

QUINTE LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

...a better community for everyone

Minutes of the meeting
08 October 2013

MEETING :	Quinte Local Immigration Partnership www.quintelip.ca
LOCATION	Multi-Purpose Room - City of Quinte West Municipal Offices 7 Creswell Dr, Trenton, Ontario
PROJECT COORDINATOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John L. Robertson - Project Coordinator – Quinte Local Immigration Partnership - Email: lip@quis-immigration.org
ADMINISTRATOR /FACILITATOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orlando Ferro – QLIP Administrator / Facilitator Executive Director – Quinte United Immigrant Services QUIS
NOTE TAKER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John L. Robertson
ATTENDEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Lecours - Regional Operations Manager from Citizenship and Immigration Canada • Paul Osborne – President - Quinte United Immigrant Services • Steve Gatward - Director Social Services Hastings County • Carmela Ruberto - Hastings County Social Services • Suzanne Andrews – Manager Quinte West Chamber of Commerce • Linda Lisle - Economic Development Services Coordinator - Quinte West • Kendra Adema - Regional Advisor Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration • Charlene Bessin - Business Consultant - Small Business Centre • Terry Cassidy - Councillor City of Quinte West • Joanne Leith - Employment Consultant - Loyalist College Community Employment Services • Darrell McGrath – Employment Consultant META Employment Services • Mike Hewitt - Manufacturing Resource Centre Coordinator - Quinte Economic Development Commission • Michael McLeod - General Manager - Prince Edward County Chamber of Tourism & Commerce • Rita Turtle - Chief Executive Officer Quinte West Public Library • Paul Vandegraaf - Deputy Chief Belleville Police Services • Michele Dean - Loyola School of Adult & Continuing Education and TESL Teachers of English as a Second Language - Kingston • Nancy Sayeau – Central Eastern Ontario Translation & Interpretation Services CEOTIS • John JJ Costello – Producer TVCOGECO • Jodie Russett - International Coordinator International Centre Loyalist College

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION

Introductions and Review of Minutes from May 22, 2013

Minute's modified format - topics of discussion.

- **City of Quinte West**
- Special appreciation goes out to Linda Lisle and the City of Quinte West for arranging the meeting at the Multi-Purpose Room in the City of Quinte West Municipal Offices
- **Stakeholder Involvement**
- Stakeholder involvement has moved the QLIP forward – QLIP Partners are recognized for the progress in QLIP Strategies and Actions through their participation and contribution to making the Quinte area more welcoming community through events, employment programs, dissemination of information to employers, have been promoted in the Quinte Region.
- **QLIP Project extended to 2016**
- Citizenship and Immigration CIC communicated that the QLIP Project will continue with CIC funding into 2016. The long term sustainability of the QLIP Project will be a challenge as there will be less funding post 2016. Typically the LIP's are being maintained by the municipalities where there is committed municipal involvement and funding.
- **Citizenship and Immigration Canada's (CIC) QLIP attendance**
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada's (CIC) participation in the QLIP meeting was recognized and welcomed as **Richard Lecours** - Regional Operations Manager from Citizenship and Immigration Canada joined the meeting. QLIP Partners expressed their appreciation.
- **CIC teleconference connection for future QLIP Meetings**
- Due to limited funding for travel and the number of LIPs (35) the CIC attendance at LIP meetings including the QLIP will in future when and where possible be organized with the aid of a teleconference connection.
- **Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration's (MCI Ontario) attendance**
- Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration's (MCI Ontario) participation in the QLIP meeting was also recognized and welcomed as **Kendra Adema** - Regional Advisor Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration joined the meeting. QLIP Partners expressed their appreciation.
- **Identified gap – closed: Labour market outcomes for newcomers**
- QLIP Coordinator advised the Partners that in reference to labour market outcomes for newcomers an identified gap had been closed. A partnership has been formed between Quinte United Immigrant Services QUIS and Community Employment Services – Loyalist College (CES) such that newcomers now have direct "hands-on" assistance from an Employment Consultant from CES at QUIS offices. As a direct outcome follow-up meetings with newcomers are being scheduled at the CES employment office. QLIP Partnership research available at the website www.quintelip.ca provided information that newcomers have difficulty with attending employment offices. In the QUIS environment newcomers are embracing this alternate approach.

