



Toronto North LIP

Welcomes



June 2017

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

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

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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.

Welcome, our new Member - The Learning Disabilities Association - Toronto District!

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Featured Member:



New Circles Community Services is an innovative, grassroots agency that provides free clothing, social programs and employment training opportunities to newcomers, refugees and others living on a low income. Founded in 2005, New Circles moved to its current North York location in 2014 and is Toronto's largest clothing bank, serving 12,000 adults and children annually. In addition to serving our catchment area of Thorncliffe Park, Flemingdon Park, Victoria Village, Taylor-Massey, and Oakridge (as of January 2018), we also provide services to Syrian refugees and individuals in need of emergency clothing relief across the city.

Our core mission is to ensure that local families struggling with poverty can meet their basic need for adequate clothing. We do this through GLOW (Gently Loved Outfits to Wear), which provides free, quality clothing so that individuals and families living on a low income can save scarce funds for other necessities like food and rent. A family of four using our clothing service can save up to \$5,000 annually. We also offer a range of special initiatives focused on meeting the community's specific needs, including Teen Shopping, the Prom Boutique, the Seniors Mobile Mall and a Halloween event for children.

GLOW is a bright, spacious retail space that provides a dignified experience for clients.

It's also an ideal "learning lab" where clients can gain skills in retail and customer service, through industry-certified training programs, including Retail Foundations, Business Office Skills, and the youth-focused Leaders in Service Training. These programs combine classroom learning with hands-on experience, as well as job search skills like resume writing, job search strategies and mock interviewing. Program partners Centennial College, the Retail Council of Canada and the Labour Education Centre provide certification to graduates and job search support. Forty-three individuals received employment training last year, and 75 clients have graduated since these programs launched in 2014.

Fostering social inclusion is just as important. Many of our clients are newcomer women, who often experience high rates of social isolation. In addition to opportunities to build employable skills, we offer free social programs such as the Friendship Circle, which provides a safe and supportive space for women to connect and exchange information about culture and customs. Led by a dynamic team of volunteers, the Circle meets weekly to practice language skills, socialize, and develop connections in a comfortable environment.

For more information, please visit www.newcircles.ca



Highlights of Activities—TNLIP

1. The Flemington/Thorncliffe Parks Food Security Network conducted a **SEEDY THURSDAY** event in the evening on May 25th where residents received seeds, seedlings, information on gardening, cooking healthy food and food resources. Around 12 vendors and over 80 residents attended the event.

2. The Food Security/Healthy Living Subcommittee of Lawrence Heights Inter Organizational Network conducted a **community walk** to identify and inventory potential gardening spaces in the neighborhood.

3. TNLIP together with all four quadrant LIPs and Toronto Public Health conducted a **first aid mental health workshop** on **May 8 and 15** and coping with vicarious and secondary traumatization workshop on May 23.

3. The Toronto North Local Immigration Partnership and The Peoples Church co-organized and co-hosted an **INFORMATION SESSION for small and medium-sized business owners** in North Toronto on June 21st, 2017. The objective of the breakfast forum was to educate the business owners about various employer incentives and grants available to them through government-funded programs, and encourage the employers to create jobs and

paid internships for newcomers using the resources available in the community.

4. The TNLIP is planning a **FORUM FOR 100 REPRESENTATIVES** of faith groups and social service organizations to share promising practices and establish partnerships, and to encourage a more effective collaboration between faith groups and social service organizations resulting in better outcomes for newcomer settlement and integration. The Forum organising sub-committee met twice to de-brief the planning meeting consultations. The group has designed and finalized the survey, which was distributed among the participants to get inputs on the format and programme of the 'Faith Forum'. The survey was completed and analyzed for the inputs. It proposes a full-day event with a panel in the morning to discuss best practices and the 'world café' style discussion, and networking in the afternoon. The committee members comprise of faith groups, settlement agencies and the Toronto Newcomer Office. The Forum is planned for the last week of September. For more details about the Forum please connect with Sheeba@torontonorthlip.ca

5. The **TNLIP NEWCOMER Council** members had one city-wide meeting and one local meeting in the first quarter. The Council members were introduced to the

UPDATES:

The online Mental Health System Navigation Tool developed by the Inter-LIP workgroup, is ready for testing. The Newcomer Council members will test the tool during the summer, so it could be available to the public in the fall. The tool will be available on the website of the partner organization that helped with the tool design: www.iamsick.ca

The Mental Health Ambassadors project that involved eight volunteer ambassadors and 12 organizations has resulted in 14 training sessions engaging over 160 staff. The inter-LIP workgroup leading the project is working on the project report that will be shared with all Toronto LIP members.

other two TNLIP Coordinators who presented their respective action plans highlighting the opportunities for the Council members to participate in. The Council members will indicate their choices to the ELM Coordinator and will be connected to the chosen initiatives.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars!

<p>TNLIP Council Meetings (2017-18)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 19th, 2017 November 22nd, 2017 February 21st, 2018 	<p>If you would like to join us, please e-mail Elmira Galiyeva - elmira@torontonorthlip.ca</p>
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