



TORONTO NORTH  
Local Immigration  
Partnership

### TNLIP Health & Wellbeing Work Group

Monday, December 11, 2023 at 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

## Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Alin Moyedi (New Circles), Judy Man (Ontario Securities Commission), Kay Ham (TCDSB), Laura Gold (JIAS), Melanie Watt (WWCC), Pallavi Mauji (TDSB), Roberto Echeverria (YMCA), Rola Hamdan (Willowdale), Tanya Yousufi (CICS), Wendy Hernandez (TNO), Vincent Lang (The Housing Help Centre)

**TNLIP Team:** Isabella Yan (WWCC), Astha Priya (WWCC), Misha Hossain (TNO), Rachelle Molto (JVS), Srna Stambuk (JVS)

| Agenda Item                                  | Facilitated by | Discussion  |
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| Welcome & Introductions                      | Isabella       | Isabella welcomed all attendees and reintroduced herself after returning from her maternity leave. Attendees introduced themselves and shared what they are looking forward to over the end of year/holidays.   |
| Updates: Settlement & Language WG activities | Isabella       | <p>NewTO App and Faith Forum will continue to be coordinated by Astha in her new role. Astha has done a call out for members to join her planning committee for the Faith Forum and Faith Leaders events in the late spring and summer. Please reach out to Astha if you would like to join the Faith Forum Planning Committee. The NewTO App will be launched ASAP as final tweaks are worked out in the early new year.</p> <p>Language SPO group is now chaired by Melanie. The group's focus for the upcoming year will be identified by the group in the new year.</p> <p>TNLIP Newcomer Community Advisory Table (NCAT) was started during the pandemic, and the group is now 2 years old. There are currently 13 members. NCAT advises TNLIP on various projects and initiatives to provide a newcomer perspective.</p> <p>Upcoming initiatives for the Settlement and Language Work Group include: Francophone community, Indigenous community, and housing</p> |
| 2023-2024 Future Planning Survey finding     | Isabella       | <p>Astha and Isabella sent out a survey asking WG members various questions about their interests and focuses for 2024.</p> <p>Top <b>focus areas</b> were: Affordable housing, Mental Health – Adult Learners and Youth, and Food Insecurity.</p> <p><b>What type of activities should this WG run?</b> Top 3 answers were: online events &amp; webinars, networking and partnership building and collaboration events, and conducting research to identify existing gaps.</p>   |

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|   |      | <p><b>What action areas should we focus on?</b> Top responses were: Knowledge exchange and information sharing, service coordination, and capacity building.</p> <p>With regards to engagement as a potential area of focus for 2024, one WG member shared feedback on the Faith Forum on the high levels of engagement and connections formed as a result of the event.</p> <p>Isabella will share the survey results with all work group members along with the minutes.</p>   |
| IRCC-CFP: Settlement and Language WG related        | Srna | <p>Srna shared an overview of the IRCC CFP at the PC meeting last week. As it pertains to the settlement and language work group, the services that have been most impacted will see changes to NARS, case management (direct service under settlement), community connections, settlement workers in schools. There is more support for digital support services. There is also a greater focus from IRCC on Indigenous-newcomer connections, specifically relationship building and navigating the Canadian health system.</p> <p>What would the role of the TNLIP would be in relation to these changes to support members? Perhaps TNLIP would help with NARS? As well, with the focus on Indigenous-newcomer service providers, there may be a flood of request to Indigenous organizations that are driven by funding requests. How can TNLIP play a role in coordinating relationships in a way that is in alignment with genuine commitments to reconciliation?</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> The type of collaboration that IRCC is looking for is not specified, and it is open to interpretation. One member shared that they have tried in the past to build relationships with Indigenous communities, and met significant challenges especially related to the distrust of the legal system; she was told by an Indigenous coordinator to never give up in this area, despite the challenges. The way forward should be done with awareness, listening, learning, and respect. Astha shared that TNLIP has contacts with Indigenous knowledge keepers as a result of the Faith Forum collaborations. An outreach plan should first be established. As well, we should also be aware of the intersections of Indigenous folks in their countries who are newcomers in Canada, those who have faced multiple discriminations with the intersecting identities (i.e. Indigenous AND newcomer to Canada). Additionally, the statistics Canada data regarding Indigenous peoples is unreliable due to structural barriers and the way this data is collected – the numbers are severely underreported. This should be kept in mind regarding proposals.</p> <p>There was discussion related to the changes to the NARS, as members wanted more detail on what IRCC’s thinking is behind the changes, who is eligible, can LIPs provide some clarity, clarifying how the NARS pilot is going, what is the client experience with this - are they able to do that in one session?</p> |
| Brainstorming Planning S&L activities for 2023-2024 | All  | <p><i>With regards to Francophone and Anglophone community collaboration, what can we do with new projects for this working group on this new focus area?</i></p> <p>Some of the challenges identified when working with Francophone newcomers include that we don’t know their computer literacy, they make up a very small community within the community of newcomers, some may not write well in</p>   |

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|                      |          | <p>French though they are fluent in speaking, very unique cases. There is an older (2015) Toronto Neighborhood report for where French speakers are living.</p> <p><i>With regards to Indigenous newcomer collaboration, what can we do with new projects for this working group on this new focus area?</i></p> <p>OCASI is hosting a webinar Wednesday Dec 13 on the City of Toronto's <i>Indigenous Peoples In Toronto: An Introduction For Newcomers</i>.</p> <p>WWCC is now including in hiring interviews for new teachers questions related to including Indigenous studies in the history of Canadian studies lessons. Approaches for Indigenous studies can be added to the discussion for Language SPO group meeting. Background literature review and knowledge can be collected as well. Isabella will send out an email to the Work Group to find out who is interested in this topic to discuss further what can be done in this area.</p> <p>The following resources were shared in the chat:<br/> <a href="https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/data-research-maps/neighbourhoods-communities/toronto-social-atlas/2016-maps/">https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/data-research-maps/neighbourhoods-communities/toronto-social-atlas/2016-maps/</a><br/> <a href="https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/94fc-Toronto_Geographic-Trends_Web-Version.pdf">https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/94fc-Toronto_Geographic-Trends_Web-Version.pdf</a></p> |
| Organization Updates | Isabella | <p>Willowdale - Annual Winterfest event will be taking place Saturday December 16 2023 at Parkway Forest Community Centre in the multipurpose room. The Mayor Olivia Chow and Councillor Shelley Carroll will be attending, as well as local businesses and vendors.</p> <p>YMCA has moved from Consumers Road to 2 Lansing Square Unit 700.</p> <p>TNO hiring two full-time LINC instructors - most likely located at 10 Gateway, new LINC classes starting. Please reach out to <a href="mailto:misha@torontonorthlip.ca">misha@torontonorthlip.ca</a> is more info is needed or to view the job posting.</p> <p>The Housing Help Centre has a group of Ukrainians and is accepting more referrals. Please send any agency updates to <a href="mailto:rachelle@torontonorthlip.ca">rachelle@torontonorthlip.ca</a> so she can include them in the bi-weekly newsflash.</p>   |
| Closing Remarks      | Isabella | Isabella thanked all members for attending.  |