



"A group becomes a team when each member is sure enough of himself, and his contribution, to praise the skills of the others."

Norman Shidle

Website and Communication

Website

We are currently working on moving the website to a new platform. Our goal is to have the new site up and running by the Fall 2013. The new site will be easier to use and easier to manage. Training sessions will be planned for member agencies so they can learn how to update their profiles and add their programs, services and events. We are hoping to add some new and exciting features to the site over the next year. For more information about the website, please contact Sandra Guerra at sguerra@woodgreen.org.

Toronto South LIP Activities and Accomplishments

The first year of the Toronto South LIP has seen a number of exciting projects and accomplishments. Here are some highlights – you can find a complete list in our [2013 Settlement Strategy and Action Plan](#).

Partnership and Service Coordination Committee

- Initiated creation of and hosted a Frontline Staff Network
- Facilitated a research project on Newcomers and Private Career Colleges

Newcomer Advisory Committee

- Provided some input and expertise on the Private Career College research
- Participated in the Unaccompanied Youth event
- Provided feedback on LIP strategy and standard Client Feedback Mechanism

Mental Health and Emotional Supports Working Group

- Planned and hosted a Newcomer Mental Health Forum for frontline staff
- Developed and distributed a comprehensive package of mental health resources for staff

Newcomer Youth Working Group

- Planned and hosted a youth forum for Unaccompanied Youth

- Managed to secure external funding and donations to host youth forum
- Developed comprehensive listing of resources for unaccompanied Newcomer Youth
- Developed a comprehensive email list of unaccompanied youth for future communication

Newcomer Seniors Working Group

- Planned and hosted a Newcomer Seniors Information and Service Coordination Forum
- Initiated a public education campaign entitled "Our Canada includes Grandparents".

Language Services Working Group

- Reviewed the current online language service resources including the English Conversation Circle calendar and the English language classes online map
- Made recommendations for improvements and additional calendar of Citizenship Classes

Systemic Issues and Social Change Working Group

- Planned and organized a workshop on Bill C-31
- Established 2 sub-committees on Employment and Health
- Established an organizing committee to plan a 'Social Change Fair' to promote civic engagement



Communication

The Toronto South distributes a weekly email update to approximately 200 subscribers every Friday. To receive our weekly update email sguerra@woodgreen.org. We also produce a quarterly newsletters to keep our members, and the general public informed of our progress. You can find our newsletters here www.torontolip.com/newsletters. We also send a weekly email which features new events and programs featured on our website. Follow us on twitter for news & highlights @torontosouthlip

Agency Recruitment

The Toronto South Local Immigration Partnership (TSLIP) is in the process of completing working group recruitment for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. Working group membership is open to all agency representatives and presents a wonderful opportunity for member agencies to get involved in Toronto South LIP projects and initiatives.

This year, in addition to the LIP Council and the Partnership and Service Coordination Committee (PSCC), the Toronto South LIP will host five working groups, all focused on a particular topic area. Each working group will work to achieve the priorities outlined in the Toronto South LIP Rolling Action Plan. A full copy of the Rolling Action Plan can be found on the Toronto South LIP website; working group priorities are outlined below. Additional activities and items may be included in the action plan for next year.

Recruitment is also being completed for the **Partnership and Service Coordination Committee (PSCC)**. This year the PSCC will seek to develop collaborative tools and best practices and oversee and manage collaborative staff trainings. The group

will also complete the research on Private Career Colleges that began at the end of last fiscal year and work to develop a resolution of LIP Member.

If you or someone from your agency is interested in joining one or more of the Toronto South LIP working groups and/or the Partnership and Service Coordination Committee (PSCC), or if you would like more information, please contact Nicole Watson, Community Engagement Coordinator for the Toronto South LIP at nwatson@ccvt.org or 416-363-1066 ext. 251.

New Working Groups

In response to the member surveys and the workshops we conducted over the past year, the Toronto South LIP has re-structured the Committees and working groups. We selected the top 8 issues recommended by our membership and created 4 working groups and 2 committees.

The Newcomer Advisory Committee is currently on hold due to funding cuts – our hope is to re-establish this committee when we are able to provide refreshments and honorariums for the newcomers who volunteer so much of their time and expertise to our planning work.



"Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable."

Kenyan Proverb



"A player who makes a team great is more valuable than a great player. Losing yourself in the group, for the good of the group, that's teamwork."

John Wooden

How to contact our staff:

Health and Mental Health working group, contact Nicole Watson at **416-363-1066 x 251** nwatson@ccvt.org.

Underserved Newcomers working group contact Kera Vijayasigham at **416-363-1066 x 249** kera@ccvt.org.

Settlement Services working group contact Nicole or Kera.

Partnership and Service Coordination, Social Inclusion and Welcoming Communities contact Haweyia Egeh at **416-645-6000 x 1328** or hegeh@woodgreen.org.

Systemic Issues and Social Change, Employment and Language Skills, website, newsletter and other communications contact Sandra Guerra at **416-645-6000 x 1329** or sguerra@woodgreen.org



*"Teamwork is the fuel that allows
common people to produce
uncommon results."*

Unknown

Underserved Newcomers

The **Underserved Newcomers working group** will work towards the development of an "Inclusion Checklist" to ensure that all LIP groups consider the needs of the most marginalized. This working group will also leverage existing expertise to host information and training sessions on key issues and best practices.

Social Inclusion and Welcoming Communities

This year the **Social Inclusion and Welcoming Communities working group** will be focusing their attention on three main areas: (1) housing; (2) education and school systems; and (3) legal advice. This working group will begin meeting in the early Fall, an official start date and location will be determined at that time.

