

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of York Regional Council

FROM: Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Town of Markham,
Co-Chair of the Community Partnership Council

Stephen Lam, Director of Immigrant Services and Community Programs,
Catholic Community Services of York Region,
Co-Chair of the Community Partnership Council

DATE: June 24, 2010

RE: **Update on the Local Immigration Partnership Initiative**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide Regional Council with an update on the Local Immigration Partnership initiative, which will lead to the creation of York Region's Immigration Settlement Strategy.

The purpose of this initiative is to develop local solutions to help newcomers successfully integrate both socially and economically. The Region will receive a total of \$809,000 from the federal government to establish and support a Community Partnership Council who will work collaboratively with the Region to develop a made-in-York Region Immigration Settlement Strategy.

Activities of the Community Partnership Council

The Community Partnership Council (membership attached) will meet a total of six times over its one-year term ending March 31, 2011. Through these meetings the CPC will define the directions for the Strategy.

As a group, the Community Partnership Council has started to shape the framework for the Strategy and we are working to identify the assets, gaps and best practices that exist around newcomer integration within York Region that can either be addressed or promoted through the Strategy. An update of our activities is outlined below.

Community Consultations for the Development of York Region's Immigration Settlement Strategy will Take Place in the Spring and Fall

The Region, in collaboration with the Community Partnership Council, will be conducting extensive community consultations that will identify the assets, gaps and needs in terms of supports and services for newcomers to York Region.

The consultations will take place over the Spring and Fall, 2010. To begin the process we have released two surveys: 1) a Survey of New Immigrant Supports in York Region; and 2) a Newcomer Survey.

Survey of New Immigrant Supports in York Region

One of the requirements of all 33 Local Immigration Partnership projects across Ontario is to complete an “inventory of services” to identify current programs and service levels and capacity within our communities to meet the needs of newcomers. A web-based "Survey of New Immigrant Supports in York Region" was released May 18, 2010 to over 1,300 community agencies and organizations across York Region and the nine local municipalities.

Input will be sought from both the traditional settlement supports that promote newcomer integration and the “non-traditional” – such as recreation and social programs that have experienced an increase in the number and/or frequency of new immigrants using their services. Through capturing these two categories of organizations/agencies/groups we will try to gain a more holistic understanding of the supports and service needs of new immigrants in York Region.

All nine local municipalities were consulted to obtain contact information of organizations/agencies and local ethno-cultural groups to be included in the survey and for other community consultations.

Newcomer Survey

This survey aims to provide an opportunity for newcomers to personally voice their needs and challenges of the settlement and integration processes. In order to do this, we will use a Community Animator model to reach out to newcomers who are isolated and/or not engaged in the public policy process and those that do not speak English.

The Community Animator model employs newcomers or other members of the immigrant community to interview newcomers in their own language at locations they are likely to gather (e.g. malls, places of worship, libraries, recreational facilities, etc.). By having our residents conduct these interviews, we are able to use the languages, cultures, formal and informal networks to facilitate in-depth reach within immigrant communities.

The Animator model also has a number of spin-off benefits. It provides part-time employment and Canadian work experience, it actively involves newcomers in the development of York

Region’s Immigration Settlement Strategy and helps build connections between newcomers and their communities.

This model has been successful in other jurisdictions, including the Regent Park revitalization, getting thousands of multilingual public housing tenants engaged in a complex planning exercise. Community Animators have also been used in the community consultations in Don Valley’s Local Immigration Partnership initiative.

Animators were recruited through existing service providers and networks in York Region and will be located at key locations across York Region over June and July 2010. We will be sharing the list of locations with members of Regional Council should anyone be interested in meeting the animators or observing the process.

Enhanced Research Report on Immigration Trends in York Region and Immigration Settlement Strategy are also Underway

Work has also begun to update and enhance the *Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region* report published in 2006. The research is based on Statistics Canada Census 2006 data and Citizenship and Immigration landing data and is being done in collaboration with the York Region's Data Strategy, which is led by Mayor Van Bynen and Daniele Zanotti, CEO, United Way of York Region. We will also be bringing the Immigration Settlement Strategy forward to Regional Council in early 2011 for your review and endorsement.

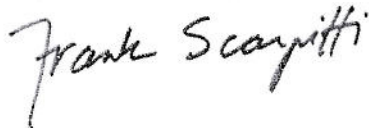
Conclusion

We are off to a great start. We have been fortunate in York Region to be provided with this opportunity to collaborate with our community partners to develop a locally relevant Strategy that will meet the needs of our newest residents. We would like to thank the Community Partnership Council for their commitment and participation in this initiative.


Finally, we encourage the local municipalities to be engaged in the development of the Immigration Settlement Strategy. We will continue to seek municipal input in the development and design of the community consultations and provide opportunities for participation.

If you have any questions, please contact Cordelia Abankwa-Harris, Managing Director, Strategic Service Integration and Policy, Ext. 2150.

