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Minutes – QLIP Temporary Foreign Worker Working Group

Date: July 19, 2023

MEETING :	Quinte Local Immigration Partnership Temporary Foreign Worker Working Group www.quintelip.ca
LOCATION	Zoom online platform (1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.)
CHAIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorothy Wigmore – Occupational Health Specialist, Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers, Email: dwigmore@ohcow.on.ca
NOTE TAKER/FACILITATOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine Fisher Andrews – Quinte LIP Program Coordinator, Quinte Local Immigration Partnership - Email: lip@quinteimmigration.ca
ATTENDEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Castano – Outreach Worker Temporary Migrant Workers Project, Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers, Email: saracastano0321@gmail.com • Elizabeth Edwards, Corp of the County of Prince Edward County, elizabeth.edwards@quintewest.ca • Jacki Hansford - WIL, Placement Coordinator in Career Services and Work Integrated Learning, Loyalist College, Email: JHansford@loyalistcollege.com • Mike Hewitt - Manufacturing Resource Centre Coordinator Quinte Economic Development Commission, Email: mike@quintedevelopment.com • Joanne Leith - Site Coordinator / Employment Consultant - Community Employment Services Loyalist College, Email: JLeith@loyalistcollege.com • Yuliya Lohvynenko - Community Engagement Coordinator Ukraine, Quinte Immigration Services, Email: ylohvynenko@quinteimmigration.ca • Karen McClellan - Staff Lawyer, Community Advocacy and Legal Centre, Email: karen.mcclellan@calc.clcj.ca • Cindy Mytruk - Manager, Partnerships and Inclusion, YMCA of Central East Ontario, Email: Cindy.Mytruk@ceo.ymca.ca • Karen Palmer - Economic Development Officer, The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward, Email: kpalmer@pecounty.on.ca • John Mark Robertson – Settlement Worker, Quinte Immigration Services, Email: jmrobertson@quinteimmigration.ca • Daniel Rebolledo - Program Coordinator – Worker Support Services, TNO – The Neighbourhood Organization, Email: DRebolledo@tno-toronto.org
REGRETS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abi Abd – Support Worker, Community Living Belleville and Area, Email: abdabeer12@gmail.com • Jade Calver - CEO, Registered Canadian Immigration Consultant, Calver Immigration Consulting, Email: jade@calverimmigrationconsulting.ca • Eduardo Huesca - Program Coordinator and Outreach Worker, OHCOW, Email: EHuesca@ohcow.on.ca

Welcome - Opening remarks, land acknowledgement (5 mins)

Cat provided a land acknowledgement

Who's here? Introductions and agenda additions (5 mins)

What happened at the last meeting? (10 mins)

Minutes -- Are they okay?

- Minutes were done from memory as there was no recording of the previous meeting, and were sent around the morning of this meeting.
- No comments on minutes.

Brainstorming results -- A summary and next steps with them

- Dorothy discussed the brainstorming session results which Cat previously emailed to all members.
- Information that committee members prioritized was who TFWs were and where they are, different services that support TFWs, information that could be needed or provided, events that could be provided and information regarding health care.
 - Dorothy set up a chart entitled: "What can/should the TFW group focus on?" including the overall categories mentioned above and including an "Other" category. The chart can be filled in to indicate how the committee can address the issues and who would be the target group or the initiating agency/person to do the work.
- Dorothy asked if committee members could take a look at this and provide info on what you already know about, possible solutions (what they can contribute) or mark the item as a priority.
- Cindy added: resources for lawyers and immigration information, possibly- under services support and info and also general info on things to do in the community – workers don't go anywhere because they don't know what's available. This could fall under "What else can be done"
- Dorothy added that herself and Daniel are already looking into healthcare – what kind of healthcare is available and where.
- Some workers have insurance cover beyond OHIP which covers things like eyeglasses and eye exam. What kind of insurance is available and what does it cover?
- Cat suggested that members take a look at the chart before the next meeting, if possible, to fill in some of the chart, which will help us determine what we already know, and how to strategize as a group to choose items to address on the chart within the group.
- Dorothy will send the revised list after this meeting.

Where should international students fit in? (5 mins)

- Cat addressed the question of international students and graduates in terms of their status as TFWs and whether or not they should be addressed in this committee. International students/grads have unique rules, barriers, challenges with regarding to working as temporary workers.
- The result was the committee agreed we already have a broad range of TFWs to address and that it would serve international students/graduates better if QLIP could attempt to launch a new working group to address the needs of International students/graduates in the fall of 2023.
- Yuliya noted that students are allowed to work while they study and this is now full-time hours during study (this is from IRCC – this new rule is in place until December 2023)
- Yuliya offered to provide information on current numbers of TFWs in Quinte area and the catchment region to understand what to focus on and look at the range of TFWs from various countries, backgrounds, and family situations

- It was also recognized that international graduates and other TFWs have some common interests and overlapping issues so we shouldn't completely ignore those needs but can work together or common needs - for example Health and safety

What have you been doing? (30 minutes)

TNO information session for Prince Edward County farmworkers

- Daniel spoke about the June 27th information session in PEC for migrant workers. There were approximately 38-44 workers present.
- When Daniel arrived at the event there a worker who needed medical attention which demonstrated the need for translators
- A nurse from Whitby was present and they had a diabetes testing kit temporarily
- Daniel suggested that outreach to health organizations in the Quinte region was not fruitful for providing a health nurse or testing kits
- They completed 33 surveys to rate the event and almost all people were happy with the event

English conversation circles for workers – how can we start this?

Belleville Multicultural Festival

Other events/outings/conversations?

What does this mean for this group? For our organisations?

How about an event in Belleville? (15 mins)

A multi-organisation information session at the Wellness Centre?

Other business (5 mins)

Next meeting date:

August 2023 – date and time TBD