



Toronto North LIP

# Welcomes



March 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](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)

Funded by: Financé par :



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 agencies!

Don Mills Family Health Team  
Bathurst / Finch Network  
Toronto District School Board  
TNO  
Toronto Public Health  
YMCA  
Social Planning Toronto  
Connector Project, WWCC

## Featured Member:



& Southeast Asian communities.

We are currently working with the Cambodian, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese communities. The Association aims to help people with linguistic and cultural barriers to gain access to mental health services with a Continuum of Services ranging from Wellness to Recovery from Illness. We provide counseling, case management, assessment, consultation, advocacy, psycho-educational workshops and self-help & mutual support groups, English as a second language class, and housing services to community members with mental health problems and their families.

Hong Fook's mandate is to work towards empowering individuals from the target communities to attain ethno-racial equity in the mental health system and to achieve optimal mental health status through a "Continuum of services". The agency has been a member agency of United Way since the 90's and has increased the service capacity of the health promotion program. The scope of services has expanded several folds.

Hong Fook Mental Health Association in partnership with the target communities thrives to: Promote the development of healthy mental status; Increase public awareness and knowledge of mental health, mental illnesses and, in particular for newcomers in their adaptation and adjustment process; Provide culturally competent, community based support services to persons with serious

Hong Fook Mental Health Association was established in 1982 to address the mental health concerns in the East

mental illness and other mental health problems; Assist persons with serious mental illness and other mental health problems and their families with the aim of improving their quality of life in accordance with their identified needs; Offer cultural competent consultation to other service providers in their delivery of mental health services; Facilitate access and linkages to services in the mental health system; Develop models of service delivery in collaboration with other service providers and funding sources to meet new and unmet community needs.

In addition, Hong Fook provides community education and mental health promotion activities across Ontario. Hong Fook is well recognized for their expertise and experience in working with newcomers in addressing their mental health issues. The agency has been providing ongoing consultation and training for their target communities, partner agencies, organizations, hospitals and funders in the past 34 years and has experience in running conferences on different mental health related themes.

For more information, visit :

<http://www.hongfook.ca/>

**TNLIP Newsflash** - weekly email update that is shared with a network of over 200 members. The newsflash includes information shared by the TNLIP members, other LIPs and Toronto Newcomer Office, as well as community organizations around the city.

If you would like to post, please email [sheeba@torontonorthlip.ca](mailto:sheeba@torontonorthlip.ca) with subject 'Newsflash'.

## Highlights of Activities—TNLIP

### 1. Newcomer Council Meeting -

TNLIP has recruited 13 newcomer and immigrant residents for the Newcomer Council. The **first meeting of the Toronto Newcomer Council** took place on February 16<sup>th</sup> and was attended by 12 members. The participants talked about the Council objectives and member responsibilities, learned about the Toronto North LIP (structure, role and projects) and discussed how they can respond to and get involved in the projects of the Toronto North LIP.

2. The Flemingdon/Thorncliffe Food Security Network held a **planning session on Dec 7<sup>th</sup>** to review the achievements of the network, analyze the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the network, renew the commitment of the network members, and plan for 2017. One of the upcoming activities of the network is a “Seedy Sunday” event (planned for May 2017) that engages newcomer residents in a dialogue on gardening and healthy food.

3. TNLIP Pop-up hub at the **Centennial Library** in the Bathurst /Finch area on January 14<sup>th</sup> in partnership with

the Griffin Centre and the Bathurst-Finch Network. 13 agencies provided employment, settlement, youth supports, services for seniors, services for LGBTQ community, family health, sexual and reproductive health and other at the event.

4. Toronto Public Health (TPH) and AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) the TNLIP conducted a **workshop on reproductive and sexual health** for its members on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

5. **Power of Collaboration**, was hosted by TNLIP for the employment service providers on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 at the People’s Church. The forum engaged employment service providers in a meaningful discussion about the collaborative leadership and action in the employment sector.

6. **TALK ABOUT Forum:** On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 the Health & Well-being Group held a discussion among managers and frontline workers to document the approaches, promising practices, and lessons learned in serving newcomers.

**The Mental Health Navigation Tool** working group has partnered with the “I’m Sick” social enterprise ([www.iamsick.ca](http://www.iamsick.ca)) to develop and integrate the online mental health system navigation tool into the broader online health system navigation tool developed by the social enterprise.

The “**I am sick**” online tool is available in 5 languages (English, French, Mandarin, Arabic and Spanish), to help find a family doctor or a specialist in the neighbourhood. The tool will also allow for searching for female only or male only doctors and will have other additions based on the results of the LIP consultations.

In February 2017 the final draft of the navigation tool was submitted to [Iamsick.ca](http://Iamsick.ca) for posting. In spring the workgroup is planning to start testing the tool with service providers and their newcomer clients.

The group has also initiated a **Mental Health Ambassadors project**. Eleven volunteer ambassadors were hired, trained and matched with the LIP member agencies. Currently, the ambassadors are in the process of conducting their sessions. The working group is planning the project evaluation in the summer of 2017.

## Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars!

<p><b>TNLIP Council Meetings</b> (2017-18)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 26th, 2017</li> <li>• June 20th, 2017</li> <li>• September 19th, 2017</li> <li>• November 15th, 2017</li> <li>• February 21st, 2018</li> </ul>	<p>If you would like to join us, please e-mail Elmira Galiyeva - <a href="mailto:elmira@torontonorthlip.ca">elmira@torontonorthlip.ca</a></p>
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