- **Ontario Works - Hastings County - Interest in CES/QUIS new approach – Newcomers OW clients**
- QLIP Coordinator also advised that the Assistant Manager of Financial and Employment Services (Ontario Works) Hastings County expressed interested in this new partnership between CES and QUIS and offered up the idea of checking with QUIS and CES to see if any Ontario Works clients who are newcomers could participate. QLIP Coordinator to follow-up.
- **Napanee Meeting Postponed to the New Year**
- Endeavours to set up a QLIP meeting in Napanee near the end of November was not possible due to scheduling difficulties and the initiative has been postponed to the new year
- **Survey of Newcomers**
- Survey of Newcomers – QLIP Project Coordinator advised that the newcomer survey had been tested and that no results had come in from services providers prior to the meeting. The survey approach will need to be revisited.
- **Belleville Police Services - New QLIP Partner**
- Belleville Police Services welcomed as a new QLIP Partner. Interpretation Services from CEOTIS now available to Belleville Police Services. Included - language identification posters in place with 24/7 phone number for 84 languages.
- **Police Services Video - Newcomers**
- A Police Services Video, available from the Greater Toronto Area was discussed as a possible assist for newcomers to the Quinte area. Deputy Chief Bellville Police Services advised the Partnership that he had ordered the video as of this meeting.
- Language Training (Loyola) and QUIS noted interest in using the video for newcomers.
- **Immigration Websites and Portals**
 - Funding of portals was discussed - municipalities can be funded
 - Discussions of QLIP website as “immigration portal for Quinte” and QUIS as provider of newcomer services led to discussions on the newly launched “Bay of Quinte Region” website. Currently the site covers Brighton, Quinte West, and Belleville, Napanee, Stirling-Rawdon and Prince Edward County
 - Web portal(s) for Quinte Region may be affected by proposed changes to Federal Electoral Boundaries which may see municipalities divided into three new ridings: Lanark-Frontenac-Hastings, Belleville-Napanee-Frontenac, and Prince Edward-Quinte West.
 - “Bay of Quinte Region” website was discussed at length in reference to the QLIP website being a current portal for newcomers for the Quinte area. The “Bay of Quinte Region” website to be looked into in terms of QLIP and QUIS – UPDATE: The website contains information for newcomers under the “bay of Quinte Living” site look for “Calling Quinte Home” on the navigation bar.
 - Discussions centered on avoiding duplication of websites

- The “Bay of Quinte Region” <http://www.bayofquinte.ca> site offers three distinct areas Business Tourism and Living. Under the Living site we find Links to Finding Jobs, Healthcare & Education, Lifestyle & Recreation, and Calling Quinte Home which included information and a link to QUIS.
- Noteworthy – the site could be enhanced by the inclusion of other languages
- Sample website that deals with immigration and newcomers: The Immigration Timmins Ontario website <http://www.immigrationtimmins.ca> was offered as an example that deals with “attraction” “retention” and “welcoming” newcomers. In terms of attraction the page “Why choose Timmins? <http://www.immigrationtimmins.ca/en/arriveincanada/Whychoosetimmins.asp> is available in English and six other languages.
- The focus must be on attracting, retaining and welcoming all people to the Quinte area
- Portal enhancements could include job search concept for Quinte West, Belleville, Brighton and other areas which would involve research and funding
- Attracting people to the greater Quinte region need to be explored and joint efforts will be needed for economic development in a very competitive market
- Discussions included the Quinte Economic Development Commission - Quinte Manufacturers Resource Centre QEDC Report: Engaging People, Embracing technology: The Greater Bay of Quinte Region’s Strategy to Advance Manufacturing (2013 labour market project) – Includes recognition “the right skills for the right position” noted - the importance of soft skills – report includes labour supply and demand vision for the future...
 - The supply will include a solid base of local workers complemented by the ability to attract workers from outside the region (including new Canadians and foreign trained professionals) to meet any local skill or labour gaps that cannot be addressed locally.
 - A diverse and growing manufacturing sector will provide a variety of career opportunities and pathways for local workers including new graduates, and incumbent workers (p37). The complete report is available at: <http://www.quintedevelopment.com/engaging-people-embracing-technology>
- Project Report (linked above) included five priorities for the future which included, the attraction of new residents and retention of current employees
- Relocation to the Quinte area includes retired people for which there is a big turnover... Retaining people may be aided by programs at Loyalist retraining people, and efforts through Loyola and language training options
- One main portal to “drive to” may be in the best interests to direct newcomers to one portal that could also be enhanced with online job search, job fairs etc.
- Whether eco-development or eco-tourism etc it is a very competitive market making the possibility of joint efforts more desirable – many organizations now work from a joint approach as do the many Chambers of Commerce.
- Regional approach - QEDC has a regional focus

- Discussion on investment in the Quinte area with funds from outside Canada - information is currently fragmented. New Ministry Program possibilities – focus on - the overseas investor
- Area wide transportation was discussed including the lack of area wide transportation system, including the need for a regional bus system.
- The Prince Edward County Report entitled “Vital Signs” was noted, providing a more detailed look at “the pulse” of the county. The report is featured at:

<http://countycommunityfoundation.ca/photos/custom/PECVitalSignsReport2013small.pdf>
- Proposal to provide Newcomer Welcoming Kit at immigration points or ports of entry for those immigrating to the greater Quinte area was discussed as not having a practical approach

Meeting adjourned

NEXT MEETING	LOCATION	TIME
<u>QLIP Meetings Tentative Schedule for planning purposes:</u> Tuesday, February 11, 2014 Tuesday, March 11, 2014	To be determined	10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.