



TNLIP Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

5120 Yonge St, North York, ON M2N 5N9 – Meeting Room 1

September 17, 2024 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Attendees: Adey Worku (Toronto Newcomer Office), Behnaz Azad (ACCES Employment), Carolann Barr (The Neighbourhood Organization), Chris Wang (CICS), Claudia Bargellini (Working Skills Centre), Cynthia Ding (Newcomer Women’s Services/NEW), Duvalier Leudjieu Monkam (Centre Francophone du Toronto), Elisete Bettencourt (MLISDT), Esther Tauhid (IRCC), Haseeb Ahmed (IRCC), Irene Vaksman (JVS Toronto), Kay Ham (TCDSB), Lakshmi Rajan (WWCC), Laura Gold (JIAS), Matthew Neill (Community Share Food Bank), Maxine McKoy (NYCH), Monica Brennan (York University), Novlette Evans (Newcomer Advisory Council Member), Pusat Kildis (Volunteer), Raluca Costea (YMCA), Rola El Moubadder (CARE), Samuel Ghebre (past Newcomer Advisory Council Member), Sarah Sepillo (The Neighbourhood Organization), Stephen Kamlasaran (The Neighbourhood Organization), Tanya Yousufi (CICS), Viji Palaniappan (Newcomer Advisory Council Member), Vincent Liang (THHC), Viviana Tirado (MNLTC), Wendy Li (NYCH), Zayda Consuelo Vaca Bohorquez (Newcomer Advisory Council Member)

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

Agenda Item	Presented by	Discussion
<p>Welcome & Territory Acknowledgements</p> <p>Volunteer Recognition Slide Show</p> <p>TNLIP People Bingo</p>	<p>Srna Stambuk (TNLIP/JVS)</p>	<p>Meeting started with territory acknowledgements, review of agenda, and invitation to attendees to view the volunteer recognition slide show acknowledging TNLIP volunteers’, placement students’, and NCAT members contributions to various projects.</p> <p>The slide show can be viewed here and includes QR codes to volunteers’, and placement students’ LinkedIn Profiles. Please check them out if you are looking for help with your projects – some of our volunteers are looking for paid work opportunities.</p> <p>Attendees engaged in a People Bingo activity.</p>
<p>TNLIP Refresher – Who Are We & How We Work</p>	<p>Srna Stambuk (TNLIP/JVS)</p>	<p>TNLIP presented an overview of our mandate, structure, actions, impacts, team, context, and communication vehicles as a refresher for existing and an orientation for new members. Presentation is available here.</p>
<p>Toronto Newcomer</p>	<p>Adey Worku,</p>	<p>Staffing Change:</p>



Office Updates	Community Development Officer (Toronto Newcomer Office - City of Toronto)	<p>Zenia Wadhvani, the Director of Social Policy, Analysis, and Research, is currently serving as the Acting Manager for the Toronto Newcomer Office. The City is currently in the hiring process for the manager position.</p> <p>Kera Vijayasingham- Policy Development Officer, will attend LIP manager meetings until a permanent manager is hired.</p> <p><u>Refugee Capacity Plan</u> City has activated the Refugee Capacity Plan which includes various tables to coordinate City staff, resources, and partnerships.</p> <p>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 in October</p> <p>The City's shelter system remains at full capacity. Refugee claimants represents more than 50% of the shelter system population at this time.</p> <p>Currently there are 9,713 individuals in the City's shelter system and 2,598 individuals being supported outside of the shelter system. 6,534 are refugee claimants</p> <p>TSSS continues to work closely with IRCC on transfers to other jurisdictions. 3,262 individuals have been transferred as of Aug 2024.</p> <p>Ontario Works: There are currently 35,000 refugee claimants on Ontario Works. Refugee claimants currently make up 36% of the TESS caseload.</p> <p><u>List of Services available for Refugee Claimants in Toronto</u> In 2018, the Toronto Newcomer Office created a comprehensive list of services for refugee claimants, which was disseminated until the onset of the pandemic. We are currently working to revise and enhance this list.</p> <p><u>Francophone Partnership</u> The Toronto Newcomer Office took part in the last CLIF Meeting on Friday, September 13, where the committee developed their action plan for the upcoming year. As the City-wide LIP,</p>
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		<p>the Toronto Newcomer Office will collaborate with the CLIF coordinator to explore ways to enhance collaboration and knowledge sharing between the CLIF and LIPs. If you are interested in contributing to these discussions, please feel free to reach out to Francesca Pecora at francesca.pecora@toronto.ca.</p> <p><u>Undocumented Residents Day</u> The City of Toronto, in partnership with OCASI and FCJ Refugee Centre, proclaimed Undocumented Residents Day on August 20, 2024 at City Hall. The event included remarks from the City of Toronto, followed by a panel discussion that delve into the contributions and realities faced by undocumented residents, the need for a broad and inclusive Regularization Program, the rise of anti-immigrant sentiment, and the City’s AccessT.O. policy.</p>
<p>PRESENTATION: Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, Settlement Services Branch</p>	<p>Elisete Bettencourt, Manager - Program Operations, Settlement Services Branch, Global Talent and Settlement Services Division</p>	<p>Elisete Bettencourt provided an overview of Settlement and Intergration Programs provided through the Settlement Services Branch of Global Talent and Settlement Services Division of MLISDT including program outcomes, budget, client demographics (by immigration status, length of time in Canada, and age), top countries of origin, and target professions* for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Settlement Services - Language Training and - Bridge Training*
<p>Quarter Updates on Completed Projects</p>	<p>Misha Hosain (TNLIP), Sarah Sepillo (TNO)</p>	<p>Pop Up Mobile Housing Hub From January 2024 to September 2024, TNLIP supported the United Way funded Pop-Up Mobile Housing Hub pilot project, a collaboration between North York Cluster Housing Work Group and TNO-The Neighbourhood Organization.</p> <p>The project delivered 13 Pop-Up events over the summer at 4 North York sites including two shelters and two food banks serving newcomers, refugees, and other equity deserving community members. With the support of a mobile team from 22 partner agencies, the events provided wrap around support to over 750 housing insecure residents (completed registration), and over 300 residents who sought information (without registration). The feedback received was very positive.</p> <p>TNLIP is proud to be part of this North York wide systems partnership collaboration, helping newcomers access affordable housing information and other services.</p>