Settlement Services Working Group

This year the **Settlement Services working group** will be focusing on developing and testing a newcomer welcome package (or packages) in one or more LIP neighbourhoods. The group will also be discussing possible opportunities for joint marketing and outreach and joint newcomer information sessions.

Immigrant Friendly Cities – Lessons from Around the World

The Toronto South LIP Partnership Council welcomed Sean Meagher from 'Public Interest' at our last Council meeting to present some research on policies and practices of ['Immigrant-Friendly Cities'](#). The research looked at welcoming policies from Chicago, Dayton, Halifax, Bilbao, Copenhagen, Stuttgart and more. The presentation gave an opportunity for Council members to learn about welcoming practices and consider some of the possibilities for their own agencies and the City of Toronto. Public Interest is offering the presentation to all four LIP quadrants in an effort to raise awareness of successful programs and best practices. You can find the presentation on our website using the link above.

Upcoming LIP Committee & Working Group Meetings

Partnership Council
September 25, 2013
WoodGreen Community Services

Health and Mental Health
Aug 8, 2013 at 2:00pm
Canadian Centre for Victims of
Torture (CCVT)

Systemic Issues and Social Change
September 12 at 10am
WoodGreen Community Services

Employment and Language Working Group

The **Employment and Language working group** will work towards improving service coordination through web-based tools; exploring ways to support existing employer initiatives; and examining collaborative approaches to newcomer education around Canadian workplace culture. The group will also monitor CLARS and discuss job-related English language supports. The first Employment and Language working group meeting has not yet been scheduled, but will occur sometime in the early Fall.

Systemic Issues and Social Change Working Group

The quadrant-wide **Systemic Issues and Social Change Committee** will be continuing the exploration of the "Canadian experience" requirement and the notion of "cultural fit" –often used to deny newcomers access to employment. The working group will also continue to advance a Health Equity Campaign which includes the establishment of a website. Members of this working group

also hosted a Social Change Fair on June 11th, 2013 and will be exploring the opportunity of piloting a second installment of this event sometime this year.

For more information, visit us at:
<http://www.torontolip.ca/systemic-issues-social-change-working-group>.



*"None of us are as smart
as all of us."*

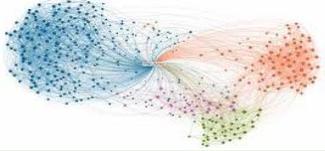
Ken Blanchard

Contact Us:

Toronto South LIP
info@torontolip.ca
www.torontolip.ca

For information about this newsletter, contact Sandra Guerra at

sguerra@woodgreen.org



Health and Mental Health Working Group

The **Health and Mental Health working group** will be concentrating on identifying opportunities for staff to obtain practical tools regarding newcomer mental health. They will also support the Systemic Issues and Social Change committee in developing a 'health equity' website. Other focus areas for this working group are: monitoring the LHIN's interpretation services and working with other groups on identified priorities in access to health services. Representatives from the Toronto Newcomer Office and

Toronto Public Health will be attending the next Health and Mental Health working group meeting to give a presentation on the City LIP's 'Health Pillar'. The next Health and Mental Health working group meeting will take place on Thursday August 8, 2013 from 2:00pm-4:00pm, location to be determined.

For more information, please contact Nicole Watson at nwatson@ccvt.org or 416-363-1066 x 251

Social Change Fair

The Systemic Issues and Social Change working group hosted a "Social Change Fair" on June 11th at the Metro Hall Rotunda. The goals of this event were:

- to highlight the variety of advocacy campaigns active in the City of Toronto
- to increase civic engagement and
- to assist groups in recruiting volunteers to their campaigns

The Fair was a successful collaboration between all four LIP quadrants. Fourteen different agencies/groups, representing over

twenty unique campaigns, participated in the fair. They represented a variety of issues including education, worker's rights, tenant issues, civic participation, mental health and disability issues and food security. We welcomed approximately 100 visitors to the event! It was not only an opportunity for the public to learn about important issues, but it also allowed those involved in the various campaigns to connect and support each other. Many of the participating groups requested the organizing committee to continue holding these fairs across the city. Our hope is to host another one in the Spring. Stay tuned for upcoming events!!



"In the end, all collaborations are love stories."

Twyla Tharp

Our Partnership Council Members

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| ACCES Employment |
| Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services |
| AIDS Committee of Toronto |
| Bangladeshi-Canadian Community Services |
| Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture |
| Centre francophone de Toronto |
| Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre |
| Collège Boréal |
| Conseil scolaire de district catholique centre-sud |
| COSTI Immigrant Services |
| CultureLink |
| Dixon Hall |
| Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre |
| Family Service Toronto |
| FCJ Refugee Centre |

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| Fred Victor Centre |
| George Brown College |
| Kababayan Community Centre Multicultural Services |
| Madison Community Services |
| Massey Centre for Women |
| Neighbourhood Centre |
| Neighbourhood Legal Services |
| Neighbourhood Link Support Services |
| Parkdale Community Information Centre |
| Parkdale Intercultural Association |
| Polycultural Immigrant & Community Services |
| RDÉE Ontario |
| Scadding Court Community Centre |
| Sherbourne Health Centre |
| Sojourn House |

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| St . Christopher House |
| St. Stephen's Community House |
| TCDSB Adult Education Program |
| Toronto Community Housing Corporation |
| Toronto Community & Culture Centre |
| Toronto District School Board |
| Toronto Employment & Social Services |
| Toronto Newcomer Office – City of Toronto |
| Toronto Public Health |
| Toronto Western Hospital |
| University Settlement |
| WoodGreen Community Services |
| Working Women Community Centre |
| YMCA of Greater Toronto |

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