

QUINTE LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

...a better community for everyone

Minutes of the meeting 20 March 2019

MEETING :	Quinte Local Immigration Partnership www.quintelip.ca
LOCATION	City of Quinte West, Multi-Purpose Room, Quinte West Municipal Offices 7 Creswell Drive, Trenton, ON (10:00 a.m. to 11:30)
PROJECT COORDINATOR ADMINISTRATOR /FACILITATOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John L. Robertson - Program Coordinator - Quinte Local Immigration Partnership QLIP - 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 – Quinte LIP Program Coordinator
ATTENDEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graham Wallis - Service Delivery Manage - Belleville Office - Eastern Region Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities • Emma Turney - Service Delivery Assistant - Belleville Office - Eastern Region Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities • Paul Osborne - President - Board of Directors - Quinte Immigration Services QUIS • Brad Labadie - Executive Director – Centre for Workforce Development CFWD • Emily Frauts - Policy and Planning Coordinator – Community & Human Services - Hastings County • Eileen Brown – Business & Loans Advisor – Trenval Business Development Corporation • Jim Harrison Mayor of the City of Quinte West

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions and opening remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgement - Special appreciation to Linda Lisle - Manager of Economic Development & Tourism – and staff - Economic Development & Tourism Services City of Quinte West for providing the Multipurpose Room at Quinte West Municipal Offices. • Acknowledgement – Special appreciation to Jim Harrison Mayor of the City of Quinte West for his appearance at the meeting and providing his encouragement to the group. • <u>Housing – A Regional Solution to an old Problem - PowerPoint presentation – Executive Director QUIS</u> • Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A foundation to make communities successful

- **Immigration brings innovation, skills investments and a must needed labour force**
 - Every year hundreds of newcomers relocate to the Quinte region, most come looking for new opportunities, jobs and a new life.
 - Labour shortages in the region are a magnet for attracting newcomers, some trying to escape the high cost of living in large urban centers others to be closer to family members already established in the region.
 - The main challenge for those newcomers are finding affordable housing close to work sites.
 - Opposite to retirees who can afford to buy a new home and are in search for a good quality of life, most immigrants looking for work opportunities will need affordable homes in order to stay.
 - Those immigrants will be the moving force for the industrial park, the hospitality industry (hotels) and the service sector of the economy.
- **A regional solution for an old problem**
 - How municipalities can work together in a region to face the housing challenge.
 - A joint effort to identify and consolidate municipal land and building inventory.
 - How changing zoning can improve the elimination of red tape
 - The creation of an inter-municipalities regional task force including non-profit stakeholders to oversee the development of a housing planning and strategy
- **Dynamic information as a key to finding - affordable housing**
 - The creation or consolidation of a constant updated data on existing available housing using technology can be a useful tool to newcomers finding a home even before arriving.
 - A regional website monitored by a task force where landlords can subscribe and update their information for the access by the general public, based on the terms and conditions of safety, zoning and local by-laws. (Similar to Airbnb but for long term and with a non-profit affordability model).
- **Building for progress**
 - A regional solution for an old problem
 - Creating a system of a cooperative where potential homeowners and non-profit builders can plan for affordable housing on municipal land.
 - The municipalities would hold the lease of public lands being built and would collect payments on the land using a similar system used for property tax collection.
 - Backed by CMHC, a financial institution would manage the financial aspects of the building costs (a credit union or a non-profit bank similar to the Australian or Indian model).
<https://www.bendigobank.com.au/business/strengthen-my-not-for-profit>
 - Lowering building costs. There are several models that could be applied when building affordable homes. For instance, pre-molded homes, retrofitting ship containers and others
- **A few examples for affordable housing planning.**
 - <https://www.bttoronto.ca/videos/shipping-containers-retrofitted-to-be-used-as-housing/>
 - https://stalbert.ca/uploads/PDF-reports/PD_Affordable-Housing-Models.pdf
(A comprehensive report by the City of St. Albert on affordable house models that can serve as a guideline to implement some of the suggestions in this presentation.
- **UPDATE: Economic Development through Immigration EDTI - Quinte Immigration Services QUIS - Pilot Project** designed to assist immigrant businesses including entrepreneurs wishing to move to or relocate to the Quinte Region within Canada and internationally.
- **A number of EDTI clients have been assessed using CILISAT**
Testing was conducted with a number of EDTI clients in order to obtain a certification to be employed or self-employed as an interpreter using CILISAT which is the Community Interpreter Language and Interpreting Skills Assessment Tool a provincially recognized testing system that allows potential interpreters to acquire professional accreditation and certification - available in 44 languages and dialects.
- **Video conferencing with newcomers living abroad**
Appointments with Settlement Workers and an Employment Councilor were scheduled.
- **EDTI client resumes shared** with employers via email or at job fairs.
- **EDTI assessed referrals** were also provided to an entrepreneur starting a business.

- **A business representative and an entrepreneur from the Desoronto area met with the Executive Director QUIS, EDTI Coordinator and QLIP Program Coordinator** in reference the attraction of international students to the Desoronto region in terms of affordable housing. At the meeting ED QUIS advised on immigration processes, legal requirements, discussions including recommendations for specialized organizations as resource contacts The EDTI approach may at some point involve ESL teachers.
- EDTI Web hits to be checked.
- **International student population at Loyalist** and affordable accommodations were discussed in the current context and the need for improvements were discussed.
- **Employers may need to invest in housing**
- to the extent that vacancies may be filled if housing were available which is practiced by some in the agri-business
- **Unavailability of rental housing** ranked high for Belleville.
- **Industrial parks** may provide answers
- **Possible need to increase wages** to attract workers for vacancies so they can afford housing
- **Renovations** to older housing
- **Global thinking needed regionally - instead of silos**
- Existing services need to talk to each other
- **Trenval – Connect to resources – business starts - <https://trenval.on.ca>**
- Financial assistance available – including business loans – business start-up or growth.
- Possibility of strategies for newcomers.
- Trenval able to provide presentations on their services – invite newcomers.
- Resource Centre – Trenval presentations of what they can do are available – invite newcomers to learn.
- Small Business Centre can provide information and free counselling.
- **Bridge Training discussed**
- Always a gap needed to be filled
- Supports for transition to obtain the right fit
- **Hastings County and Housing**
- Housing initiatives highlight Hastings County Budget
<https://inquinte.ca/story/housing-initiatives-highlight-hastings-county-budget>
- **Hastings County – Housing Services**
- <http://www.hastingscounty.com/services/social-services/social-housing>
- **Discussions on employment rates including participation rate in employment as a better indicator of employment health** - participation rate is a measure of the active portion of an economy's labor force and refers to the number of people who are either employed or are actively looking for work.
- Sample Quinte West: http://areascore.ca/area/quinte-west_on/employment-unemployment-statistics
- Sample Belleville: http://areascore.ca/area/belleville_on/employment-unemployment-statistics
- **Employment program with a positive success record - the ELEVATE PLUS Training Program** has assisted over 100 people gain employment through job-specific skills and literacy, and essential skills in food processing and manufacturing in the Quinte Region.

- The approach could possibly be examined in a modified format for assisting newcomers who meet language benchmark 4.
- <http://loyalisttraining.com/workshops/upcoming-workshops/elevate-plus-training-program>
- **Volunteer Tax Program for newcomers at Quinte Immigration Services**
 Quinte Immigration Services has a volunteer to assist in tax returns for low income newcomers – appointments required.

NEXT MEETING	LOCATION	TIME
April 16, 2019	Seniors Club 580 68 Hastings St N, Bancroft, Ontario	10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.