		<p>and educational institutions, offering a clear, concise and organized summary of these changes. Each entry includes a summary of the policy update, the dates when these changes take effect, a brief description with links to learn more, and a quick analysis of their potential impact. By understanding these updates, stakeholders can provide accurate, up-to-date information and support to international students as they adapt to these significant policy changes.</p> <p>SPOs Influence on Employers’ Hiring Practices This project aimed to contextualize existing research on what strategies SPOs used to engage with employers and what worked in influencing employer practices positively at a systemic level. Part of the Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (EDI) Task Group portfolio, it used qualitative research. The research uncovered key findings around employer selection, tailored engagement, and counterproductive strategies. The next steps include collaborating with Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC) to develop tools for SPOs that support them in employer engagement.</p> <p><u>TNLIP Reports</u> Environmental Scan of EDI Strategies, Policies, Practice, and Tools and their context at the Toronto North Local Immigration Partnership Report is the outcome of implementation of the InterLIP EDI Framework at TNLIP. The 4 Toronto LIPs worked with a consultant to interpret and apply the framework to their individual LIP. The TNLIP team decided that as the first step toward implementing the framework we needed to take stock of the EDI policies, strategies and tools that currently exist and inform the work of TNLIP and our members. To do this we conducted an environmental and literature scan which included a survey completed by 26 senior leaders at our member organizations. The information gathered in the report serves as a baseline for the next phase of InterLIP EDI framework implementation. The report can be accessed here.</p> <p>“Toward Effective Settlement Service Practices Through Understanding of Newcomer Lived Experiences” describes learning from a community consultation and literature review led by TNLIP in face of the upcoming employment system transformation in Toronto with the goal of informing social service workers of systemic issues that produce unique lived experiences of newcomers in Toronto. The report provides recommendations to social service workers for most effective settlement practices given newcomers’ lived experience and the upcoming system transformation. The report can be accessed on TNLIP Website.</p>
Projects in Progress	Srna Stambuk	The TNLIP Team is hard at work on multiple projects including:



and Upcoming Projects	(JVS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Directory of Services for Refugee Claimants• InterLIP Employment System Transformation Working Group• Community Consultation with Toronto Community Crisis Services• Food Leaders 2024• Indigenous Newcomer Relations Task Group• Francophone Anglophone Relationship Building Project• Beyond the Faith Forum: Faith Settlement Sector Collaboration• Intersectoral Community Development with Grassroots <p>A brief overview of each project was provided and attendees were encouraged to pick up a project information sheet (linked above) on any projects that interest them and to contact the TNLIP coordinator for that project for more information.</p>
Refreshments and Networking	Everyone	Members were invited to stay and network until the meeting ended.
Upcoming PC Meetings		Next: December 3, 2024 (virtual)