

Newsletter Fall 2016



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 Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) 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 – every newcomers' needs are met, they are fully engaged and integrated in our communities.

Mission

Our mission 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
- Coordinate a service delivery system within TWLIP which is seamless, and client-centered
- Share resources, best practices and opportunities
- Coordinate existing resources for newcomers and immigrants

Syrian Refugee Responses

Following the announcement made by the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship on Canada's Syrian Refugee plan, Toronto West Local Immigration Partnership (TWLIP) identified a need to respond to the settlement needs of Syrian refugees in the area. From November 2015 to March 2016, our focus was on support for private sponsors of refugees, key achievements included:

- Creating a **directory** that includes services and programs available for refugees within the TWLIP catchment area. The resource list is available online at: <http://www.torontowestlip.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Information-Resource-for-Syrian-Refugee-Settlement.docx>
- In collaboration with the Toronto Newcomer Office, TWLIP hosted two **Information Sessions for Private Sponsors of Refugees**. The information sessions provided private sponsors the opportunities to learn about Syrian culture and history, different services and programs available to support their sponsorship efforts. The second information session included an additional presentation from WoodGreen HOME Registry where people learnt about the online portal that connects refugees with housing and resources.



Information for Private Sponsors of Refugees, March 30, 2016 at The Lady of Peace Church

In the 2016-17 program year, TWLIP will continue its work supporting the integration of Syrian refugees by working collaboratively with community partners, including religious institutions such as churches and mosques, to identify actions that meet the needs of the community.



Action Groups Updates

Each Action Group is led by a Planning and Coordinating Committee (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 [Toronto West LIP website](http://www.torontowestlip.ca) (www.torontowestlip.ca).

Action Group	Updates
<p>Educational Resources for Newcomer Families</p> <p><u>Support Staff:</u> Sana Hafeez Stephanie Gris Bringas</p>	<p>The group has been working with staff from the North and East LIPs to explore the possibility of expanding the partnership and incorporating information about programs from all parts of the city on welcome2school.ca. The website is currently a partnership between the West and South LIPs.</p> <p>The group is also conducting ongoing information sessions to present the key features of the website to frontline staff. If your organization is interested in learning more about the website, please contact Sana or Stephanie (see contact information on P.4), or click HERE for more details.</p>
<p>Removing the Canadian Experience Barrier: Train the Trainer</p> <p><u>Support Staff:</u> Uzma Irfan Yasmin Haq-Khan</p>	<p>After the success of providing a train-the-trainer session to 20 individuals in the 2015/16 program year, the TWLIP has decided to make this project a city-wide initiative. This year the group will hold another training session on November 16 in which 10 service providers from each quadrant LIP (40 in total) will be trained on the Removing the “Canadian Experience” Barrier Policy. The trained staff will be expected to replicate the training to the newcomer clients they serve by February 2017.</p> <p>In addition, the training curriculum that was used during last year’s training session is currently being updated by the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC), based on the feedback received from the facilitators and the participant of the training. The revised curriculum will be used for this year’s training, and will be uploaded to the TWLIP website for organizations to download and use.</p>
<p>Service Coordination</p> <p><u>Support Staff:</u> Stephanie Gris Bringas Yasmin Haq-Khan</p>	<p>Since April, the group has been reaching out to religious groups and organizations in the community involved in Syrian refugee settlement. A survey was conducted to gather information about the settlement challenges of recent Syrian newcomers.</p> <p>As a follow-up to this survey the group held a meeting with representatives from mosques and Islamic organizations in the region to discuss the settlement needs of Syrians in greater depth. This meeting was a first step in building relationships with these community partners, and there was some discussion of itinerant service delivery at mosques as a way to reach out to the Syrian community and increase the accessibility of services.</p>
<p>Women Against Violence</p> <p><u>Support Staff:</u> Sana Hafeez Uzma Irfan</p>	<p>The goals of the group is to promote the message that gender-based violence is everyone’s issue to address, and to support local community organizations to enhance their knowledge and build their capacity to address this issue. The group conducted a survey in May to gauge the level of capacity, understanding, and supports needed for front-line staff that are not trained or working specifically with victims of violence. The survey results will be used to guide the development of a toolkit which will be shared in a Capacity Building forum on February 16, 2017.</p> <p>Additionally, in collaboration with Hong Fook the group hosted a two day “Journey to Promoting Mental Health” training for 20 individuals from diverse organizations. The key objective was to enhance the capacity of settlement service workers in addressing the mental health issues presented by the individuals they serve and making timely referrals to appropriate services in the mental health and community health systems.</p>

Toronto West LIP Website: www.torontowestlip.ca

Promoting a Community Event? WE CAN HELP!

Community Info Bulletin

The Toronto West LIP team delivers the bulletin periodically to inform subscribers about upcoming events happening in the region. While the focus is on 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 [Sana Hafeez](mailto:sana@dfr.ca) (sana@dfr.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.

Get to Know Our Planning and Coordinating Committee Members



Name: Suzan Hall

Organization: Resident of North Etobicoke

Time with LIP: I began my involvement with the inception of the North Etobicoke LIP in 2009; became a member of the Toronto West LIP after the amalgamation of the 15 LIPs into the four Regional LIPs. Currently Co-Chairing the Planning and Coordinating Committee (PCC) and leading the work of the Service Coordination Action Group (SCAG).

Area of interest: As a resident and former City Councillor, my interest is broad and by doing our best to address and support the needs of new immigrants to our city and country, we help them experience positive settlement in Toronto which benefits us all.

Best time about being a part of the TWLIP: The best part is the comradery and demonstrated desire by all involved to work together to make a difference in helping newcomers to positively settle in our communities.



Name: Janet Hallett

Organization: COSTI Immigrant Services

Time with LIP: Involvement with Toronto West LIP since 2012. Presently Co-Chairing the Planning and Coordinating Committee (PCC) and leading the Education Resources for Newcomer Families Action Group, Welcome2School website initiative.

Area of interest: As a General Manager of Language and Skills Training Services, my interest focuses on supporting newcomers in their acquisition of the English language, supporting future immigrants by providing pre-arrival information, planning and online support. My earlier work experience still draws me back to working with children and youth whenever the opportunity arises.

Best time about being a part of the TWLIP: Meeting knowledgeable and enthused individuals who have a passion to engage and support newcomers in their settlement process.

News & Resources

Did you know...?

- ⇒ Ontario government announced on August 25, 2016 that they are investing over \$3.3 million to help [26 agencies](#) in supporting the settlement and integration of refugees.
- ⇒ You can find out how many Syrian refugees have arrived in Canada since November 2015 at [#WelcomeRefugees: Key figures](#)
- ⇒ The [Express Entry Year-End Report](#) indicates that almost 10,000 individuals landed in Canada as permanent residents in 2015 under the program.

Other Event

2016 Toronto Newcomer Day

The City of Toronto celebrated its second annual Newcomer Day on May 24, 2016 at City Hall. The Toronto Newcomer Day is an opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the many contributions of newcomers to our city. The day also included a citizenship ceremony where 60 candidates took the Oath of Citizenship in the City Hall Council Chamber.

The Toronto West LIP was invited by the Toronto Newcomer Office to be part of the Newcomer Fair to showcase and promote TWLIP members' programs and services. Thank you to the TWLIP members who helped at the table!



Toronto Newcomer Day 2016. From left: Leyla Haji & Zahra Bolouk from ACT

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Funded by:

Financé par :



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada