

QUINTE LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

...a better community for everyone

Minutes of the meeting 22 June 2016

MEETING :	Quinte Local Immigration Partnership www.quintelip.ca
LOCATION	South East Community Care Access Centre - Prince Edward/Hastings Boardroom 470 Dundas St. East, Belleville, Ontario (the Bayview Mall) (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"> • Karen Gilroy - Manager, Facilities and Corporate Support - South East Community Care Access Centre • Titilayo Alberto - Settlement Officer - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada IRCC (Via teleconference) • Francois Dutheil - Senior Policy/Program Advisor - Mississauga Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada IRCC (Via teleconference) • Lavinia Pureveen - QUIS Pilot Project – Farmers Feed The World • Paul Osborne - President - Board of Directors - Quinte Immigration Services • Danielle Vaillant - META Employment Services • Caroline Day – Sun Life Financial • Chantale Blanchette - Project Officer - Francophone Immigration Support Network of East Ontario • 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 • Scott Hineman - Human Resource Advocate/Recruiter - Highline Mushrooms • Mike Whitaker - - Employment Consultant - Loyalist College Community Employment Services • Marcela Klein-Rezac - Social Worker, MSW, RSW - Quinte and District Rehabilitation Inc. Belleville • Trevor Pross - Chief Executive Officer - Belleville Public Library and John M. Parrott Art Gallery • Mike Hewitt - Coordinator - Manufacturing Resource Centre - Quinte Economic Development Commission • Joanne Leith - Employment Consultant - Loyalist College Community Employment Services • Carmela Ruberto - Hastings County Social Services

DISCUSSION	• Introductions and opening remarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acknowledgement: Special appreciation to Karen Gilroy - Manager, Facilities and Corporate Support - South East Community Care Access Centre for the use of the Prince Edward/Hastings Boardroom at SE CCAC.• Introductions included: Titilayo Alberto - Settlement Officer - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada IRCC (Ottawa) and Francois Dutheil - Senior Policy/Program Advisor - IRCC (Mississauga) who attended via teleconference.• All refugee children are currently attending English schools in the Quinte Region. This is in reference to the availability of French language schools that are located in Quinte West if desired.• Sponsorship Groups should contact Quinte Immigration Services QUIS early so refugee families may take advantage of well-established QUIS Settlement Services available to newcomers to the Quinte Region.• Discussions on the next steps for refugee support groups and the need for the refugee families to become self-supporting. Example: Brighton Sponsorship Group has located local employment for some members of the Syrian refugee family they support.• New Privately Sponsored Refugee PSR support groups, discussions included the recommendation that new support groups could benefit from utilising a resource person that has worked with an “experienced” support group.• QUIS Pilot Project in its developmental stage: “Farmers feed the world”. The pilot project is currently in the design phase and focused on filling the gap between sponsorship support for refugees and the transition to self-sustaining employment. Project may involve purchase or leasing of land to Syrian Refugees with an agriculture background to create employment (30% of Syrians were working in agriculture). Project collaborators include East Central Ontario Training Board ECOTB and Central Eastern Ontario Translation and Interpretation Services CEOTIS. Training will be required in food safety and agricultural methods in Canada. The project will take shape over the summer and into fall and should be showcased at the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants OCASI Forum in October 2016.• Project may involve the use of workshops for Syrians and include interpretation, training in food safety and food handling and may be filmed for follow-on webinars to reach out to other Syrians in urban centres who may wish to move to the Quinte Region to take up agricultural employment. Loyalist College may be contacted in terms of students filming workshops/forums to be turned into webinars.• Questions remain in terms of the availability of land and financing to buy or lease farmland, followed by housing which could be addressed by Habitat for Humanity.• “Refugee Affairs” division at QUIS feasibility being investigating.• The “Belleville Inclusion Committee event” of April 28, 2016 deemed an overwhelming success. Belleville City Council and the Belleville Inclusion Committee held a celebration for the 2nd anniversary of the City’s commitment to the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CCMARD) from 5:30pm to 8:00pm at the Greek Hall, 70 Harder Drive, Belleville. Three Syrian refugee families and one from	

Congo took part in the celebrations and were welcomed by members of community and the many officials at the event. Newcomers who have settled in the Quinte Region from all over the world attended along with many politicians, educators, ESL teachers, ESL students and a variety of QLIP Partners and community groups. Over 250 invitees attended and presentations were made by: Karen Poste Belleville Economic and Strategic Initiatives Manager, Neil Ellis MP for Bay of Quinte, Todd Smith MPP Prince Edward – Hastings, Mayor Taso Christopher of Belleville, Garnet Thompson Councilor with the City of Belleville and chair of the newly formed Belleville Inclusion Committee, Orlando Ferro Executive Director Quinte Immigration Services QUIS, Michelle Rosebush Coordinator Non-Credit Programs Loyola School of Adult & Continuing Education Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board. Press coverage:

<http://www.intelligencer.ca/2016/04/28/newcomers-welcomed-as-diversity-celebrated>

- **The merger of the Bay of Quinte Tourist Council and Bay of Quinte Living Council** into one group by January 01 2017 was discussed. Concern was expressed in light of the fact that the Bay of Quinte Living Council committed to maintaining the new immigration portal for the Bay of Quinte that was created with public funds. Discussions on the merger included the need for “immigration” as a key search component for search engines to locate the portal.
- **Welcoming information** (or the idea of a welcoming package) for arriving refugees was discussed. It was noted that private sponsorship groups would provide likely provide much of the welcoming information.
- **Belleville Public Library has many resources for refugees and newcomers** including tours and welcoming information, plus QUIS provides Settlement services to newcomers at the Library on Thursdays 4 to 7pm, on the ground floor allowing for ease of accessibility, easy access via bus routes, enabling “after working hours” access to settlement services, and private discussion rooms can be organized.
- **Discussions surrounding jobs for newcomers** and the need to connect with Loyola ESL/LINC programs that start at level zero and will take up to a year to get up to speed as most refugees are pre-benchmark.
- **Flow of Refugees** – IRCC has sent more staff overseas to conduct interviews. It will be 3 to 6 months to reach the point of new arrivals and on into the fall of 2016 and into 2017.
- **Tours of the Wellington Mushroom Farm** can be arranged for organizations with an interest. Many newcomers find employment at the Wellington Mushroom Farm in Wellington Prince Edward County.
- **Example of an emergency fund campaign** - City of Kingston, and United Way Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington, are working in partnership with Kingston Community Health Centres, and the Counties of Frontenac and Lennox & Addington, and have set up a special emergency fund to support refugee resettlement in their community. <http://www.unitedwaykfla.ca/refugeerelief>
- **The recent controversial ad campaign drawing attention to Islamophobia** at 150 Toronto Transit Commission stations launched by the City of Toronto and the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI), have generated much critical commentary and incidents, none of which has anything to do with the Quinte Region.

NEXT MEETING	LOCATION	TIME
Wednesday September 14, 2016	City of Quinte West Municipal Offices Multipurpose Room 7 Creswell Dr. Trenton ON	10:00 a.m. to 12 noon