



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. To refer the Strategy and list of members, to engage or for more information on Toronto North LIP, visit: www.torontonorthlip.ca

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‘Toronto North LIP Welcomes’ is the quarterly e-Newsletter of TNLIP. It includes information on activities and events undertaken by the TNLIP with the council members. It also features a member to showcase their work and promote their projects for information and future collaboration.

Featured Member:



We believe Toronto can do better. For over 6 decades Social Planning Toronto has been working

to make Toronto a fairer, more inclusive, and prosperous city. As a charitable, nonprofit organization, Social Planning Toronto produces ground-breaking research, which we use to fuel our grassroots engagement efforts in neighbourhoods across the city. Social Planning Toronto aims to reduce inequality by focusing on issues affecting residents including housing, education, employment, and access to city services.

We help residents understand the impacts of inequality across our city. Whether highlighting strain on Toronto’s seniors or exposing the staggeringly high levels of poverty among racialized, newcomer, and indigenous residents, our reporting has made headlines and helped advance a city-wide conversation on inequality.

In 2017, we helped reveal \$61m in spending intended for low-income students was being diverted, as well as the overwhelming challenges facing young students while selecting school courses. Our reporting also drew attention to Toronto’s growing condo baby boom, an emerging number of young families getting their start in increasingly small units without adequate access to schools, greenspace, and childcare.

Our reporting helps build a stronger focus on the solutions to inequality and strengthens our efforts to make change on City policy.

We believe that the path to a stronger city begins with better City Budgets. That’s why we play a key role in mobilizing residents from across the city in the City Budget process. Our City Budget work centres around our timely research and analysis of our City Budget Watch Blog. Our in-depth coverage of the City Budget provides a meaningful resource for other nonprofits, journalists, community members, elected officials, and City staff for understanding the true impacts of the City’s spending.

We use this evidence-base to inform our City Hall advocacy, with our support for Commitment TO Community, a coalition of everyday residents, faith communities, nonprofit groups and community organizations working to build a better, fairer and more inclusive Toronto through active engagement at City Hall. By engaging residents and the nonprofit sector in the Budget process, elected officials and City staff are able to see the impact of their work and choices.

We believe Toronto’s community nonprofit’s are key to improving the lives of all residents. Through our nonprofit organization members and allies, we facilitate the Toronto Nonprofit Network, a new and growing city-wide network of more than 100 nonprofit organizations from a wide range of sectors including social services, arts and culture, health, education and sports and recreation. The network helps us bring the diverse voices of the city’s nonprofit sector to government, funders and business to create and influence systemic change.

Recently, we have utilized our connection to other community nonprofits to help carve out new City policies which reorient the City’s relationship to Toronto’s nonprofits. We believe this new structure will help nonprofits thrive and continue to serve communities throughout the city.

Our diverse, energetic, dedicated staff bring passion and experience to our work, helping us build lasting relationships across the city. As we work to improve the lives of Torontonians, we rely on an incredible team, including three Community Researchers and six Community planners, to bring to light and find solutions to the challenges facing residents.

NEW! Our new staff liaison to the TNLIP is **Maria-Saroja Ponnambalam**, who begins as a Community Planner in February. We look forward to building even stronger ties to the TNLIP community through this important partnership.



Highlights of TNLIP

1. The **“Builders & Dreamers”** Forum was organized on October 6th, 2017 by the Toronto Workforce Innovation Group (TWIG) with the support from TNLIP, at the Bathurst-Finch Community Hub. Over 30 young entrepreneurs attended the Forum. Six aspiring young entrepreneurs pitched their business ideas to the jury. Three of them were selected to receive monetary prizes (\$5,000 total) for purchasing equipment, marketing and product/service development. Those that did not receive the prizes got an opportunity to go for dinner with mentors and receive a scholarship to study at the York Entrepreneurship Development Institute that generously offered three scholarships to the Forum participants.

2. The **Health and Mental Health Navigation tools** are now live. The inter-agency planning group developed an outreach strategy and materials that included a presentation, a flyer, and an e-mail insert. So far, the tools have been presented at the OCASI Mental Health Forum, at the TSLIP Health Workgroup meeting and TNLIP Council meeting. The flyers were distributed

at the Expo for newcomer entrepreneurs and TEQLIP strategy launch meeting.
<https://iamsick.ca/healthcare>
<https://iamsick.ca/mentalhealth>

3. **TNLIP report on Talk About Forum** (2017) - Documenting Promising Practices in Newcomers Clients Service Area. You may access it here: <http://www.torontonorthlip.ca/resources/talk-about-promising-practices-newcomer-clients-services-area>

4. The **ELM workgroup administered a survey** of the large private sector employers. The survey was completed by 30 employers representing various industries. The purpose of the survey was to gain a better understanding of the challenges, needs, and emerging issues that employers are facing with regards to hiring, coaching and managing new immigrants. The survey results were analyzed and shared with the TNLIP Council members and other stakeholders.

5. **TNLIP issues a weekly Newsflash** every Tuesday to our council members. The Newsflash includes information shared by the TNLIP members, other LIPs and the Toronto Newcomer Office (TNO), as well as community organizations around the city. To send materials/

information for TNLIP Newsflash, please email sheeba@torontonorthlip.ca

6. **Toronto Newcomer Council** - the project has completed its first fiscal year. In the 1st phase of the project LIPs across the city aimed to increase the capacity of the recruited council members to effectively participate in local community/neighborhood and municipal planning as well as to engage in policy-related discussions and decision making in the city of Toronto. The members attended 2 city-wide and 3 locally arranged meetings/trainings, which helped them gain a better understanding about the structure of the Canadian government and decision-making systems, and how to become a part of local and municipal planning and decision making processes.

7. The ELM workgroup held a **Holiday Celebration and Fair** on Dec 4th 2017 at the Bathurst & Finch Hub. The fair supported newcomer residents, who seek to establish themselves as small business owners. JVS Toronto and North York Community House, supported their newcomer clients to participate in the fair as vendors. Over 120 residents attended the fair. The TNLIP received a Certificate of Appreciation for the input in building the Bathurst-Finch community.

Upcoming Events

Building Connections with Professional Immigrant Networks for Immigrant Employment	• Feb 15th, 2018 (5:45 to 8:00 pm)	https://pinsworkshop.eventbrite.ca
Talk About Forum :Documenting Promising Practices in Newcomer Clients’ Services	• Feb 27, 2018 (9am - 2pm)	https://talkabout2018.eventbrite.ca
Employment Supports Fair	• March 1, 2018 (9am - 1pm)	Contact Dilya to attend
TNLIP Council Meeting	• February 21st, 2018 (9:30 –12:00)	Contact Elmira to attend

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To make suggestions on content or format, or to remove your name from the distribution of newsletter please contact:

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