

QUINTE LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

...a better community for everyone

Minutes of the meeting 14 September 2016

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 • Francois Dutheil - Manager - Mississauga IRCC - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada IRCC (via conference call) • Mike Hewitt - Coordinator - Manufacturing Resource Centre - Quinte Economic Development Commission • Joanne Leith - Employment Consultant - Loyalist College Community Employment Services • Barbara Dick - TESL Kingston - Teachers of English as a Second Language • Danielle Vaillant - Job Search/Community Resource Specialist - META Employment Services • His Worship Mayor Jim Harrison – Mayor of the City of Quinte West • Marcela Klein-Rezac - Social Worker, MSW, RSW - Quinte and District Rehabilitation Inc. • 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 • Kate Bird - Executive Director - Community Development Council Durham • Marielle Cothi - Service Manager - Citizen Services and Program Delivery Branch - Service Canada • Jennifer Slater - Principal / Equity Committee – Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board • Kirsten Wight - Community Advocacy & Legal Centre • Scott Hineman - Human Resource Manager - Highline Mushrooms – Wellington ON • Aaron Bell - Aaron Bell Creative Communications Agency

DISCUSSION	• Introductions and opening remarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acknowledgement: Special appreciation to:• His Worship Mayor Jim Harrison City of Quinte West for taking the time from his busy schedule to attend the QLIP meeting and for providing his insight.• Linda Lisle - Manager of Economic Development & Tourism - City of Quinte West for the use of the Multipurpose Room.• Aaron Bell – Aaron Bell Creative Communications Agency for his presentation on the “Quinte Region Immigration Portal” • Quinte Region Immigration Portal - Aaron Bell - Aaron Bell Creative Communications Agency presented the Quinte Region’s immigration portal or “Bay of Quinte Welcome Portal” on screen, with a review of the current status of the Portal that uses a real stories theme, videos, photography, appealing content, and available on all social media and many platforms. Translations on the Portal now include seven languages provided by expert certified translators, with more languages to come (these are not Google Translate). The site invites newcomers to consider the Quinte Region to live, work, play and establish businesses. One of the newer items is the link to jobs which includes job descriptions and also links to the Quinte Region employment services providers. Plus something new QuinteJobs.ca “Quinte is Hiring” at http://quintejobs.ca More information is available at: http://immigration.bayofquinte.ca • Kate Bird - the Executive Director - Community Development Council Durham CDCD attended the QLIP meeting and suggested QLIP connect to their Council. CDCD works to improve the quality of life in the communities of Durham Region in response to identified social needs, including immigrant settlement assistance: http://www.cdcd.org• A presentation on the CDCD operation is a possibility at a future QLIP meeting.• QLIP Partners are invited to visit the Welcome Centre Immigrant Services, Durham Region at the Ajax Centre location across the street from the Go Train Station providing a one-stop service designed to guide and support immigrants through the maze of information and resources. http://www.welcomecentre.ca • Farmers Feed the World (FFTW) project through 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. An information session on November 15, 2016 (with interpreters) will provide information on Canadian agricultural practices, starting a farm and selling food in Ontario, regulations regarding work and food safety, and legal information regarding land transactions and leasing via a panel of 13 experts.• The FFTW information session will be filmed and a video webinar will be developed shortly after the session to reach those Syrian newcomers registered but unable to attend.• QLIP Partner East Central Ontario Training Board (ECOTB) has developed the curriculum for the information session, and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) has provided publications that include “Good Agricultural Practices Manual – for agricultural operations”, “Get a Strong Start – Business Resource Guide for New Farmers” and “Publication 61, Starting a Farm in Ontario” and has supplied translation authorisation.• The FFTW project is working to address the shortage of workers in agriculture and on the industrial side to include food processing with requests already coming in from employers. The project seeks to provide a path for self-sustainability for Syrian refugees who have a background in agriculture and for whom their community sponsorship support will end in the near future and will assist them with the following pathways: employment within agriculture; business ownership via the lease of land, and ownership of a small farming business via the purchase of vacant farmland, or a farmhouse with small acreage.	

- The information session will be held on November 15, 2016 from 8a.m. to 4p.m. at the Quinte Sports and Wellness Centre, 265 Cannifton Rd., Belleville Ontario, with morning and afternoon panels of experts providing information through an interpreter.
- More information is available at: <http://www.quinteimmigration.ca/farmers-feed-the-world-english>
- A real need exists for an Arabic speaking staff person at QUIS for the FFTW project who will assist the front line staff with Settlement Services and Employment Counselling as the number of registrations of Syrian refugees for the FFTW have been overwhelming. The position description will soon be online.
- **Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI)** - There will also be a presentation of FFTW at the OCASI Executive Directors' Forum on November 09, 2016 to present the FFTW model that may serve other areas in Ontario and Canada facing the same labour shortages and the need to create pathways to self-sustainability for many Syrian refugees.
- **Community Advocacy & Legal Centre CALC** is presenting a Tenant Rights Information Session at QUIS November 16, 2016 from 11 a.m. to 12 noon at 41 Octavia Street Common Room Second Floor, covering rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords and what to do in case of eviction.
- **Farm Tours for the Quinte Region** were discussed in relation to the example of the successful Farm Tour in Prince Edward Island that netted jobs for Syrian refugees at farms they toured.
- Syrian refugee tour to P.E.I. farms translates into new workers (CBC News published July 26, 2016)
- <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/syrian-refugees-farm-tour-agriculture-workers-1.3695565>
- A refugee and newcomer field trip to some Island farms last month is paying off - several refugees are now working on farms and they've been spreading the word about the experience.
- **Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada IRCC - Canada continues to resettle Syrian refugees**
- Processing of Syrian refugee cases continues and Canada has welcomed over 27,190 Syrian refugees as part of the Welcome Refugees initiative.
- The pace of arrivals in Canada will be increasing in the coming weeks and more Syrian refugees are now ready to arrive in Canada with the increase in arrivals to begin in mid-September. Approximately 6,000 more government-supported Syrian refugees (which includes both government-assisted and blended visa office-referred refugees) will arrive by the end of December 2016 along with privately sponsored refugees whose cases have been finalized.
- For all privately sponsored Syrian applications submitted up to March 31, 2016, every effort will be made to finalize their processing by the end of 2016 or early 2017.
- Syrian refugees who are accepted for resettlement are expected to arrive in Canada within three to six months of their interview. IRCC source and more in-depth information: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/commitment.asp?_ga=1.192490862.554842702.1440082050

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