



November 2015

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 an Action Plan for the region and is in the process of implementing the plan. Read the Strategy at: [www.torontonorthlip.ca](http://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](http://www.torontonorthlip.ca)  
email: [info@torontonorthlip.ca](mailto: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.

### Working Skills Centre:

55 Eglinton Avenue East  
Suite #703  
Toronto, ON, Canada  
M4P 1G8

Tel: 416 703 7770

### Free Information Session:

Every Thursday at 10 am—12 pm

## Featured Member:

### Working Skills Centre



Founded in 1978, WSC's mandate is to support immigrant women towards social and economic integration into Canadian society. Each woman's journey is unique and may involve addressing a multitude of challenges such as: access to basic needs including food, shelter, transportation and child care; language skills; access to networks; work-related skills to succeed in a competitive labour market; work experience.

Some needs are addressed through partnerships with other community agencies or referral to government and community resources. The bulk of WSC's internal resources are devoted to helping clients address the challenge of finding and maintaining paid employment. For our clients this is a critical part of the journey to social and economic integration. Many of our clients have either experienced long periods of unemployment or had only marginal attachment to the labour market in Canada.

### Our job skills training programs

These programs are holistic in design and equip immigrant women with practical skills to compete successfully for administrative work in a wide range of sectors. The development of skills both 'hard' and 'soft' in a group setting, addresses much more than employability. It helps overcome isolation and provides a huge boost to the individual woman's sense of self-worth, motivation, and belief in the potential to succeed. Approximately 80 participants graduate from our job skills training programs each year.

### Our Social Café Program

The program was started in 2013 and now runs year round on Saturdays. Staff and volunteers arrange activities including nature walks, arts and crafts, and workshops on communication, job search skills, financial literacy memoir writing and health-related topics. WSC provides a light lunch and TTC tokens for participants. This program is partly funded through a grant from RBC Foundation.

### Our Volunteer Program

WSC's volunteer program helps build a sense of inclusion and gives women exposure to a Canadian work environment. We try to accommodate between 40 to 50 immigrant women each year.

We try to accommodate between 40 to 50 immigrant women each year. Many volunteer to gain current work experience and work references. In this context our staff work hard to design meaningful work assignments and provide training, orientation and support.

### Our Playing for Keeps Program

This program is part of a Toronto Foundation initiative to enhance community vitality through bringing people together to participate in sporting and cultural activities. The program promotes physical and mental health, brings community members together, and promotes Toronto Foundation's overall goal of building social capital.

WSC



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Dear Toronto North LIP Members & Partners:

At this joyous time of year, we are grateful for our work with you. We wish you happiness and peace in a new year filled with hope. Happy holidays!

TNLIP Team

## Did you know?

- City of Toronto has a webpage on Refugee Resettlement Program. You can find the welcome letter from the mayor and information on planned activities and supports for Syrian refugees on this webpage: <http://toronto.ca/refugees>
- Lifeline Syria has created an online forum for sponsors: <http://lifelinesyria.ca>

## Highlights of Activities—TNLIP

### IEP Service Providers' Forum

On Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 TNLIP in partnership with TESS and with the support of the People's Church held a Forum for service providers of internationally educated professionals. The forum was a venue for networking and information sharing through which employment service providers came together to share leading practices in vocational programs, bridging programs, internships and mentoring programs. The following organizations were represented at the discussion panel: Centre for Internationally Educated Nurses, Information and Communications Technology Council, Global Experience Ontario, I-Plan bridging program for Architects, TRIEC Mentorship Program, Chartered Professional Accountants for Ontario. More than 60 employment service providers attended the forum. 98% of attendees rated the gathering as excellent and attributed their satisfaction to the format of the event. "Networking and having one on one conversation is great, however engaging in a discussion as a group united by a common goal is an invaluable learning experience" remarked one of the attendees.



### Creating Inclusive & Welcoming Environment

Representatives from 14 member agencies (18 participants) attended the training session held by TNLIP on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The training focused on creating welcoming environments and spaces for meaningful engagement for newcomers. The session touched upon various topics such as: reflective practice, assumptions and biases that effect our work, and engaging newcomers in co-design, co-delivery, and co-review of program and services.

All the participants that completed an evaluation form noted that they would be able to take what they'd learned back to their organizations.

### Pathways to Prosperity



"On November 30 and December 1, the Pathways to Prosperity held its Third Annual Conference: Responding to a Changing Immigration Environment, preceded by a Preconference Workshop on November 29 focusing on Measurement Strategies for Settlement Agencies, Local Immigration Partnerships, and Réseaux en immigration francophone. Also on November 29, the Southwestern Ontario LIPs organized a meeting of Local Immigration Partnerships from across the country designed to exchange ideas and form connections. Judging by the enthusiasm of participants and by informal comments received by the conference organizers, all the events were a significant success, featuring high quality presentations and lively, extended discussion" (P2P website)."

For more information on the conference and to access conference presentations and other resources please visit: <http://p2pcanada.ca/>

## Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars!

January 14, 2016	Information session & fair for sponsors and service providers of Syrian refugees- "Toronto North Welcomes!"	Invitation to follow. For more information please contact Elmira: <a href="mailto:elmira@torontonorthlip.ca">elmira@torontonorthlip.ca</a>
January 22, 2016	Trauma Informed Practice and Support: the training will focus on capacity building of frontline staff to understand and respond to the needs of their clients through the lens of trauma.	For more information please contact Neda : <a href="mailto:neda@torontonorthlip.ca">neda@torontonorthlip.ca</a>
January 27, 2015	Funders' Forum in collaboration with Toronto Newcomer Office and other LIPs.	Invitation to follow. For more information please contact Elmira: <a href="mailto:elmira@torontonorthlip.ca">elmira@torontonorthlip.ca</a>

### Toronto North Quadrant LIP Team:

Elmira Galiyeva  
Manager  
Toronto North LIP  
JVS Toronto  
T/416-649-1630  
[elmira@torontonorthlip.ca](mailto:elmira@torontonorthlip.ca)

Neda Farahmandpour  
Coordinator  
Settlement, Orientation & Language  
Working Women Community Centre  
Tel: 416-494-7978 ex. 225  
[neda@torontonorthlip.ca](mailto:neda@torontonorthlip.ca)

Tahir Khan  
Coordinator  
Health and Wellbeing  
Thornccliffe Neighborhood Office  
Tel: 416-467-0126 x 251  
[tahir@torontonorthlip.ca](mailto:tahir@torontonorthlip.ca)

Dilya Karimova  
Coordinator  
Employment & Labour Market  
T/(416) 649-1647  
[dilya@torontonorthlip.ca](mailto:dilya@torontonorthlip.ca)