

QUINTE LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

...a better community for everyone

Minutes of the meeting 11 February 2014

MEETING :	Quinte Local Immigration Partnership www.quintelip.ca
LOCATION	Fireplace Room B - Quinte Sports and Wellness Centre - City of Belleville 265 Cannifton Road, Belleville, Ontario
PROJECT COORDINATOR ADMINISTRATOR /FACILITATOR	<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
NOTE TAKER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff Wildgen - Research Coordinator - Quinte United Immigrant Services
ATTENDEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janice Faires - QUIS Board Secretary & MTCU • Paul Osborne – President - Quinte United Immigrant Services • Darrell McGrath – Employment Consultant - META Employment Services • Joanne Leith - Employment Consultant - Community Employment Services - Loyalist College CES • Aruna Alexander – United Nations Association in Canada Quinte and District • Marcela Klein-Rezac - Social Worker, MSW, RSW - Quinte and District Rehabilitation Inc. • Carmela Ruberto - Hastings County Social Services • Mike Hewitt - Manufacturing Resource Centre Coordinator - Quinte Economic Development Commission • Karen Poste – Manager, Economic & Strategic Initiatives – City of Belleville • Jeff Wildgen - Research Coordinator - Quinte United Immigrant Services

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions and Review of Minutes from October 08, 2013
Acknowledgement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special appreciation goes out to Karen Poste and the City of Belleville for arranging the meeting room at the Quinte Sports and Wellness Centre
Acknowledgement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The QLIP Partnership acknowledges the ongoing contributions of both Richard Lecours - Regional Operations Manager from Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Kendra Adema - Regional Advisor Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration who were not able to attend the QLIP meeting.

Websites attracting people to Ontario municipalities – void of information on the greater Quinte area

- The Ontario Provincial website Viens vivre en Ontario... <http://www.immigrationfrancophone-ontario.ca> to attract Francophone's to municipalities in Ontario has no reference to the Quinte area.
- The `Living in Ontario` site (English and French) which is somewhat comparable to the Provincial francophone site... void of information on the Quinte area:
http://www.ontarioimmigration.ca/OI/en/living/OI_HOW_LIVE_CITIES.html#_Central%20Ontario
- **Information:** The Ontario Government's Immigration Portal and the Municipal Immigration Information Online (MIIO) program supports municipal governments to build immigration websites for their communities but federal government funding was cut as of March, 2013, and are therefore the Province is not able to accept new municipal government partners at this time. Contact for the (MIIO) program is David Wood, Team Lead, OntarioImmigration.ca Information, Research and Evaluation Unit, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, 416-325-8212 David.Wood@ontario.ca www.ontarioimmigration.ca The MIIO program must be driven by municipalities so it will be important for municipalities in the Quinte area to move this forward. Note: This year (2014) the Municipal Immigration Information Online (MIIO) Program will provide the City of North Bay with \$16,500 in new funding towards updating the portal's content online immigration portal www.northbayimmigration.ca reported at: Source: <http://www.baytoday.ca/content/news/details.asp?c=57282>

Bay of Quinte Living website <http://living.bayofquinte.ca>

- The Bay of Quinte living website (part of the Bay of Quinte Region website) is progressing very well. The business community is putting its support/funding necessary to keep it moving forward. The website redirects users to each stakeholder's website and stakeholders will be responsible for updating their content and information.

Guest Speaker planned for QLIP Meeting March 11, 2014

- QLIP Meeting March 11, 2014 10a.m. to 12 noon will have a guest speaker, Ryan R Williams, President - Bay of Quinte Tourist Council and Treasurer/Secretary Bay of Quinte Living Council and will provide the QLIP Partners a presentation on The "Bay of Quinte Region" website: <http://www.bayofquinte.ca> Location: Victoria Room, The Travel Lodge Belleville (formerly the Ramada). Special appreciation goes out to ECOTB for arranging the Victoria Room at the Travel Lodge.

East Central Ontario Training Board ECOTB preliminary planning stage - Speakers' Day

- ECOTB and Quinte United Immigration Services are in joint planning mode for a "speakers day" for 2014

City of Belleville/UNAC information on upcoming event on March 20, 2014

- March 20, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. - event is being planned (location to be announced) to celebrate the City of Belleville's vote to join the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD). The Canadian Commission for UNESCO invites municipalities from across Canada to join a Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination and be part of a larger International Coalition promoted by UNESCO. <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/fight-against-discrimination/coalition-of-cities/north-america>
- The CMARD three primary areas of municipal responsibility:
 1. The Municipality as a Guardian of the Public Interest
 2. The Municipality as an Organization in the Fulfillment of Human Rights
 3. The Municipality as a Community Sharing Responsibility for Respecting and Promoting Human Rights and Diversity

Diversity in the Workplace

- **City of Belleville and UNAC** Diversity/Inclusivity event held at Albert College last year was a success and there will be a new event in the early evening of May 08, 2014 focusing on Diversity in the Workplace at Loyalist College – Guest speaker Mr. Michael Bach, Human Resources/Diversity, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion KPMG LLP - Information to follow.

