
Q U I N T E LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

...a better community for everyone

**Minutes of the meeting
16 January 2013**

MEETING :	Quinte Local Immigration Partnership
LOCATION	Belleville Public Library and John M. Parrott Art Gallery, Second Floor Boardroom, 223 Pinnacle Street, Belleville, Ontario
PROJECT COORDINATOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John L. Robertson - Project Coordinator – Quinte Local Immigration Partnership - Email: lip@quis-immigration.org • Orlando Ferro – QLIP Administrator / Facilitator Executive Director – Quinte United Immigrant Services QUIS
ADMINISTRATOR / FACILITATOR	
NOTE TAKER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John L. Robertson
ATTENDEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bonnie DeRushie – Eastern Central Ontario Training Board • Ann McIntosh – East Central Ontario Training Board • Karen Poste – Manager, Economic & Strategic Initiatives – City of Belleville • Suzanne Andrews – Manager Quinte West Chamber of Commerce • Bill Saunders - CEO Belleville and District Chamber of Commerce • Warren Gee - Employment Ontario Programs Manager at Loyalist College • Malika Séguin-Gervais - Agente de projet / Project Officer Réseau de soutien à l'immigration francophone de l'Est de l'Ontario / Francophone Immigration Support Network of East Ontario • Aruna Alexander - United Nations Association – Canada – Quinte & District (UNAC) • Jodie Russett - International Students - Loyalist College • Nathan Jn-Francois - United Nations Association - Canada - Quinte & District (UNAC) • Cat Fisher - Settlement Worker - QUIS • Paul Osborne - President Quinte United Immigrant Services • Greg Yon – Student Observer

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION	
Introductions - New discussions - Discussion Topics and Open Discussions:	

DISCUSSION	
-------------------	--

Discussion Topics and Open Discussions:

Meeting Minutes from December 12, 2012

The minutes from the December 12, 2012 QLIP Meeting were not covered in this meeting (amended) and will be reviewed at the February 21, 2013 QLIP meeting along with the January 16, 2013 QLIP Meeting minutes.

Special presentation:

Cat Fisher QUIS Settlement Worker presented an overview on immigration status of newcomers and how they come to Canada, in order to provide more understanding of the different ways in which newcomers arrive here and the different policies regarding procedures. The presentation was well received and very professionally done.

Discussions followed and it was noted that the Ontario Chamber of Commerce is pressing the case with the Province of Ontario to increase the immigrant quota for the province under the Provincial Nominee Program. It was also discussed that there needs to be more information related the skill shortages or the skills needed in the greater Quinte area.

It was noted that in the coming approach to immigration there are supposed to be “pools of skilled workers”, able to fill positions. In addition, there are to be further enhancements to the immigration system. Again the point was brought home that there needs to be more definitive data for the Quinte area. The difficulty of being able to gather helpful information from government data bases was discussed.

Destination Canada was discussed as program for employers <http://www.destination-canada-forum-emploi.ca> job fairs were held in November 2012 in Paris and Brussels where Canadian employers were on hand with job offers in a wide variety of fields: engineering, health care, education, hospitality, computer programming, multimedia, skilled trades etc.

Update Note: Canada will launch a brand new “Start-Up Visa” program on April 1 to recruit innovative immigrant entrepreneurs who will create new jobs and spur economic growth. The program will link immigrant entrepreneurs with private sector organizations in Canada that have experience working with start-ups and who can provide essential resources. The link to the announcement:

http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/releases/2013/2013-01-24.asp?utm_source=rss-media&utm_medium=rss-eng&utm_campaign=generic

Information on a planned event on March 21, 2013 in reference to promoting a welcoming community

Event: United Nations Association in Canada – Quinte (UNAC – Quinte), the City of Belleville, and QLIP will be holding an event on the evening of March 21, 2013 from 6:30 pm to 9 p.m. at Albert College. **Update Note:** Planning meetings have taken place and the following are some of the details. The event is tentatively called “Inclusive Community and Economic Development” and currently includes the following: Light dinner buffet at 6:30pm to include a variety of ethnic foods; programme will include local musicians; Keynote speakers: The Mayor of the City of Belleville, and Karen Poste, Manager, Economic & Strategic Initiatives. Please mark your calendars for the event - more details will follow.

QLIP Deputation: The QLIP Coordinators’ deputation to Prince Edward County Council for January 24, 2013 was discussed and it was noted that the best starting point for the presentation once introduced would be to advise that the deputation is not to request funding but to seek support and provide the Chair and Council information on why the QLIP is important. **Update Note:** the deputation to Prince Edward County Council was successful and included the suggestions from the QLIP meeting.

QLIP Strategies and outcomes were discussed in that it will be necessary to demonstrate the benefits, outcomes, etc., and there will be a need for data and analysis on these.

Hire Smart program from Kingston was discussed briefly and a handout was distributed and all were asked to review it and see if it fits the needs of the Quinte area. It was noted that on preliminary review the program looked similar to the effort put forward in the creation of the Employers Tool Kit through the previous Global Experience at Work project lead by the Quinte West Chamber of Commerce in 2010-2011. The information sheet will be included with the minutes.

Discussion surrounding jobs, job fairs, and showcasing the Quinte area as a destination, included discussion on the Quinte area being within commuting distance of many areas, a positive element for newcomers relocating to the area and newcomers investing in the area. It was noted that larger centers have more services that attract people.

QLIP Strategy & Action Plan: 2013 – 2014 Key priorities and Actions (Draft) was distributed for discussion at the February 21, QLIP Meeting. QLIP Partners were asked to review the document and think about what they would like to accomplish in the coming year.

The minutes of the QLIP Meeting of December 12, 2012 will include amended comments by Aruna Alexander such that: In relation to hiring practices the focus we need to keep is - a competency-based approach. (The understanding here is that this creates a win-win situation for the Employer, the employment seeker, and our Community). People who possess the required skills, and competency level, are an asset to the organization.

Note: Minutes from both December and January QLIP meetings will be available at the February 21st meeting along with other documents.

NEXT MEETING	LOCATION	TIME
Thursday, February 21st, 2013 (New Date)	Belleville City Hall (New Location) SMB Meeting Room, 3rd floor 169 Front Street, Belleville, ON (Includes continental breakfast and a working lunch)	09:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.