

Toronto North LIP WELCOMES



TORONTO NORTH
Local Immigration
Partnership



WELCOME TO OUR FALL TNLIP NEWSLETTER FOR 2024!

Take time to check out our upcoming events and activities, stay up to date on important news access points and announcements, and read up on this edition's featured member.

FEATURED MEMBER

COMMUNITY SHARE FOODBANK

Community Share Food Bank aims to increase access to healthy food for individuals and families in the Don Mills area through programming and services, building partnerships, and raising awareness on the intersecting issues of poverty.



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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER

2024 Faith and Welcoming Communities Forum

The 2024 Faith and Welcoming Communities was held on June 6 at Black Creek Pioneer Village in North York. This year's event theme was *Healing Together in Times of Crisis: Bridging Gaps Toward Sustainable Change*. The day's sessions explored: building meaningful partnerships and working towards positive change; leveraging community partnerships and governments to enhance capacity for supporting newcomers; increasing joint advocacy efforts between newcomer service providers and faith communities; improving access to health services for newcomers; collaboration between service providers and faith communities; and increasing efforts for Indigenous reconciliation. [Watch the recording here.](#)

Pop-Up Mobile Housing Hub

From January 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. The project delivered 13 Pop-Up events over the summer at four 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. TNLIP is proud to be part of this North York wide systems partnership collaboration, helping newcomers access affordable housing information and other services.

FEATURED MEMBER

Established in 2004 when 5 local churches came together to provide food for those struggling, [Community Share Food Bank](#) (CSFB) is recognizing its 20th Anniversary of service to the community. Since inception, CSFB has become a registered charity of its own, established a pool of nearly 80 volunteers, and currently provides food for nearly 500 households in the area. Our catchment area is 401 to the north, Victoria Park to the east, Eglinton to the south and Bayview to the west.

As with food banks across nationwide, the landscape has changed drastically since COVID-19. CSFB lost its nutritious snack and community kitchen programs, while seeing an over 60% year-on-year increase in people needing food. And our community garden has struggled to once again realize its full potential for public workshops and community gatherings. There have been positive changes, too, though! We moved from the hamper model of food provision to a choice model, facilitating dignified access to food to offer cultural variety and meet dietary restrictions. We introduced a Healthy Food Policy to purchase milk, eggs and produce every week – ensuring our participants always have access to fresh, nutrient rich foods. And we are working on a Community Navigator program to help our participants access any further services they may need.

There are significant challenges ahead – and we are confident that by continuing to build partnerships and engage with our community we can rise to meet those challenges together.



community
share FOOD BANK

INTERLIP PROJECTS

Truth and Reconciliation Series

TNLIP is proud to be supporting North York Community House's Truth and Reconciliation series! This learning series, organized and led by NYCH, focuses on Incorporating Indigenous Content into Settlement Organizations. Recordings of previous sessions can be accessed on the [NYCH YouTube Page - Indigenous Speaker Playlist](#).

The InterLIP Employment Services Transformation (EST) Work Group

The InterLIP EST work group was established to ensure that the needs of newcomer job seekers are reflected in the new integrated employment service system in Toronto.

This InterLIP work group identified an opportunity to inform WCG (the new Employment Service System Manager for Toronto) about the unique needs of Toronto's diverse newcomer populations through community consultations, focus groups, and key informant interviews during the research phase of the transition to the new employment services system. In return, WCG will share their research findings with all participating organizations later this year.

RECENTS ACTIVITIES

Summary of Policy Changes for International Students

As Canada continues to attract international students, significant policy changes are being introduced and implemented to manage the growing demand, streamline work and residency pathways, and support targeted groups. We have summarized these changes in a [table with links to further information, available on our website](#).

Influencing Inclusive Practices through Employer Engagement: Role of Service Provider Organizations

A qualitative study initiated by the EDI Task Group to explore how Employment SPOs engage with employers to foster inclusive workplace practices for skilled immigrants. Key findings included: SPOs prioritize employers aligned with diversity values, avoiding those with discriminatory attitudes to ensure safe, respectful workplaces; from informal mentoring to direct employer support, SPOs adapt approaches based on employer needs and labor market demands; formal partnerships often fail; informal, flexible collaborations produce better outcomes; large corporations lack incentives to engage. [You can learn more on our website](#).

Community Consultation with Toronto Community Crisis Services

On September 12th, 25 people from 25 agencies attended a community consultation with Toronto Community Crisis Services facilitated by TNLIP. The purpose of the Community Consultation was to explore how newcomers and equity-deserving communities in North York express emotional distress and mental health crises, and how the TCCS team can best support them. Major findings included that newcomers often do not reach out for support with mental health until there is a crisis due to the following factors: stigma, cultural and family dynamics, language barriers, and distrust towards the system.

GET ADDED TO OUR NEWSFLASH!

If you are interested in being a part of our bi-weekly newsflash, contact Rachele Molto: rachele@torontonorthlip.ca

If you would like to learn more or join TNLIP, email us at info@torontonorthlip.ca

RECENT AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Environmental Scan of EDI Strategies, Policies, Practices, and Tools, and their Context at the Toronto North Local Immigration Partnership

As part of the [Toronto InterLIP EDI Framework implementation](#), the Toronto North LIP conducted an environmental scan of the state of EDI in non-profits in Toronto. This scan included an overview of the state of EDI in the non-profit sector in both the Canada-wide and Toronto-specific context, as well as a survey of TNLIP members to learn more about the EDI initiatives and policies of our partner organizations. [You can read the full report on our website.](#)

VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENTS WITH TNLIP

TNLIP is grateful to have had the support of several placement students and volunteers over the past year. Thank you to Stephen Kamlasaran, Nudrut Mir, Julius Kakooko, Gwyneth Manilag, Pusat Kildis, Crystal Chen, Olubunmi Ghiazat Adebimpe. Thank you for all your hard work!



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Toward Best Settlement Service Practices Through Understanding of Newcomer Lived Experiences

In 2024, Toronto began transitioning to a new Employment Service system, affecting key programs like Ontario Works, Employment Ontario, and ODSP. Recognizing the unique needs of newcomers, Toronto's four LIPs initiated community consultations, led by Toronto North LIP, to gather input from members, newcomers, and key informants. The consultations focused on understanding newcomers' emotional challenges, key moments in their settlement journey, and best practices for social service workers. Engaging 12 LIP organizations and 17 key informants, the process highlighted a need for further research, leading TNLIP to conduct a literature review for deeper insights. [The full report is on our website.](#)

Food Leaders Networking Event

TNLIP will be hosting its second annual Food Leaders Networking Event on Monday October 21st. The event will bring together key food leaders from across North York, including those from community gardens farms, grassroot organizations, community kitchens, food banks, and many more. This year's event will focus on the food crises, food systems, and long term strategies, as well as forming strong relationships and connections between food leaders.

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