

Working Together Better

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LIP LOCAL IMMIGRATION
PARTNERSHIP
TORONTO SOUTH

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New Phase of Collaboration

The Toronto South LIP has entered a new phase of collaboration among member organizations by instituting an approach involving "Collaboration Labs" and "Champion Projects." This new approach builds on the relationships that have been cultivated within the Toronto South LIP over the past 2 years and provides our members with the opportunity to actively identify, engage in, and collaboratively lead or participate in projects that respond to key and emerging trends and challenges facing newcomers in Toronto South.

So far, the Toronto South LIP has hosted two Collaboration Labs as part of its Member Workshops/Council Meetings held in November 2014 and in February 2015. These Collaboration Labs brought together members to identify and review potential collaborative projects, and to discuss and develop the steps to implement these projects. (See page 3 for sample Champion Projects)

New Website Features

- **Space Bank**
Looking for a space to hold a community meeting or event? Check out our Space Bank – an inventory of free/low cost space available to non-profits for committee meetings and community events. If you know of a space in your neighbourhood – please email Sandra at sguerra@woodgreen.org to have it added to our list
- **Program Calendar**
Our community calendar lists Conversation Circles, Newcomer Orientation Sessions, Volunteer Orientation Sessions, Citizenship Classes and Tax Clinics. If your organization offers any of these – go to <http://www.torontolip.com/ServicesNearMe/ProgramCalendars.aspx>

Projects and Initiatives

Education Resources for Newcomer Parents

In partnership with the Toronto West LIP, Toronto South has been working on developing an online inventory of education supports and resources for newcomer parents. This resource will assist Settlement workers, and other frontline staff, support their clients' engagement with the education system. The inventory will list programs, services and resources available for newcomer families to learn about the school system and how to support their children's learning. Know of a good resource to include? Please contact Haweiya Egeh at hegeh@woodgreen.org.

Addressing Confusion on Uninsured Clients Accessing Health Services.

A pilot project led by a team of McMaster University students which looks to provide training resources to reduce front-line and administrative confusion in providing health services to the uninsured. This includes tools to clarify the eligibility criteria and billing processes for the Interim Federal Health Program and the Ontario Temporary Health Program. The pilot project will include 2 tools, a short training video and an anti-stigma poster.



Stay Tuned!!

Toronto South LIP has a number of things on the go. Upcoming this year:

- LIP Talks, a series of short interviews with trainers and facilitators who have offered their expertise on various newcomer issues.
- A special newsletter, to be released in the summer, focusing on our research projects and publications.
- A special newsletter, to be released in the fall, highlighting our website features designed or frontline staff

Newcomer Day – May 29, 2015

The City of Toronto is celebrating its first **Newcomer Day** on May 29, 2015. There will be activities all week leading up to Newcomer Day. Toronto South LIP will be launching our **Newcomer Welcome Brochure** and will also be awarding our first annual Toronto South LIP Partnership Award to the **Parkdale Interagency Referral Network!** Congratulations to Parkdale Community Information Centre, Parkdale Intercultural Association, Kababayan Multicultural Centre and Parkdale Community Legal Services.

Health Equity Campaign

Our Systemic Issues and Social Changes working group is collaborating with agencies across the city to develop a campaign that addresses some of the misconceptions about newcomers and access to health care. Our overall message is to promote health as a community, not individual, concern.

Review of Employment Standards and Labour Relations Act

In collaboration with Workers' Action Centre, we will be engaging in a conversation with our partners to develop recommendations for changes in the Employment Standards and Labour Relations Act which the province will be reviewing this year.

New Collaboration Labs and Champion Projects

A small sampling of Toronto South LIP Champion Projects that are currently starting or are underway include:

- Parkdale Common Referral Protocol Pilot Project, championed by the Parkdale Interagency Referral Network;
- "Dialogue with Funders," a Multi-Funder Workshop & Forum championed by Toronto Public Health;
- Mini-Travelling Service Hubs Pilot Project, championed by WoodGreen Community Services;
- Services for International Students Discussion Group, championed by CultureLink;
- Kensington-Chinatown Neighbourhood Service Network, championed by St. Stephen's Community House & Toronto Western Hospital; and
- Travelling Workshops on Serving Newcomers with Precarious Status, championed by the FCJ Refugee Centre.



