



**TNLIP Settlement & Language Work Group**

**Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Alin Moyedi (New Circles), Duvalier Monkam (Centre Francophone du Grand Toronto), Kay Ham (Toronto Catholic District School Board), Kheda Denieva (Learning Disability Association of Toronto District), Maria Speare (Neighbourhood Link), Melanie Horning (Canada Revenue Agency), Melanie Watt (Working Women Community Centre), Nataliia Marushchak (North York Community House), Pallavi Mauji (Toronto District School Board), Parwana Siddiqi (Afghan Women’s Organization), Rola Hamdan (Willowdale Community Legal Services), Tanya Yousufi (CICS), Wendy Hernandez (The Neighbourhood Organization), Vincent Lang (The Housing Help Centre)

**TNLIP Team:** Isabella Yan (WWCC), Astha Priya (WWCC), Farheen Meraj (JVS), Rachele Molto (JVS), Srna Stambuk (JVS)

Agenda Item	Facilitated by	Discussion
Welcome, Introductions, and ice breaker	Isabella Yan	Isabella welcomed all attendees, new work group members, and reintroduced herself after returning from her maternity leave. Attendees introduced themselves and shared a project or initiative they have worked on that they are proud of.
Presentation from CRA: CRA’s Benefits Outreach Program  Followed by Q & A	Melanie Horning - Benefits Outreach Officer Canada Revenue Agency	Melanie from the CRA gave a presentation about taxes and tax filing for newcomers. The presentation covered the themes of Canada’s tax system, residency status for income tax purposes, benefits and credits that people may be eligible for include the Canada Child Benefit, different ways to do your taxes, digital services offered to help with taxes for newcomers, and how to protect yourself from scams  All of the information from the presentation can be found in detail here: <a href="#">Benefits, credits, and taxes for newcomers - Canada.ca</a>
Updates: Settlement & Language WG activities	Isabella Yan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Winter Fest 2024 - We are part of the planning committee for WinterFest, a free community event which brought together newcomers and service providers to celebrate winter holidays. There were over 600 attendees, a great turnout and successful event this year.</li> <li>2. TNLIP Newcomer Community Advisory Table (NCAT) -Consultation for input for the InterLIP project “Newcomer Inclusion Charter.” They provided their perspective.</li> <li>3. Language SPO group - Member-led group co-chaired by Melanie from WWCC. The group will meet mid-April, to connect with and learn from each other.</li> </ol>

		<p>4. Upcoming task groups: Francophone and Anglophone SPO, Indigenous and newcomers, and housing. We are in the process of laying the ground work for those 3 task groups. <b>Isabella requested that anyone interested in joining one of these 3 task groups to email her and let her know.</b></p> <p>5. New Settlement and Language Work Group Members  <u>Roberto Echeverria</u> has moved on to another role and will be missed by TNLIP!  This working group is also welcoming 5 new members:  <u>Parwana Siddiqi</u> – Afghan Women’s Organization  <u>Julia Migounova</u> - Bernard Betel Centre  <u>John Carey</u> - Central Eglinton Community Centre  <u>Duvalier Leudjieu Monkam</u> – Centre Francophone du Grand Toronto  <u>Aline Helene Merlette</u> - Centre Francophone du Grand Toronto</p>
CFP 2024: What we proposed and what’s coming up (Settlement and Language WG related)	Srna Stambuk	TNLIP proposed 2 additional permanent positions to be added to the team. If this is approved, this budget will maintain the level of funding. One position will be housed at Working Women CC. The other position will be located at TNO at the Thorncliffe office. This will focus on housing, building relationships between newcomer and Indigenous groups, and bridging between Anglophone and Francophone SPOs. We will be looking at intersectoral community development such as expanding faith and other sectors to collaborate with the settlement sector to create welcoming communities for newcomers. WE will be looking at how do we as a sector look at emergency crises responses, and how do those impact us at a North York community level.
Organizational updates	All	<p>Neighbourhood Link’s Welcome Team runs on a monthly basis and is focused on Ukrainian newcomers. NL is located in the Willowdale area. Bringing the community members together, enjoy Ukrainain music and food, learn about Ukrainian culture, learn Ukrainian dance classes. At Spring Garden Church, will be having a first International Welcome Team, building on the Ukrainian welcome team. At the refugee centre on 5800 Yonge St, 95% of folks are African. There is currently not a large Black community (more so Chinese, Korean, and Iranian), so there are cultural barriers for folks from that community to venture out and find community and connection. There are currently many faith communities who run ESL classes. Neighbourhood Link is looking to share resources and connect on how to support this group.</p> <p>In response to this, other members shared. Learning Disability Association of Toronto District also does help newcomers too and has a settlement department. TNLIP has been able to track down the list of NSP service providers whose funding has been topped up by provincial government for refugee claimants. CICS received funding to help refugee claimants, willing to connect with Neighbourhood Link about this.</p>
Closing Remarks	Isabella Yan	<p>Isabella thanked all members for attending. Isabella reminded members to email her if they are interested in joining one of the 3 new task groups (Francophone and Anglophone SPO, Indigenous and newcomers, and housing).  The next WG meeting will be May 30 10:00 - 11:30 AM.  Any program updates can be sent to <a href="mailto:isabella@torontonorthlip.ca">isabella@torontonorthlip.ca</a>. or <a href="mailto:rachelle@torontonorthlip.ca">rachelle@torontonorthlip.ca</a> to be included in bi-weekly newsflash.</p>