Labour Market Outcomes Strategy: QUIS & Community Employment Services – Loyalist College CES

- Joanne Leith - Employment Consultant from Loyalist College Community Employment Services provided an overview of the strategy such that Joanne attends QUIS on Thursday afternoons for booked appointments or drop-in's providing advice to newcomers who do not normally attend employment offices. In this comfortable atmosphere success has flourished in terms of employment prospects for newcomers. Joanne has met with a variety of people with different visa statuses (some visitors, some PRS, etc), and varying language abilities. Outcomes have varied. Related anecdotal examples of client success e.g. discussing interview approaches prior to a client's actual interview – client got the job. In addition, has been able to refer/connect clients with other important service providers. Sometimes the meetings just help to boost clients' confidence, so the 'warm hand-off' does help. Challenges: Newcomers don't have networks. CES can only offer certain assistance depending on visa status, and must curtail/withhold some services. E.g.: work permit holders cannot get subsidies. Some of the clients are students so not all are unemployed. The partnership with QUIS is working well.
- Orlando Ferro added that we will have a better idea of our client's employment situations after we have completed our work on the QUIS database*

QUIS Data Base Development*

- QUIS has embarked on a new endeavour mapping a data base of employers and a data base of the employable skills available within the QUIS client database of some 1400. The research is being conducted by:
- Jeff Wildgen - Research Coordinator - QUIS discussed the work he is involved in at QUIS on building a database of employers in the Quinte area and the skills in demand.
- Julie Tang – Research Assistant QUIS - data base of the employable skills available within the QUIS client database.
- Karen Poste – Manager, Economic & Strategic Initiatives – City of Belleville - advised on the City database "Belleville Wants You" and the possibility of sharing information
- QUIS will update and share its information with municipalities within the Bay of Quite region

New immigration policy drastic changes

- Orlando Ferro: the changes will include citizenship rules, length of wait time, who is eligible, citizenship can be revoked, etc. Announcements made about employment programs, now have a clearer idea. Seems there will be two parallel funding sources: federal and provincial. April 14, the agreement expires, will keep watch on the news and developments.

Professional accreditation question

- The question was asked if the QUIS mandate included professional accreditation for newcomers.
- Response: Orlando Ferro - This is currently not a part of the QLIP mandate but perhaps in the future.

Destination Canada

- This is an initiative of Citizenship and Immigration Canada, which helps employers attract and recruit bilingual foreign professionals in a streamlined and accelerated manner to deal with their labour market shortages. Note: Destination Canada Job Fair 2014 – Luncheon Presentation – Belleville Public Library - February 25, 2014 - 12:30 to 2:30 planned through Malika Séguin-Gervais Project Officer at the Francophone Immigration Support Network of East Ontario

Citizenship and Immigration Canada LIP Logic Model 2014 – 2016

QLIP Partnership Strategy and Action Plan for 2014 -2016 (Draft)

- The CIC LIP Logic Model and the draft QLIP Partnership Plan for 2014 – 2016 were distributed for partners' follow-on discussions. "The QLIP Plan" has been designed to show a relationship to the CIC Logic Model.
- Please provide any feedback to the QLIP Coordinator

Pathways to Prosperity Canada - <http://p2pcanada.ca>

- The site contains information on LIPs across Ontario and can be accessed to see how other LIPs are developing. This is an alliance of university, community, and government partners dedicated to fostering welcoming communities and promoting the integration of immigrants and minorities across Canada.

QLIP Making Progress?

- The question was asked if the QLIP Partners are making progress in terms of its goals - “round table”.

Comments included:

- Marcela Klein-Rezac: Feels there is raising awareness of immigrant issues, feels great progress has been made
- Carmela Ruberto: We are immersed in it so maybe we can't see the progress as well as others. But wonders if the general public at large sees progress, changes.
- Karen Poste: Is happy to see its working. Sees a paradigm shift in how business views immigration.
- Orlando Ferro: Was shocked to see a meeting of mayors receptive to immigration – a significant change
- Jeff Wildgen: TVCOGECO Cable 4 documentaries have helped to bring awareness; we need more of the same, more education and public relations.
- Janice Faires: Sees the community coming together more. The next 3 to 4 years are crucial. Exciting to see organizations working together like this. Young people are coming back to the community.
- Mike Hewitt: Agrees that these efforts are helping to attract people in general, even if the original intention was for immigrants, so it's good. We can leverage these ideas to attract more people to the area.
- Paul Osborne: Was born here and sees lots of progress, and a paradigm shift, no doubt there is dynamic progress being made.
- Darrell McGrath: Biggest challenge for newcomers is 'Canadian Work Experience', communication skills, cultural familiarity. Expectations need to be adjusted if cannot use their higher skills immediately. Layoffs put more pressure, plus new grads entering labour force, creates further difficulties.
- Joanne Leith: Newcomers have stated they have to work ten times harder than a local worker, so employers should see that as a benefit to their business.
- Mike Hewitt: Foreign Trained Professionals work ethic is better than some of our own younger people, so employers should weigh that against any issues about foreign credentials, etc.
- Orlando Ferro: Mentoring Programs are a good idea; many other areas have them, but they are still lacking here. Let's start talking about that.
- Aruna Alexander: In Belleville in 1976 one could not even talk about immigrants. Have seen much change since then. Happy to be working with QLIP Partners. The City of Belleville, Mayor Neil Ellis and Karen Poste helped so much with the antiracism efforts.

Meeting adjourned

NEXT MEETING	LOCATION	TIME
Tuesday, March 11, 2014	The Travel Lodge Belleville (formerly the Ramada) Victoria Room	10:00 a.m. to 12 noon