

QUINTE LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

...a better community for everyone

**Minutes of the meeting
09 February 2016
(Amended**)**

MEETING :	Quinte Local Immigration Partnership www.quintelip.ca
LOCATION	City of Quinte West, Multi-Purpose Room, Quinte West Municipal Offices, 7 Creswell Drive, Trenton, Ontario (10:00 a.m. to 12 noon)
PROJECT COORDINATOR ADMINISTRATOR /FACILITATOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John L. Robertson - Project Coordinator – Quinte Local Immigration Partnership - Email: lip@quinteimmigration.ca • Orlando Ferro – QLIP Administrator / Facilitator Executive Director – Quinte Immigration Services QUIS Email: oferro@quinteimmigration.ca
NOTE TAKER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John L. Robertson – QLIP Project Coordinator
ATTENDEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Osborne - President - Board of Directors - Quinte Immigration Services • Sarina Osborne – Canadian Blast Freezers • Carmela Ruberto - Hastings County Social Services • Linda Lisle – Manager of Economic Development & Tourism - Economic Development & Tourism Services - City of Quinte West • Mayor Jim Harrison – Mayor of the City of Quinte West • Neil Dick – Loyalist Training & Knowledge Centre • Scott Hineman - Human Resource Advocate/Recruiter - Highline Mushrooms – Wellington ON • Bill Sherlock - Clinical Services Manager - Hastings & Prince Edward Counties Health Unit • Chantale Blanchette - Project Officer - Francophone Immigration Support Network of East Ontario • Dr. Aruna Alexander – UNAC United Nations Association Canada - Quinte Branch. City of Belleville Inclusion Committee. • Mike Whitaker - Loyalist College Community Employment Services • Francois Dutheil - Manager - Mississauga IRCC - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada IRCC • Robert Yorki – Vantage Foods Inc. • Karen McCory - Family Services Supervisor - Highland Shores Children's Aid for the Counties of Hastings, Prince Edward and Northumberland • Danielle Vaillant - Job Search/Community Resource Specialist - META Employment Services • John Brisbois - Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board PEC Syria – Pod 5 Trenton • Lynne Anne Storms - PEC Syria – Pod 5 Trenton

- **Mike Hewitt** - Coordinator - Manufacturing Resource Centre - Quinte Economic Development Commission
- **Suzanne Andrews** - Manager Quinte West Chamber of Commerce
- **Rob Gilmour** – Principle - Loyola School of Adult and Continuing Education - Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board
- **Michelle Rosebush** - Coordinator - Non-credit Programs - Loyola School of Adult and Continuing Education - Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board
- **Barbara Dick** - TESL Kingston - Teachers of English as a Second Language
- **Colleen Tripp** - Vice President - Board of Directors – Quinte Immigration Services

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION

• Introductions and opening remarks

- **Acknowledgements:** Special appreciation to Linda Lisle - Manager of Economic Development & Tourism - City of Quinte West for the use of the Multipurpose Room
- **Special appreciation:** to **Mayor Jim Harrison** – Mayor of the City of Quinte West for attending the QLIP meeting and providing insight on the City of Quinte West
- **Recent QLIP Partners:** Highland Shores Children's Aid for the Counties of Hastings, Prince Edward and Northumberland; South East Community Care Access Centre; Canadian Red Cross; Canadian Blast Freezers and Vantage Foods Inc.
- **Quinte Refugee Task Forum** January 22, 2016 Quinte Sports and Wellness Centre Belleville was discussed in relation to service providers and Syrian Refugee Support Groups.
- **Quinte Refugee Task Forum “2”** planned for March 03, 2016 in Quinte West at the Knights of Columbus Hall insuring QLIP and QUIS regional composition. Registration Forms were handed out at the meeting as advanced copies for all QLIP Partners. It was confirmed that the itinerary would be similar to the first Forum to include Dr. Jebara from the Cordova Centre, IRCC presentation, QUIS Settlement presentation, Canadian Mental Health Association and an Expert Panel.
- **Proposal Quinte area Ontario Bridge Training Program** - Loyalist College, two draft Newcomer Settlement Program proposals. Information on any approvals/non-approval will come in due course.
- **Housing for Syrian Refugee Families** was discussed including the availability of housing in the Quinte Region and more specifically in Quinte West. There is housing available.
- **Discussions on funding proposals** that are imminent, in relation to Refugees that may come to the Quinte area. Information will be forthcoming.
- **School Boards may be first contact for Refugee youth** and the discussion centered on the need for programs related to social aspects of the youth. Possible contact with the Chair of the Equity Committee in the School Board might be productive.

- **The “Soccer Program”** that was once a QUIS endeavour offered under a past program should be revived in relation to newcomers and socialization. It was a great success in the past and should be revived.
- **Discussions in relation to employability of refugees** and the need for translations and interpreters led to discussions that certified Arabic interpreters are available through Central Eastern Ontario Translation and Interpretation Services CEOTIS at QUIS. Discussion included Loyola having the benchmarks that companies require in relation to expectations and levels.
- ****Elevate Training Program may prove helpful for refugees** - Loyalist College is working with two local manufacturers to facilitate delivery of an adult retraining program that combines literacy and essential skills with job-specific training for the food processing industry. Vantage Foods of Belleville and Canadian Blast Freezers of Quinte West participate in the placement component of the Elevate Training Program, overseeing new trainees as they put their skills to work on the job. The program is delivered at no cost to participants through Loyalist Training and Knowledge Centre (LTKC). Current funding is provided by Hastings County Social Services and is matched by government funding by Quinte Economic Development Commission QEDC.
- A transportation fund was proposed as an idea for the movement of refugees in terms of attending schools and adults attending ESL and LINC programs
- ****What Settlement resources do the school boards need?** A capable level of English in speaking can take up to two years or more and to achieve a reasonable level of reading and writing can take 10 to 14 years. Note that 20% of refugees speak English.
- **Highland Shores Children’s Aid CAS** – mandated child protection – Syrian families need to have a proactive approach if the need arises. Suggestion was made that CAS join the “Community Safety Group”, details can be obtained from Chief of Belleville Police Services.
- **Event on April 28, 2016 City of Belleville and UNAC Quinte** – The second anniversary of Belleville joining the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CCMARD). At the Greek Hall April 28, 2016, supper provided, Loyola Choir starts at 5:30 come early.
- **Funding Discussion - Settlement Program and Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP)** Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) funds services that help newcomers settle and adapt to life in Canada. These services include language training, information and referrals, help finding employment that matches newcomers’ skills and education, and help integrating into Canadian society. More information is available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/grants-contributions-funding>

NEXT MEETING	LOCATION	TIME
Tuesday, March 08, 2016	Highland Shores Children's Aid Boardroom 363 Dundas Street West, Belleville, ON	10:00 a.m. to 12 noon