



TNLIP Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom 9:30 am-11:00 am on February 20th, 2024

Attendees: Adey Worku (Toronto Newcomer Office), Alex Heung (CICS), Amira Masud (ACHEV), Anita Liu (TNGC), Behnaz Azad (ACCES Employment), Bill Hong Chen (WSPS), Carolann Barr (The Neighbourhood Organization), Christine Allum (OSC), Chris Wang (CICS), Christina Montauti (The Career Foundation), Claudia Bargellini (Working Skills Centre), Corine Hibbert Samuels (The Neighbourhood Organization), Diana Harrop (Centennial College), Dwayne O'Connor (MNLCT), Eillene Sellam (Conseil scolaire Viamonde), Karine Vodopianova (YMCA NIC), Kay Ham, Laura Gold (JIAS), Laila Nuristani (AWO), Leticia Esquivel (MNLTC), Maria Lo (Hong Fook), Marissa (EKNPLC), Matthew Neill, (Community Share Food Bank), Melanie Watt (WWCC), Monica Brennan (York University), Nasima Sayar (Jumpstart Refugee Talent), Nastaran Behgandom (NYCH), Nicole Chung (MNLCT), Nimo Abdulkadir (Tropicana), Philip Groff (New Circles Community Services), Parwana Siddiqi (AWO), Robbie Shifman (Consolidated Credit Counseling Services of Canada), Rola Hamdan (Willowdale Legal Services), Sarah Sepillo (The Neighbourhood Organization), Stephen Kamlasaran (Seneca College), Tanya Yousufi (CICS), Wendy Li (NYCH), Yvonne Davis (The Career Foundation), Zarine Dordi (WWCC), Yvonne Davis (The Career Foundation)

Facilitated by TNLIP team: Isabella Yan (TNLIP/WWCC), Misha Hossain (TNLIP/TNO), Astha Priya (TNLIP/WWCC), Rachele Molto (TNLIP/JVS), Farheen Meraj (TNLIP/JVS), Srna Stambuk (TNLIP/JVS)

Total: 42 participants

Agenda Item	Presented by	Discussion
Welcome, Territorial Acknowledgement, Thoughts about land New Member Welcome Agenda Overview	Srna Stambuk & Rachele Molto (TNLIP/JVS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Srna led the territorial acknowledgement and invited attendees to listen to and reflect on a short excerpt of Niigaan Sinclair’s presentation on “The Land” • Srna walked through the agenda and invited attendees to introduce themselves in the chat. • Rachele welcomed NEW members who joined the TNLIP recently by reading their names and the name of their organization • We reviewed the agenda for the meeting
Health and Safety Train-The-Trainer for SPOs Presentation	Farheen Meraj (JVS) Bill Hong Chen (WSPS)	Farheen provided a quick overview of statistics on workplace injuries and fatalities in relation to newcomer workers as follows:



		<p>Recent immigrant workers are 1.6 x more likely than Canadian-born workers to be exposed to hazards without adequate protection to mitigate those hazards.</p> <p>In 2021, there were 341 workplace fatalities in Ontario and sectors like Construction, Transportation and Warehousing, Manufacturing, Nursing and Residential Care facilities where many newcomers work are the most common to experience traumatic fatalities and fatalities from occupational disease.</p> <p>Farheen introduced Bill Hong Chen from Workplace Safety and Prevention Services who presented on Train The Trainer opportunity provided by WSPS to Settlement Sector organizations to provide basic worker H&S awareness session to newcomers and equip vulnerable workers and small business owners with OHS knowledge to prevent workplace accidents and incidents and create healthier and safer communities.</p> <p>WSPS is offering this free Train the Trainer to any organization in the settlement or employment sector working with newcomer and other vulnerable workers. WSPS will also provide a slide deck and other supporting materials in English, Spanish, Chinese, Panjabi, Farsi and Arabic languages to agencies who receive the training.</p> <p>To schedule Train the Trainer please contact Bill Hong Chen directly at Bill.chen@wsps.ca or 416-985-2762.</p> <p>For Bill’s presentation see Appendix 1.</p>
<p>Toronto Newcomer Office Updates</p>	<p>Adey Worku, Community Development Officer (Toronto Newcomer Office - City of Toronto)</p>	<p><u>Toronto Newcomer Day –May 23, 2024</u></p> <p>The 10th annual Toronto Newcomer Day will be held on Thursday May 23rd, 2024, at Toronto’s City Hall and Nathan Phillips Square. The theme for this year’s event is “Looking Back: A Decade of Welcoming and Celebrating Newcomers”. A save the date email was sent out in early January to our internal and external listserv. The call out for information fair exhibitors and volunteers will be going out in late February.</p>



