

QUINTE LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

...a better community for everyone

Minutes of the meeting 12 October 2016

MEETING :	Quinte Local Immigration Partnership www.quintelip.ca
LOCATION	Highland Shores Children's Aid - Boardroom - 363 Dundas Street West, Belleville, 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 • Bill Burns - Treasure - Board of Directors - Quinte Immigration Services • Barbara Dick - TESL Kingston - Teachers of English as a Second Language Kingston • Danielle Vaillant - Job Search/Community Resource Specialist - META Employment Services • Scott Hineman - Human Resource Manager - Highline Mushrooms Wellington Ontario • Brad Labadie - Executive Director East Central Ontario Training Board ECOTB • Carmela Ruberto - Hastings County Community and Human Services • Dug Stevenson - Executive Director Bay of Quinte Regional Marketing Board

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions and opening remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgement: Special appreciation to Shawn Lowe - Child Protection Supervisor Highland Shores Children's Aid for the use of the Boardroom at Highland Shores. • Farmers Feed the World FFTW Project – Presentation of the project will be conducted at the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants OCASI Executive Directors' Forum in Toronto on November 9, 2016. • An information handout was provided and discussed with QLIP Partners. • Syrian Refugees and employment – Discussions around the varying employment programs that could be available to Syrian refugees - Canada Job Grant through Employment and Social Development Canada ESDC and Youth Employment program and work placements. Note: Employers in the Quinte Region have taken

advantage of interpreters available through Central Eastern Ontario Translation and Interpretation Services CEOTIS to assist in initial “hands on training” of newcomers.

- **Bay of Quinte Living** – presents “**Newcomers Taste of Fall**” invites newcomers to a family fun experience at Campbell’s Orchards in Rednersville. Take in the crisp fall air, experience the orchard on a wagon ride, explore the corn maze and pick your own apples at the farm on October 23rd, 2016 from 1-3:30pm at Campbell’s Orchards, 1633 Rednersville Road. RSVP: Please email Laura Voskamp at laura@bayofquinte.ca Space is limited to 30 participants and they need to arrange their own transportation to Campbell's Orchards in Rednersville. Flyer sent to all QLIP Partners to promote this great effort to Syrian refugees in the region.
- **Bay of Quinte Living – Quinte Region Immigration Portal** - Dug Stevenson - Executive Director Bay of Quinte Regional Marketing discussed the Quinte Region’s immigration portal or “Bay of Quinte Welcome Portal” with QLIP Partners for input on future undertakings. Many of the trends from an aging population to slow growth, low growth and in some cases negative growth fortifies the need for newcomers to the Quinte Region and this is compounded by the well documented competition between many municipalities for newcomers.
- In the spring of 2017 there will be an initiative to caucus with QLIP Partners to including Loyola, QUIS and many stakeholders to promote fresh ideas and shared concerns on the Bay of Quinte Immigration Portal to include content/context, languages, immigration markets, and target populations plus the farm/city connection.
- The “welcome Portal” maintained by Bay of Quinte Living has new features including QuinteJobs.ca <http://quintejobs.ca/>
- Suggestion to add a calculator for living expenses to the website so newcomers who wish to relocate can evaluate a move to the Quinte Region.
- Suggestion for a contact link or centre for businesses that wish to relocate to the Quinte Region that can provide them with information on warehouses and buildings available to fit their needs.
- It was noted that the **Bay of Quinte Immigration Portal Advisory Committee** met in late September to consider various aspects of the Portal. There will be more meetings to ensure that the Portal is effective in attracting newcomers. Areas for consideration include content, languages, information, and strategies to advance the Portal including statistics in support of research into target populations and markets, including second migrations from urban areas. There are jobs in the Quinte Region and there may be newcomers in large urban areas interested seeking work in a less crowded environment. The Advisory Committee will also work with the Province to ensure that the main site http://www.ontarioimmigration.ca/en/living/OI_HOW_LIVE_CITIES.html will be updated to include the Quinte Region immigration portal for increased visibility.
- **Farmers Feed the World (FFTW) project** description and updates provided with a handout.
- **FFTW** presented by Quinte Immigration Services QUIS and funded by the Canadian Red Cross is part of a larger initiative to provide a pathway toward self-sustainability for Syrian refugees.
- Information session on November 15, 2016 (with interpreters) will provide information on Canadian agricultural practices and more.
- Update: the response by Syrian refugees has risen to the point that the session venue has been moved to the large Multipurpose Room at the Quinte Sports and Wellness Centre to accommodate the larger numbers of Syrian refugees now at 70 (and growing) plus the panelist speakers, interpreters and more.

- Syrian refugees will be presented with a package upon arrival at the info session which is packed full of information all in Arabic (insert photo of the FFTW package).
- **FFTW info session package**



- **The FFTW info session package** contains pamphlets on Buying your first Home in Canada, Homebuyers Checklist, Renting your first home and much more, all in Arabic. The Panel of 13 experts will discuss starting a farm and selling food in Ontario, regulations regarding work and food safety, and legal information regarding land transactions and leasing. The Panel (only) will be filmed to create a post info session webinar to reach those Syrian newcomers registered but unable to attend. More information is available at: <http://www.quinteimmigration.ca/farmers-feed-the-world-english>
- **The concept of having Farm Tours for Syrian refugees** in the spring of 2017 was discussed.

Tentative QLIP Meeting winter schedule for 2016-2017: Time 10 a.m. to 12 noon

- **Wednesday, Jan 11, 2017:** Quinte West Municipal Offices, Multipurpose Room, 7 Creswell Dr. Trenton ON
- **Wednesday, Feb 08, 2017:** Highland Shores Children's Aid, Boardroom, 363 Dundas St. West, Belleville, ON
- **Wednesday, Mar 08, 2017: (revised date)** Belleville City Hall, Sir Mackenzie Bowell (SMB) Meeting Room 3rd floor 169 Front St, Belleville, ON

NEXT MEETING	LOCATION	TIME
Thursday, November 24, 2016	Belleville Public Library Meeting Rm 3rd floor, 254 Pinnacle St, Belleville, Ontario.	10:00 a.m. to 12 noon