Criteria for a Champion Project

- Is coordinated by a TSLIP member organization (the "Project Champion");
- Involves at least 2 or 3 TSLIP organizations;
- Relates to the TSLIP Strategy (i.e., is related to newcomers in Toronto South);
- Operates in a collective manner with inclusive decision-making, consistent with the TSLIP's Statement of Guiding Values & Ethics; and
- Provides periodic updates to -- and includes the input of -- a LIP Working Group, Committee, or Staff member.

Communication & Social Media

- Stay connected with us through our website, Linked In, Twitter and YouTube accounts
- Read our [Social Media Analysis and Guide](#) that includes suggestions on how to use social media to optimize member engagement and inter-agency collaboration.
- Visit the Toronto South LIP website for updates on activities, events and resources. www.torontolip.com
- Stay tuned for upcoming new videos highlighting successful partnerships and collaborations

Workshops and Trainings

Dialogue with Funders: Deconstructing the Challenges of Grant-Writing

This workshop, organized in partnership with Toronto Public Health, Toronto Newcomer Office, Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade, Parkdale Community Information Centre and Yonge Street Mission, focused on opportunities and common challenges in the funding application process. The day consisted of a panel discussion with a variety of funders and interactive workshops. Thank you to Lisa King from Toronto Public Health for championing this project and to the other organizers who helped plan this event.

Changes in Citizenship Law: What you Need to Know

Run by **Neighbourhood Legal Services**, this workshop addressed the new changes outlined in Bill C-24, the *Strengthening Canadian Citizenship Act*. The variety of changes will dramatically reshape citizenship in Canada. The workshop highlighted steps to follow in supporting clients in their applications, and what to include to apply for citizenship. The workshop also highlighted who would be most impacted by the changes. A [webinar](#) outlining these changes is also available. Thank you to Jennifer Stone from Neighbourhood Legal Services for continuing to donate her time and expertise in building capacity around legal issues in the settlement sector.

Taking Care of Ourselves – Self Care and Vicarious Trauma

This interactive workshop, hosted by Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture, provided 30 participants with knowledge on the concepts of Vicarious Trauma, Secondary Traumatization and Compassion Fatigue. Key components of this session included tools for self-assessment, case studies, resources and an introduction to group narrative writing. Participants were also able to have an opportunity to discuss and share best practices on how to prevent and cope with Vicarious Trauma. The workshop was led by Dr. Lisa Andermann, Sidonia Couto (MSW), and Dr. Afarin Hosseini. Check out a summary of learnings from this workshop on our YouTube channel here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbayYK_iTnI

Here I Am – Youth Navigating Mental Health Through Trauma & Migration.

This workshop provided an overview of the mental health concerns of newcomer youth who have fled war, torture and/or persecution in their countries of origin to 45 participants. The workshop was aimed at front-line service providers and offered pragmatic tools as well as space for dialogue around best practices to facilitate and support mental wellness. Topics covered included engaging youth and building therapeutic alliances, while recognizing stigma around mental health concerns; concepts of distress, disorder, coping and resilience; understanding the political, social, family and individual contributors to youth mental health; recognizing signs and symptoms of the most common mental health presentations; finally, learning from lived experiences of a newcomer youth who are currently navigating mental health and social services in Canada. The workshop was led by Dr. Debra Stein, Amy Soberano (MSW, RSW) and a newcomer youth panel

Connecting with Newcomer Youth Through Meaningful Recreation and Arts: Expand, Embrace and Enhance

WoodGreen Community Services, the Toronto Newcomer Office, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the Local Immigration Partnerships, along with Toronto Public Health and Social Planning Toronto, are organizing a research conference on promoting newcomer youth participation in meaningful sports and recreation across the city of Toronto.

This conference will be taking place on Thursday April 23rd, 2015 from 8:30am – 3pm, at the Central YMCA (20 Grosvenor St.).

At the conference, participants will:

- Learn about new and emerging community-based research
- Hear perspectives and best practices on newcomer youth programming
- Connect with colleagues working in this field

To register, click [here](#)