

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Toronto South Local Immigration Partnership Collaboration Award to be presented to the Welcome to School Website Project: Programs and Resources for Newcomer Student Success.

Toronto, Ontario – The Toronto South Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) is excited to announce that the second annual **Toronto South LIP Collaboration Award** will be presented to the Welcome to School Website Project for the collaborative development of an online inventory of programs and resources that helps frontline staff connect newcomer families to the education system.

This event will be taking place on **Thursday May 26th, 2015** from **11am – 12 noon** at the **Bickford Centre (777 Bloor St. West)**.

A collaboration of the Toronto South LIP and the Toronto West LIP, the website working group represents the following programs and organizations: COSTI Immigrant Services; JobStart; Delta Family Resource Centre; YMCA Newcomer Information Centre, YMCA of Greater Toronto; Working Women Community Centre; Essential Skills Upgrading Program, Toronto District School Board; Humber College; West Neighbourhood House and Model Schools for Inner Cities, Toronto District School Board.

Among the many transitions that newcomer families make as they settle in Canada is the adjustment to a new school and a new educational system. “The website is intended to be a resource for settlement workers and other professionals who can play a role in supporting newcomer parents to navigate the school system and become involved in their children’s learning”, explains Janet Hallett, General Manager of Language and Skills Training Services at COSTI and chairperson of the working group.

“Not only have the Toronto South and Toronto West LIPs come together on this project,” says Bill Sinclair, Executive Director of St. Stephen’s Community House and Toronto South LIP lead, “but various organizations have worked together to provide a unique resource for many newcomer communities”.

The Toronto South Local Immigration Partnership (TSLIP) is a community partnership funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and consisting of over 50 community agencies. The LIP focuses on developing local settlement strategies that coordinate and enhance service delivery to newcomers while promoting innovation and efficient use of resources. The partnership is led by four (4) consortium partners: St. Stephen’s Community House, WoodGreen Community Services, Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT) and Social Planning Toronto (SPT).