

Newsletter

Fall 2015



Toronto West
Local Immigration Partnership
Community Collaboration at Work

The Toronto West Local Immigration Partnership (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 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

2015 Newcomer Mental Health Symposium

Promising Models and Solutions for Cross-Sector Collaboration



The TWLIP Newcomer Mental Health Symposium took place on June 16, 2015 at the Rexdale Community Hub. Approximately 100 people attended the event.

The objective of the event was to create opportunities for dialogue across sectors that will catalyze collaborative solutions and coordinated responses in the field of newcomer mental health. The symposium supports the broader mandate of the TWLIP, which is to enhance service coordination, facilitate partnerships and encourage multi-stakeholder collaboration in the delivery of services for newcomers.

The day began with a keynote address by Uzma Shakir, Director of the Equity, Diversity and Human Rights Division at the City of Toronto, and presentations by a panel of representatives from mental health programs in Toronto. Symposium attendees participated in facilitated Open Space dialogues that offered the opportunity to share knowledge and ideas, identify common challenges and brainstorm solutions on the following topics:

- Newcomer adaptation, integration and mental health
- Culturally accessible services and alternative therapies
- Women, gender and mental health
- Stigma, culture and mental health
- Newcomer youth and mental health
- Refugees, resettlement and mental health
- Facilitating client access to mental health services

In the afternoon, a participatory theatre was presented by members of Advocacy for Change, a resident-led group working to improve mental health supports for communities in northwest Toronto. The session was well received by the participants.

For more details of the event, visit: <http://www.torontowestlip.ca/newcomer-mental-health-symposium-2015/>



Action Groups Updates

Each Action Group is led by a PCC member and supported by two staff members. To find out the goal and deliverables of each Action Group, visit the [Action Group page](#) on the [TWLIP website](#).

Action Group	Updates
Educational Resources for Newcomer Families <u>Support Staff:</u> Sana Hafeez Sujit Fonseca	The website 'welcome2school.ca' is live and the group is currently looking for additional resources to be posted on the website. If you would like to share any programs or resources that will help newcomer parents' understanding of the education system and encourage their involvement in the children's learning, submit your information @ http://welcome2school.ca/submit-information/
Newcomer Mental Health Symposium <u>Support Staff:</u> Sana Hafeez Sujit Fonseca	The Toronto West LIP Newcomer Mental Health Symposium took place on June 16, 2015 at the Rexdale Community Hub. For more information, please see the first page. Since the group has now successfully reached its goal, the group has been dissolved. At the recent Planning and Coordinating Committee (PCC) meeting in September, the PCC members collectively decided to form a new Action Group focusing on issues related to Violence against Women .
Removing the Canadian Experience Barrier - Phase II (Train the Trainer) <u>Support Staff:</u> Yasmin Haq-Khan	In collaboration with the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC), the Action Group is in the process of developing a training program based on OHRC's <i>Policy on removing the "Canadian experience" barrier</i> . The policy outlines how requiring job seekers to have "Canadian experience" can be found to be discrimination under the <i>Ontario Human Rights Code</i> . To pilot the program, the TWLIP-OHRC team will hold a training session on October 29 in which about 20 service providers will be trained as trainers. The trained staff will be expected to replicate the training with a group of newcomers before March 2016. In addition, the full curriculum including a training guide will be posted on OHRC, TWLIP and other web-sites for organisations to download and use.
Service Coordination <u>Support Staff:</u> Sujit Fonseca	The group delivered the "Successful Coalition Building" forum on July 22nd at the Etobicoke Civic Centre. The forum provided an opportunity for participants to learn best practices, network and exchange strategies on building successful coalitions as it relates to service improvement and co-ordination. The session was well attended and received. For more details of this session visit: http://www.torontowestlip.ca/successful-coalition-building-forum/ At present, the group members are planning for the next event which will be delivered in the Fall. The topic will be focused on Co-location and Itinerant Service Delivery. More details to follow.
Unlocking Newcomer Civic Participation <u>Support Staff:</u> Yasmin Haq-Khan & Sana Hafeez	The Action Group has delivered 15 workshops to 7 different groups of newcomer since April 2015 to promote newcomer civic participation in our political and social systems. Emerging topics of discussion are: LGBTQ Activism, Understanding Aboriginal Issues, Bill C-51, Bill C-24, Sex Education, Islamophobia and Democracy as a concept. The group has surpassed its goal in facilitation workshops and has scheduled a meeting for September 28 th to discuss the work plan from October 2015 – March 2016.

Toronto West LIP Website: www.torontowestlip.ca

Promoting a Community Event? WE CAN HELP!

Community Info Bulletin

The Toronto West LIP team has been delivering the Community 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:

- 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 [Sana Hafeez \(sana@dfrc.ca\)](mailto:sana@dfrc.ca)

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...

- ⇒ Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) has released the [Express Entry Mid-Year Report](#).
- ⇒ [Facts and Figures 2014](#) tells you the number of permanent residents came to Canada between 1990 and 2014.
- ⇒ World Education Services (WES) surveyed more than 3,000 prospective skilled immigrants and released a report in May 2015 titled “[Considering Canada: A Look at the Views of Prospective Skilled Immigrants](#)”.
- ⇒ Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) launched a free [3-part E-Learning](#) on Removing the Canadian Experience Barrier (for Employment Agencies, Employers & Job Seekers).
- ⇒ A [New Application Process](#) has been launched for Internationally Educated Nurses in August by the Canadian Regulators.
- ⇒ Toronto released its [Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy](#) in June 2015.

TWLIP Events and Meetings



March 10, 2015 Planning & Coordinating Committee (PCC) Meeting

- Oct 15 Service Coordination Action Group Meeting
- Oct 16 Removing the Canadian Experience Barrier Train-the-Trainer Action Group Meeting
- Oct 29 Removing the Canadian Experience Barrier Train-the-Trainer Session
- Nov 18 Planning and Coordinating Committee Meeting

For meeting details, please contact the TWLIP staff.

Other Event

Toronto Newcomer Day

The City of Toronto celebrated its first Newcomer Day on May 29, 2015. The event was organized by the City of Toronto and the Toronto Newcomer Leadership Table. The Toronto West LIP was invited to participate at the Information Fair. We leverage the opportunity to promote programs and services offered by our members.

A Citizenship Ceremony was held at the Council Chamber and 56 new Canadians were sworn in.

Starting next year, Toronto Newcomer Day will fall on last Friday in May annually.



Toronto Newcomer Day. From left: Sana Hafeez (TWLIP staff), Beth Cook (Humber College), and Kathering Caviedes (Learning Enrichment Foundation)

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