To mark the 10th anniversary, TNO, the quadrant LIPs, our partners, sponsors and City divisions will collaborate to host a series of events and activities in addition to the main event on May 23rd, 2024. These include: re-events at City of Toronto Heritage sites across the four quadrants of the city.

A weeklong Newcomer led and curated art exhibit in the City Hall rotunda, an evening pre-event launch on May 21st at City Hall, and media highlights of the impact Newcomer Day has had on the lives of newcomers from different walks of life. More details on these events and Toronto Newcomer will be updated on the event website in the coming weeks.

Indigenous Guide

TNO continues the roll out and dissemination of Indigenous Peoples in Toronto: An Introduction for Newcomers and the accompanying Facilitators Guide.

Since the launch event in July 2023, over 1200 copies of the resources have been distributed across various networks. The Facilitators Guide was recently translated into French and available for dissemination.

If TNLIP partnership council members need copies of any of the resources in English or French, please reach out to us at newcomeroffice@toronto.ca.

Refugee Claimant Arrivals

In response to the increase in refugee claimant arrivals, the City has activated the Refugee Capacity Plan which includes various tables to coordinate City staff, resources, and partnerships.

The City-Community Agency Table, Refugee Claimant Arrivals in Toronto continues to meet monthly. This table is made up of community agencies and faith leaders who have been leading the response to support the increase in arrivals of refugee claimants, predominantly from African countries, and the continued pressures the City's shelter system is facing. Quadrant LIP managers participate in these meetings. The next meeting will take place on February 28.

The City continues to leverage the DonateTO platform to facilitate support being received by members of the public:

Newcomer Cluster Table



		<p>The Newcomer Cluster that is co-chaired by Toronto Newcomer Office and Quadrant LIP managers facilitated an engagement and consultation session in collaboration with the Black Resilience Cluster with B3 (Black-led, Black serving, and Black-focused groups) regarding allocation of supplemental one-time funding to address urgent, essential, unmet winter needs of African asylum seekers in Toronto.</p>
<p>CFP 2024 – What We Proposed</p>	<p>Srna Stambuk (JVS)</p>	<p>CFP 2024 for indirect services stressed the importance of engaging non-settlement partners in LIP activities to create welcoming communities. TNLIP has already engaged with many non-settlement partners like Ontario Health Teams, Health Service providers, School Boards, Post-Secondary Institutions, Faith Groups etc. and going forward we will be looking to expand non-sector representation further by engaging trade councils, chambers of commerce, BIAs (business improvement associations), the police and EMS, friendship centres, youth serving organizations, senior serving organizations, and LGBTQ2S focused organizations, etc.</p> <p>For direct service providers, CFP stressed the importance of the following approaches and topics: GBA+ Analysis, EDI Principles; data informed approaches to service planning, delivery, and evaluation; capacity to welcome newcomers from targeted populations; better service coordination between Anglophone and francophone service providers, and overall increase in partnerships with community level collaboration.</p> <p>We analyzed the guidelines for both direct and indirect service and tried to envision how we can meet the proposal requirements for indirect services in a way that would support our members who are direct service providers while also leveraging and building on some of our strengths as a LIP.</p> <p>As a result we proposed the following new activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancing EDI, GBA+, T&R capacity of members and sector - Building sector capacity to understand, assess, and serve clients from targeted communities and with intersectional identities - Enhancing member capacity to use data in planning, design, delivery, and evaluation of services^{***} - Activities to enhance awareness of and collaboration around newcomer access to housing^{***} - Enhancing of inter-sectoral community development^{***} - Building sector and community capacity to respond to crises - Enhancing capacity of sector to leverage technology for improved client services^{***} <p>The activities marked with^{***} are already starting under the current contract.</p>



