

Newsletter

Winter 2015



Toronto West Local Immigration Partnership

Community Collaboration at Work

The Toronto West LIP (TWLIP) is a collaborative initiative to enhance local delivery of services for newcomers, while promoting the innovative and efficient use of community resources through improved coordination among social service agencies as well as other community stakeholders.

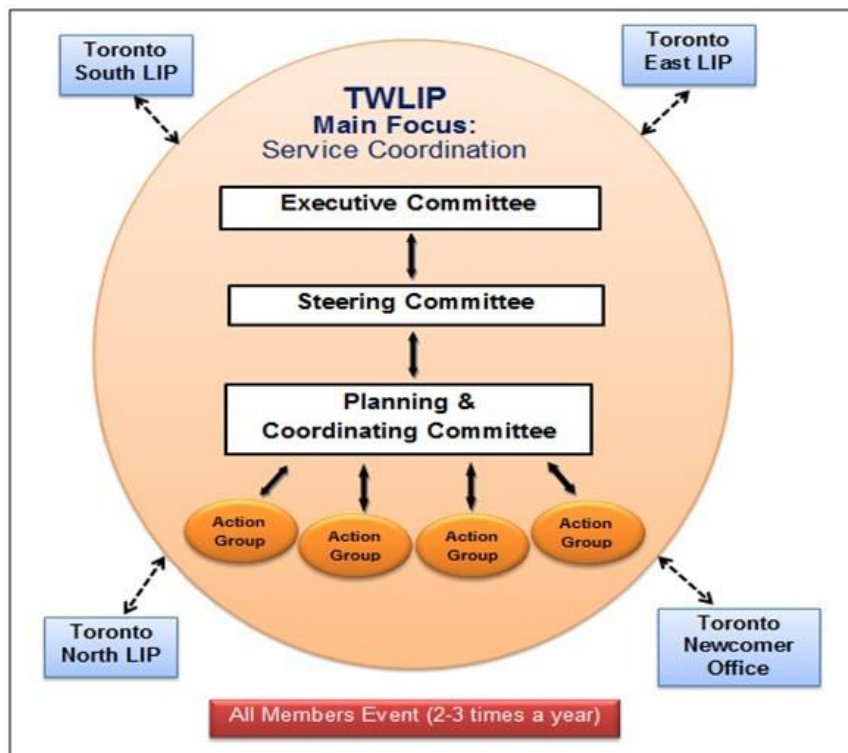
The TWLIP is funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and is overseen by four partner agencies: Delta Family Resource Centre, JobStart (lead agency), Rexdale Women's Centre, and Social Planning Toronto.

Vision: Our vision is a Toronto West community where – through a collaborative approach – newcomers' needs are met, they are fully engaged in our community, integrated, and have access to meaningful employment.

Mission: The mission of the Toronto West Local immigration Partnership (TWLIP) is to:

- Reflect, support and welcome diversity
- Value and involve the talents and experience of newcomers
- Raise awareness of community issues and encourage collective action
- Co-ordinate a service delivery system within TWLIP which is seamless, client-focused and client-led
- Share resources, best practices and opportunities
- Advocate for newcomers and immigrants

We Have A New Structure!



The above is the new organizational chart of the Toronto West LIP created based on the voices of our members. In 2014/15, the TWLIP will implement actions that are identified by the members of the Planning and Coordinating Committee, with the focus on enhancing service coordination among service providers. Steering Committee will play an advisory role to the TWLIP project; Executive Committee will ensure that the contractual obligations with the funders are met.

The TWLIP will also work collaboratively with other Toronto LIPs in various capacities of the LIP projects. For example, we have representatives sit at the Newcomer Leadership Table (one component of the [Toronto Newcomer Strategy](#)); we are involved in the work of other quadrant LIPs; we also invite representatives from other LIPs to join the TWLIP's city-wide project.



Action Groups 2014/15

The TWLIP Planning and Coordinating Committee (PCC) has voted to implement the following five activities in 2014/15. Each activity is led by a PCC member and supported by two staff members.

