

Toronto North LIP (TNLIP) is a community-based, multi-sectoral planning table working to enhance the settlement and employment experiences and outcomes of immigrants and newcomers in Toronto North communities.

TNLIP has developed a Settlement Strategy and Action Plan for the region and is in the process of implementing the plan.

Read the Strategy at: www.torontonorthlip.ca

For a list of members, to learn how to get involved, or for more information on Toronto North LIP, visit: www.torontonorthlip.ca email: info@torontonorthlip.ca

TN LIP is funded by:



Toronto North Welcomes is the bi-monthly e-Newsletter of the Toronto North Local Immigration Partnership. It includes resources, information and ideas relevant to your work serving newcomers and offers reflections on working collaboratively to build welcoming communities in Toronto North.



From the Planning Table

Saying “Good-bye” to 2013 and looking forward to an exciting New Year

It has been a very busy year for Toronto North LIP! We started January with facilitators assisting each workgroup with the development of the Toronto North Settlement Strategy and Action Plan; we launched the plan in March and moved quickly into implementation.

The workgroups have been undertaking some exciting initiatives in areas such as employment service coordination; citizenship test preparation; early identification medical clinics for vulnerable communities and bringing faith organizations and the settlement

sector together to explore common ground.

In June, Toronto North hosted a meeting with the Chairs of the City of Toronto’s Newcomer Leadership Table. Throughout the year, Toronto North LIP has been working closely with the City at several points

In September Toronto North hosted an All-Council meeting where it was announced that CIC will be supporting more coordination across the LIP system in Toronto. With this will come enhanced impact for the work that is happening at Toronto North workgroups and we look forward to presenting the outcomes in 2014.

We look forward to having our workgroup members back in 2014 to continue the development of excellent, collaborative work at TNLIP. Your enthusiasm has been the fuel for the activity throughout this past year and we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge your efforts.

On behalf of Toronto North LIP staff and the Project Management Group, we wish you and yours all the best for a prosperous New Year.



In the Community

Supporting Employer Engagement through more Coordinated Employment Services

On October 24, coinciding with the City of Toronto’s Workforce Development Week, Toronto North LIP partners participated in a collaborative hiring event.

The Don Valley Employment Solutions’ (DVES) first hiring event sought to identify employment opportunities in the Don Valley region and bring those opportunities to communities who need them the most, not the least of which was newcomers.

Through the event, 165 job seekers were pre-screened for positions in retail, management, security, and other positions that will be landing in the community through new developments in the area. The job seekers were all pre-screened and matched with at least one potential employer. They received scheduled interviews and additional coaching and preparation on-site through the team of Job Developers that was created from among the four agencies involved in the event.

The Labour Education Centre, Skills for Change, Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office, and Toronto Employment and Social Services are the agencies involved in DVES who worked together to bring all the components of the day together. Thirty-two job seekers received job offers on that day and many more are expected to receive offers after the fact.

Toronto Employment and Social Services provided the venue which was critical to the day’s success. The private booths and large space offered a professional atmosphere and plenty of opportunity for one-on-one



interaction with employers.

The eighteen employers who participated were also extremely pleased with the organization of the day, stating that it was highly professional and that pre-screened candidates in scheduled appointments made the event worth the time—they all agreed that they would be pleased to participate in a similar event.

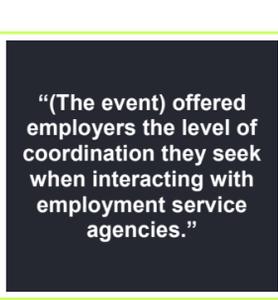
On behalf of Toronto North LIP, the group took the opportunity to screen a video over the employer’s lunch break. The video under development is a tool that builds awareness around the richness of newcomer and immigrant skills and talent.

The message of the video is to ‘hire talent: it’s the right thing to do’. The video features insights from the City of Toronto’s Director of Eco-

nomics Development, Randy McLean. In the video, McLean argues it is a matter of urgency that employers consider the tremendous, under-valued and under-tapped resource that is the new-comer workforce.

Over lunch, Toronto LIP staff lead a discussion with the employers around this theme and heard that there is much willingness from among employers to find ways to connect with immigrant job seekers. The employers felt that the hiring event, itself, was a step in the right direction. It offered employers the level of coordination they seek when interacting with employment service agencies.

To build on the results of the session, the DVES group is connecting with other similar groups around the Toronto North catchment to share information on promising practices in employment service coordination with a particular focus on the needs of newcomer communities.



Upcoming Events

Over the coming months, Toronto North LIP will be hosting and co-hosting events of importance to your work. Mark your calendars!

Feb.12 9:30 am-4:00 pm	Bridges 2014 Conference Collaborate. Coordinate. Connect 2.0. A city-wide forum to support cross-sector collaboration and partnerships. Hosted by the Toronto East Quadrant LIP.	Global Kingdom Ministries 1250 Markham Rd. Scarborough, M1H 3B4 For more information, contact Irmia Huftless: ihuftless@cathcrosscultural.org
Feb. 13 9:00 am-1:00 pm	Collaboration for Employment Success A forum that explores coordination across the employment service sector with the objective of serving newcomers.	Thomas Lounge Oakham House Ryerson University Campus 55 Gould St. Toronto, ON For more information, contact Prince Sibanda: prince@torontonorthlip.ca

Past Events and Resources

Life and work happens and you may have missed these events. Luckily, Toronto North LIP makes information on past events readily available. You won’t want to miss another!

Rights, Vulnerability and Access: Frontline Staff Networking	November 2013
This forum offered frontline staff serving communities across the Toronto North catchment the opportunity to network and gather needed resources over the course of a morning. Presentations from the Worker’s Action Centre, Centre for Legal Education and others can be found here .	
Faith and Welcoming Communities Forum	October 2013
A full-day event that brought over 80 representatives from among faith organizations and the settlement sector to identify common areas of work. View videos, twitter feed and other resources from the day here .	
HRCO “Canadian Experience Barrier”	September 2013
The Human Rights Commission of Ontario (HRCO) has a new policy that makes it illegal to require “Canadian Experience” during the hiring process. A presentation on the new policy was made to TNLIP and can be found here .	