		<p>As a result of these proposed new activities, we have also proposed two additional position to be added to the TNLIP team for a total of 7 staff from our three consortium partners.</p>
<p>What's Coming Up March 2024 – March 2025</p>	<p>Srna Stambuk (JVS)</p>	<p>So looking forward to the last year of our Settlement Strategy 2021-2025, we are excited by all that we have accomplished, and we will be focusing on outstanding action items and those that will help us transition to Community Planning for our 2025-2030 plan. With that in mind, we will be focusing on the following issues across our work groups with more focus in some than in others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - applying EDI lens and implementing GBA+ analysis - impact of precarious housing on newcomers and how newcomers can benefit from emerging solutions to the housing crisis - mental health of target newcome populations - impact of system changes (such as Ontario Health Transformation and Employment Ontario Transformation) on newcomers in North York - strategies for building relations between newcomers and indigenous peoples and decolonizing practices - impact of crisis on newcomers and the newcomer serving sector and emerging crisis management solutions - Planning changes to North York such as Downsview Secondary Plan and North York Centre Secondary Plan review and associated impact/opportunities for newcomers <p>We will also pay special attention to experiences and needs of specific newcomer populations including French speaking newcomers, racialized BIPOC newcomers and newcomers with intersecting identities (i.e. racialized LGBTQ2S women with precarious immigration status) and seniors.</p> <p>Please let us know if important target populations are missing from this list.</p>
<p>Save the Dates</p>	<p>Srna Stambuk (JVS)</p>	<p>Please note the following dates in your agendas and formal calendar invites will be sent shortly/by the end of this week.</p> <p>March 19 WSPS Train-The-Trainer March 21 GBA+ Training [May 16 Interfaith Leaders] May 23 Newcomer Day May 28 PC Meeting **Virtual**</p>



		<p>June 6 Faith Forum [July 22 Food Leaders] Sept 17 PC Meeting **In Person**</p> <p>The events such as Interfaith Leaders and Food Leaders are targeting specific subsectors and we don't anticipate wide participation from PC members but would like your help promoting the events.</p> <p>Events in bold are in person including The Newcomer Day organized by Toronto Newcomer Office with support from TNLIP, and the Faith Forum.</p> <p>Because our summer is full of in-person events, we decided to wait until September 17th for our in-person PC meeting.</p>
<p>Work Group/Project Updates</p>	<p>Misha Hossein (TNO), Isabella Yan (WWCC), Astha Priya (WWCC), Farheen Meraj (JVS), Rachelle Molto (TNO)</p>	<p>Health & Wellbeing Work Group <u>YPA Task Group:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Webinar on the experiences of newcomer Filipino Youth and family reunification to take place in April – This will be the last activity of this Task Group. For this webinar we are in conversation with North York Community House for collaboration. - Due to changing interests of the membership, we will dissolve this Task Group and shift focus to another emerging topic. <p><u>OHT Task Group:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will begin a new Task Group focusing on system change: OHT Transformation. This Task Group will look to gather members of our partner OHTs and other members to collaborate in creation of a service navigation tool and other strategies that promote building partnership, better newcomer health integration, and access to services. <p><u>HHAC Task Group:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pop up Mobile Housing Hub Update: a pilot project in collaboration between TNO and NYCC Housing Work Group which I am over seeing. This is a systems partnership project that will be spanning from Jan 2024 until Oct 2024. This project looks to create a one-stop service that could travel to existing hubs and community spaces where housing insecure residents are already gathering such as food banks. -The mobile unit will have a weekly presence in four different locations in North York where at least one service is currently provided. - So far we have hired a project lead. Narrowed down 10 core partners comprising of existing Cluster Housing working group partners, and new relevant partners



- Currently collecting data on community needs with the project partners via a needs assessment
- Conducting environmental scans based on geographic locations to narrow down where most housing insecure service users are gathering beyond what we know already
- Project will take its leap in spring when the mobile unit will become actively present in the community.

Food Leaders:

- Food report is under wraps and will be published on our website soon. We will begin food leaders planning in April. Tentative date is July 22

TMH Task Group:

- Organizational Wellness Webinar on March 5
- This 2 hour workshop aims to promote strategies of cultivating a supportive and healthy workspace, which enhances a service providers capacity. This workshop focuses on how holistic health and self-care can be incorporated into workplace culture, and the extent and impact of mental illness and mental health issues at work, including building staff's knowledge and capacity for addressing stigma, amongst many other topics.

Settlement & Language Working Group

- TNLIP has held an advisory session with the Newcomer Community Advisory Table to obtain their thoughts and feedback on the Inclusion Charter that is currently being developed by the InterLIP Employment Group.
- Winterfest happened on December 16th and was very successful with over 450 in attendance. It was led by the Fairview Interagency Network with support of TNLIP
- Language SPO is continuing to meet with next meeting scheduled in April. Group goals and focus is currently under review.
- New task groups starting soon on Housing, Indigenous/Newcomer Relations, and Francophone/Anglophone SPO Service Coordination
- Work Group Meeting scheduled for Feb 22nd

Employment & Labour Market Working Group



NEMHA Task Group

- We are currently exploring a partnership with OCASI to address the crucial intersection of employment and mental health. I will be updating the task group members on that front soon.

TISC Task Group:

- Refugee Claimant Speaker Panel: Scheduled for April 8th, this event is open to all interested parties. We are organizing a panel to discuss the barriers and opportunities for refugee claimants in accessing employment. Our esteemed speakers include Darrel Pinto from Jumpstart Refugee Talent, Monica Brennan from York University, and Claudia Bargellini from the Working Skills Centre. Farheen will be following up with an invite soon!

EDI Task Group:

- We plan to collaborate with the EDI task group to compile case studies highlighting successful employer integration strategies. These will complement TRIEC's research on employer inclusion. Do you have any success stories or effective strategies from your program or organization? Please share them with Farheen: farheen@torontonorthlip.ca

In the upcoming months, we aim to establish a new work group focused on overseeing the Employment Ontario Transformation and its impact on services for newcomers. We welcome any suggestions for subtopics this group should consider and will be sending out calls for participation soon!

InterLIP Projects Updates:

- Common Assessment Training: Scheduled for March 14th, in collaboration with First works and TWLIP.
- LMI Lunch and Learn on Manufacturing: We will be exploring current and future trends in manufacturing with Bassel Kazzaz, CSTECH/FOCAL; have you had experience partnering with CSTECH/FOCAL or know them? Please write to Farheen. Set for March 12th, this event is a partnership with TEQLIP
- Toronto Newcomer Workplace Inclusion Charter: We are in the final stages of finalizing the charter to create more inclusive workplaces for newcomers in Toronto. This is led by TWLIP.
- Preparing manuscript for the research, "Labour Market Integration Needs of Immigrants: A Scoping Review" for publication. This is with support from TEQLIP.

Next ELM Work Group Meeting: February 29th 2024 at 10 AM.



		<p>Intersectoral Community Development – Faith Events</p> <p>Interfaith Leaders Networking event on May 16, 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- This event aims to create a collaborative space for the faith leaders of Toronto, where they can come together and discuss pressing issues as well as innovative solutions <p>The Community-Wide InterLIP Faith Forum is on June 6th, 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- This year will focus on healing the community and building the bridges between faith community and newcomer SPO collaborations <p>NewTO & Newcomer Technology Advisory Group first meeting is on March 7th! This group will be a platform to share best practices for the use of technology in the settlement sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- There has been a huge positive response from our partnership about this need. We have 15 members part of the advisory group. We look forward to working together to discover how technology can be used to better serve newcomers, and vulnerable populations. <p>NewTO - TNLIP is actively working with the developers to get the app ready. Issues and bugs are being solved to ensure an effective app that helps newcomer access services is created. The estimated Launch is Summer 2024!</p> <p>Data Advisory Working Group First group meeting will take place on March 19th</p>
Upcoming PC Meetings		Next: May 28 th , 2024