agente de projet / Project Officer Réseau de soutien à l'immigration francophone de l'Est de l'Ontario / Francophone Immigration Support Network of East Ontario, replacing Samia McFee		

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

DISCUSSION	Website Launch – anticipated late June 2012	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
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 late June 2012	QLIP Partners	Voluntary

DISCUSSION	QLIP Local Settlement Strategy and Action Plan for the Greater Quinte Area	
The Project Coordinator discussed the recently modified priorities within the plan (shown below).		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Completion of the QLIP Local Settlement Strategy and Action Plan for the Greater Quinte Area	John Robertson	Completed May15, 2012 for review

DISCUSSION	Open Discussion	
Discussion Topics – from the Agenda:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised QLIP Greater Quinte Area Priorities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify labour market shortages that cannot be accommodated from the local workforce inventory and based on the research information strengthen labour market outcomes for newcomers to the greater Quinte region to eliminate shortages as they become a reality 2. Facilitate existing language training options and opportunities for newcomers already hired 3. Facilitate measures to find sustainable solutions suited to creating a welcoming community for newcomers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Deal with the “culture shock” by fashioning a more inclusive environment ➤ Explore existing employment services in relation to preconceived expectations by newcomers ➤ Promote diversity education and training in community services and activities ➤ Promote the attraction and retention of newcomers by working with the different levels of government to facilitate the adoption of an immigration strategy by local municipalities 		
Topics and Open Discussions:		
<p>Carmela Ruberto, Orlando Ferro, Malika Séguin-Gervais and Roberto Almeida - discussed social services and health services and the costs that may be involved in terms of changes for convention refugees. Note: Changes to the Interim Federal Health Program IFHP will take effect on June 30, 2012 (CIC website).</p> <p>Note: A Convention Refugee is a person outside their home country, or the country where they normally live, and can't return to that country because of a well-founded fear of persecution based on: race, religion, political opinion, nationality, or membership in a particular social group, such as women, or people with a different sexual orientation. (Source: CIC http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/outside/convention.asp)</p>		

Open Discussion

QLIP Local Settlement Strategy: Action Plan

1. Build potential for increased use of protocols that meet the needs of newcomer services within the greater Quinte area with an emphasis on collaborative approaches
 - **Strategy / Action – Action in progress** - Facilitate well defined protocols for interpretation services for areas such as medical and health institutions. This “action” is currently underway at Quinte Health Care.
 - The process of facilitating further “in place” protocols for other potential service providers is ongoing and will also be part of an awareness campaign.

Carmela Ruberto – noted that having well defined protocols for interpretation services may have application to social services.

It was recognized by members, that the QLIP partnership is a very productive approach to networking and brings people together having different backgrounds and a variety of viewpoints, providing a cooperative forum for shared goals.

QLIP Local Settlement Strategy: Action Plan

2. Create an awareness campaign to advance the positive aspects of newcomers joining the community. Promote diversity and sensitivity in the community through outreach materials, welcoming initiatives, and a multimedia communication approach focused on the positive aspects of newcomers joining the community
 - **Strategy / Action – Action in progress** - commenced early 2012 TV COGECO Community TV Channel 4 is producing a six part series “Breaking Barriers: A Local Look at a Global Perspective” an in depth look at the challenges and successes immigrants coming to Canada (and living in Canada) experience in the Quinte Region. It looks at newcomers and in part the services available through QUIS and the work of the QLIP. Part six the final program may in part focus on the QLIP Project which may influence the QLIP awareness campaign linking the work of the QLIP and public education.

QLIP Local Settlement Strategy: Action Plan

3. Develop partnerships across city and municipal councils within the greater Quinte area to provide for policies and approaches to services that will foster a welcoming community that can provide the necessary services to newcomers
 - **Strategy / Action – Action in progress** - work with levels of government to promote the inclusion of an immigration strategy as a standard approach to planning and development. Implement QLIP deputations to city and county councils to foster partnerships in the goal of an integrated immigration strategy and encouraging a more welcoming community in the Quinte area.

Mike Hewitt – introduced the concept of bringing the interested parties together on the subject of having a regional immigration strategy embraced by all. Just as other Quinte area initiatives such as Quinte Economic Development Commission (QEDC) and the Quinte Manufacturers Association (QMA) are regionally based. A regional approach might have consistency across the region.

QLIP Local Settlement Strategy: Action Plan

4. Create effective approaches to community services in terms of the evolving requirements of a welcoming community
 - **Strategy / Action – Action in progress** - Creating effective approaches to community services QLIP website to be a “newcomer portal” to services that are available, to provide a “footpath” or “roadmap” for new arrivals and those contemplating coming to the greater Quinte area and will need to focus on areas of most interest to newcomers. Time frame estimated late June 2012

QLIP Local Settlement Strategy: Action Plan

5. Service sector linkage action report in terms of gaps and best practices in services to newcomers. Time frame 2012 – 2013

QLIP Local Settlement Strategy: Action Plan

6. Representation of the francophone immigrant newcomer community in the greater Quinte area to be explored in relation to services within the greater Quinte area. Time frame 2012 – 2013

Open Discussions:

There were discussions among all the Partners on the approach to be taken with the deputations. The Project Coordinator advised that the speaking notes will be highly summarized, and “to the point”, for each presentation. In addition, the suggestion was made to focus on each different areas and its makeup i.e. Belleville/Quinte West is focused heavily on manufacturing while Prince Edward County is more focused on the wine industry along with the emergence of a manufacturing base. The deputations were discussed in terms of the need to include information on how the QLIP can be of assistance to the city/county, possibly with our shared network... or consideration of the QLIP strategy in support of area planning, etc. There were also discussions on how and when the finalized QLIP Local Settlement Strategy and Action Plan would be provided to the municipal councils.

Mike Hewitt – advised that in relation to the need for labour market statistics for the greater Quinte area that an application has been submitted to the Ministry of Economic Development & Trade to conduct a Labour Market Partnership (LMP). The proposed LMP would allow for the collection of information on current and near future labour market issues and needs.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
QLIP Deputation to Quinte area councils to include: City of Belleville and Quinte West, and the Counties of Hastings and Prince Edward. Deputation “package” to be prepared.	Project Coordinator	Early June 2012 for Deputations end of June 2012

CONCLUSIONS

DISCUSSION

Next Meeting – Please note the revised date

Next QLIP meeting scheduled for **June 13th, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**– Location Quinte United Immigrant Services - U2 Boardroom 3rd Floor, 41 Octavia St., Belleville , Ontario