
Q U I N T E
LOCAL IMMIGRATION
PARTNERSHIP

...a better community for everyone

Monthly Report

MARCH 2013

Submitted by:

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Quinte United Immigrant Services**

QLIP Council Tasks and Deliverables for the Month of March 2013

March 06, 2013 – Event: A 21st Century Approach to Meeting Your Labour Needs

- Attended the event “A 21st Century Approach to Meeting Your Labour Needs” and networked with employers and agencies on behalf of the QLIP. Entered into discussions with a manufacturer’s representative of a very successful company founded by a newcomer to the Quinte area. In addition, QLIP Coordinator promoted the QLIP Partnership with other employers and agency representatives. This event focused on hiring persons with disabilities and one of the points that the QLIP is investigating is the need for services and improving employment outcomes for newcomers who have disabilities and closing any gaps in services in areas such as emergency services.

March 2013

- Preparations for March 27, 2013 QLIP Meeting for open discussion of the “sub-committees”
- Production of agenda for QLIP Council Meeting March 27, 2013
- QLIP Meeting 27, March 2013
- Assemble minutes from the QLIP Meeting 27, March 2013

March 2013

Napanee and District Chamber of Commerce

- Discussions continued between the QLIP Project Coordinator with the Napanee and District Chamber of Commerce in planning for a deputation and presentation in Napanee with the Chamber and other organization in the Napanee area as a combined event in order to present the advantages in becoming QLIP Partners.
- At the March 27, 2013 QLIP Partners meeting it was agreed that outreach to the greater Napanee area and organizations in the County of Lennox & Addington was a positive endeavour in pursuing solutions for the streamlining of services to newcomers and closing gaps in services. Greater Napanee already has much interaction with the greater Quinte area.

Special Event March 21, 2013 by City of Belleville and UNAC Quinte and QLIP

- A special event took place on the evening of March 21, 2013 “Inclusive Community and Economic Development”. This event is one of the first “cultural events” in the Quinte area attempting to bring newcomers, the business community and local leaders together under one roof. QLIP acted as a catalyst in bringing these groups together. The event attracted more than 150 guests. Speakers included Dr. Aruna Alexander United Nations Association in Canada - Quinte, Neil Ellis the Mayor of Belleville, Karen Poste, Manager, Economic & Strategic Initiatives City of Belleville, the Prince Edward County Community Development Manager Todd Davis, and the QLIP Project Coordinator. At the event many connections were made by newcomers with representatives of Quinte organizations, there were discussions by the four organizations that have international students in the Quinte area, Loyalist College, both school boards and Albert College in terms of what can be done to make a difference for international students including settling in the Quinte area. Many reported that this event was the best gathering in the Quinte area bringing all walks of life together to celebrate diversity and inclusivity.

- On Thursday March 28, the Belleville EMC Newspaper Article reported on the event, insert provided below:



Improving diversity in the community

Posted Mar 28, 2013 [By Steve Jessel](#)

<http://www.emcbelleville.com/20130328/News/Improving+diversity+in+the+community>

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Belleville Mayor Neil Ellis was a speaker at the Inclusive Community and Economic Development event at Albert College on March 21. Photo: Steve Jessel

EMC News -Belleville -Canada faces some tough times in the face of an aging demographic, but Belleville Mayor Neil Ellis is determined that the city doesn't fall behind when it comes to attracting new residents to the area.

"You have to look at how we attract people, whether it's from other cities, or other countries," Ellis said. "We have to have a plan, and through our economic development, through groups like tonight that are here, it's all of our jobs together to come up with a strategy."

Ellis spoke at a special Inclusive Community and Economic Development event held at Albert College on Thursday, March 21, where he and Belleville Manager of Economic & Strategic Initiatives Karen Poste both talked about the importance of inclusivity in the community. The event was held jointly between the City of Belleville, the United Nations Association in Canada and the Quinte Local Immigration Partnership and attracted better than 100 people to hear Ellis and Poste discuss ways in which to make Belleville a more inclusive community in the years to come.

"I think we do a lot of things right when it comes to inclusivity, but there are always more things that we could be doing," Poste said. "I think the great turnout here tonight is an example of something that we could be doing more of, having events where newcomers to the community can come out, meet people and socialize."

A major reason to attract more people to Belleville is the lack of skilled workers, Poste added.

"I think from a labour force perspective, we really need to ensure that we're inclusive and diverse to make sure we have the skills that or businesses need," she said. "When we survey our businesses, that's

the issue that comes up more and more, is, yes there's labour here, but it doesn't have very good skills, and for us to attract those skills, quite often it means bringing people into the community from outside."

Poste also talked about the less tangible benefits of bringing more people to Belleville, often of different cultures. Ideally, she said, she would like to see more events like the Inclusive Community and Economic Development gathering, and to truly live up to Belleville moniker of "The Friendly City."

"We certainly think it makes us a more interesting community, the more shared cultures and the more resources we have the more interesting we are," Poste said. "For us it's all about making everybody feel welcome, encouraging everybody to share whatever it is they have, whatever skill, talent or passion they have."

Ellis noted that as Canada's population ages, immigration will likely be the main source of population growth in future years.

"We have to be concerned, if growth stops, and people stop moving in and we have negative growth then we have situation where we won't be a sustainable community," he said. "For a city to get out in front of it, and have events like this shows that (Belleville) is forward thinking, and we're out in front of the curve."

As part of the presentation, Ellis announced that he will be bringing a motion forward to Belleville city council to join the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination.

"We have to go out and champion this, as leaders," Ellis said. "As a group, we can all help out, and we can make this the most diversified, accepting city in Canada."

March 27, 2013 QLIP Partnership Meeting

QLIP Subcommittees

- The meeting included in-depth discussions on forming QLIP subcommittees or groups including the areas of Health, Education and Language Training, Accessibility – Legal Services, Social Services and Advocacy, and Economic Development – Employment and Labour Market Integration.

Francophone Community Discussions and Important Notes:

- QLIP Coordinator contacted Josée Cloutier Community Liaison Officer - Agente de liaison communautaire & éducatrice EPE Conseil des écoles catholique du centre-est (CECCE). She was unable to attend and this QLIP meeting but wishes to be invited to future meetings. www.ecolecatholique.ca
- Comment from QLIP meeting: Language and bilingualism and Francophone immigration needs to be encouraged as it will lead to more businesses benefiting and growth in having a growing client base. LIP plays a key role in community involvement, if francophone's are encouraged to come to the Quinte area that will build upon the "communities" in place and increase the ability to obtain services in both languages
- Comment from QLIP meeting: A Francophone community with a stronger sense of community will lead to more growth affecting the economy, employment and cultural aspects

- Comment from QLIP meeting: Prince Edward County is making advancements in providing services in French to enhance contact experience, and is making attempts at attracting Francophone's through the media.

Next QLIP Council Meeting

To be announced in April 2013 as the QLIP meeting strategy is being planned out for 2013 - 2014

Date: Tuesday, April 02, 2013

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