Action Group	Description
<p>Educational Resources for Newcomer Families</p> <p><u>Support Staff:</u> Melanie Encalada Stephanie Gris Bringas</p>	<p><u>Goal:</u> To increase frontline workers' knowledge of the programs services and resources available in Toronto which support newcomer parents' understanding of the education system, and encourage their involvement in their children's learning and within their school community.</p> <p><u>Deliverable:</u> A website and web-based inventory for settlement workers that provides information about programs, services, workshops and resources for newcomers parents and families.</p>
<p>Newcomer Mental Health Symposium</p> <p><u>Support Staff:</u> Melanie Encalada Stephanie Gris Bringas</p>	<p><u>Goal:</u> This will be a city-wide event that brings together frontline workers, program coordinators, researchers and leaders from the fields of Settlement, Mental Health and Community Services to share information, build connections and explore issues related to newcomer mental health and wellness.</p> <p><u>Deliverable:</u> A symposium for service providers that focuses on Newcomers, settlement and mental wellness.</p>
<p>Removing the Canadian Experience Barrier - Phase II (Train the Trainer)</p> <p><u>Support Staff:</u> Elizabeth Bethune & Yasmin Haq-Khan</p>	<p><u>Goal:</u> To build capacity and promote leadership in newcomers to raise awareness of the recent Ontario Human Rights Commission Policy which considers the requirement for "Canadian Experience" as grounds for discrimination.</p> <p><u>Deliverables:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Develop training resources and guide for trainers. 2) Organize train-the-trainer workshop to pilot the training resources. 3) Support a series of workshops in which participants from the above workshop use the training resources to educate newcomers on the policy.
<p>Service Coordination</p> <p><u>Support Staff:</u> Elizabeth Bethune & Stephanie Gris Bringas</p>	<p><u>Goal:</u> To enhance the capacity of agencies to implement effective practices for a more coordinated service delivery system.</p> <p><u>Deliverable:</u> A series of educational, interactive workshops and panel discussions.</p>
<p>Unlocking Newcomer Civic Participation</p> <p><u>Support Staff:</u> Yasmin Haq-Khan & Melanie Encalada</p>	<p><u>Goal:</u> To promote newcomer civic participation in our political and social systems by conducting awareness raising activities.</p> <p><u>Deliverable:</u> A workshop series to enhance newcomer awareness and participation in matters of civic concern.</p>

Promoting a Community Event?

WE CAN HELP!

Community Info Bulletin

Since September 2014, the Toronto West LIP team has been delivering a bi-weekly update to the members in our database to inform everyone about the upcoming events happening in the region. While the focus will be within the Toronto West, we also include important events that happen in other parts of the city:

- If you have not received our weekly update and would like to get one, subscribe to our mailing list at www.torontowestlip.ca
- If you have events that you want to share with our members, please email them to [Elizabeth Bethune](mailto:Elizabeth.Bethune@rexdalewomen.org) (ebethune@rexdalewomen.org)

TWLIP Website

You can also post your event on our website:

- **Step 1:** Go to www.torontowestlip.ca
- **Step 2:** Click on the “[Post an Event](#)” at the left side of the main page.
- **Step 3:** Fill in the event details and click “Submit Event”. You will be notified when your event is approved and posted on the website.

News/Resources

Did you know...

- ⇒ Starting January 2015, a new electronic system called **Express Entry** will be launched by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to manage applications for permanent residence in certain economic programs.
- ⇒ **New Caregiver program** took effect on November 30th 2014. New caregivers will now have two pathways to permanent residence.
- ⇒ A **webinar** to address the changes to the Canadian Citizenship law has been posted on the Your Legal Right website.
- ⇒ Statistic Canada published a paper in December 2014 titled “**Life Satisfaction among Recent Immigrants in Canada: Comparisons with Source-country Populations and the Canadian-born**”

TWLIP Events and Meetings

January 2015				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

- Jan 06 Mental Health Symposium Action Group Meeting
- Jan 08 Service Coordination Series Action Group Meeting
- Jan 09 Steering Committee Meeting
- Jan 16 Planning and Coordinating Committee Meeting
- Jan 20 Unlocking Newcomer Civic Participation Action Group Meeting

For meeting details, please contact the TWLIP staff.

Past Event

On Oct 24th 2014, Toronto West LIP and Humber College collaboratively organized a lunch and learn event - "Professional Development and Networking: Improving Information & Referrals." The event highlights included a panel discussion on the recent changes to the immigration and citizenship policy, and a case study session to explore how frontline workers respond to challenging cases and to assess the extent of their knowledge/awareness around appropriate information and referral to services and programs for their clients.



Lunch and learn event panel discussion, Oct 24, 2014

This event was well received by the participants. According to the event feedback, participants felt that the information presented was relevant (100%); majority of them also felt that their awareness of the issues in the topic areas has increased (89%) and that they had an opportunity to make new contacts (80%).

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Toronto West
Local Immigration Partnership
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Funded by:

Financé par :



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Immigration Canada

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