Sincerely,



Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Town of Markham
Co-Chair, Community Partnership Council



Stephen Lam
Director, Immigrant Services and Community
Programs, Catholic Community Services of York
Region
Co-Chair, Community Partnership Council

SB/lc/kn

Attachment

Copy to: Adelina Urbanski, Commissioner of Community and Health Services
Community Partnership Council Members



**York Region's Local Immigration Partnership Initiative
Community Partnership Council Sector Representatives**

Contact Information

Sector	Sector Representative
Regional Representative	<p>Mayor Frank Scarpitti (Co-Chair) Town of Markham 101 Town Centre Blvd Markham, ON L3R 9W3 fscarpitti@markham.ca 905-475-4872 Fax: 905-479-7775</p>
Settlement Services	<p>Stephen Lam (Co-Chair) Director, Immigrant Services and Community Programs Catholic Community Services of York Region 21 Dunlop Street Richmond Hill, ON L4C 2M6 slam@ccsyr.org 905-770-7040 Ext. 235 Fax: 905-770-7064</p>
Regional Representative	<p>Bill Fisch Chairman and CEO Office of the Regional Chair The Regional Municipality of York 17250 Yonge Street Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1 bill.fisch@york.ca 905-830-4444</p>
Regional Representative	<p>Lina Bigioni Director of Government Relations and Executive Assistant to the Chairman Office of the Regional Chair The Regional Municipality of York 17250 Yonge Street Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1 lina.bigioni@york.ca 905-830-4444 x1101</p>
Municipal	<p>Tricia Myatt Manager, Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs Office of the CAO Town of Richmond Hill 225 East Beaver Creek Rd., 8th Floor Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3P4 tmyatt@richmondhill.ca 905-771-5463 Fax: 905-771-2406</p>

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Community Partnership Council Sector Representatives**

Contact Information

Sector	Sector Representative
Municipal	<p>Mirella Tersigni Community Development Coordinator, Recreation and Culture City of Vaughan 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive Vaughan, ON L4A 1T1 mirella.tersigni@vaughan.ca 905-832-2377 Ext. 7429 Fax: 905-832-6726</p>
Municipal	<p>Sandra Tam Manager, Markham Small Business Enterprise Centre Town of Markham 101 Town Centre Blvd. Markham, ON L3R 9W3 sandratam@markham.ca 905-248-2736 Fax: 905-479-2055</p>
Settlement Services	<p>Moy Wong-Tam Executive Director Centre for Information and Community Services of Ontario 2330 Midland Avenue Toronto, ON M1S 5G5 moy.wong-tam@cicscanada.com 416-292-7505 Ext. 114 Fax: 416-292-9120</p>
Language Training	<p>Robert Cazzola Director, Education and Information Systems COSTI Immigrant Services Welcome Centre 9100 Jane Street, Building H Vaughan, ON L4K 0A4 cazzola@costi.org 905-761-1155 Fax: 905-761-2080</p>
Accreditation Programs	<p>Patricia Cousins CEO Social Enterprise for Canada 17705 Leslie St., Ste. 202 Newmarket, ON L3Y 3E3 patricia.cousins@socialenterprise.ca 289-470-5329 Fax: 905-953-8241</p>

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Contact Information

Sector	Sector Representative
Employment Skills and Training	<p>Nella Iasci Executive Director Job Skills Newmarket Plaza 130 Davis Drive, Unit 14 P.O. Box 34 Newmarket, ON L3Y 2N1 niasci@jobskills.org 905-898-5138 Fax: 905-898-4830</p>
Labour Market Development	<p>Al Wilson Executive Director Workforce Planning Board 17665 Leslie Street, Ste. 42 Newmarket, ON L3Y 3E3 alcwilson@sympatico.ca 905-967-0605 Fax: 905-967-0608</p>
Labour Market Development	<p>Elizabeth McIsaac Executive Director Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council 170 Bloor Street West, Ste. 901 Toronto, ON M5S 1T9 emcisaac@triec.ca 416-944-1946 Ext. 233 Fax: 416-944-8915</p>
Academic	<p>Dr. Usha George, Ph.D. Professor and Dean, Faculty of Community Services Ryerson University 350 Victoria Street Toronto, ON M5B 2K3 ugeorge@ryerson.ca 416-979-5000 Ext. 6119 Fax: 416-979-5384</p>
Police Services	<p>Ricky Veerappan Inspector, York Regional Police 17250 Yonge Street Newmarket, ON L3Y 4W5 545@yrp.ca 905-830-0303 Ext.6089 Fax: 905-853-5810</p>

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Contact Information

Sector	Sector Representative
Health Services	<p>Carla Palmer Operations Director Community Programs, Partnerships and Alliances York Central Hospital 10 Trench Street Richmond Hill, ON L4C 4Z3 cpalmer@yorkcentral.on.ca 905-883-1212 Ext. 7244 Fax: 905-883-2134</p>
Education	<p>Leanne Rosteing ESL/ELD Teacher, Assessment York Catholic District School Board 320 Bloomington Road West Aurora, ON L4G 0M1 leanne.rosteing@ycdsb.ca 416-221-5051 Ext.3048 Fax: 905-713-1279</p>
Education	<p>Cecil Roach Superintendent of Education Community Education Centre York Region District School Board 317 Centre Street, East Richmond Hill, ON L4G 1B3 cecil.roach@yrdsb.edu.on.ca 905-884-4477 Fax: 905-884-7116</p>
Francophone Community	<p>Serge Paul Community Liaison Officer Conseil scolaire de district du Centre-Sud-Ouest Centre de formation 7585 Financial Drive Brampton, ON L6Y 5P4 paulse@csdcso.on.ca 905-450-6462 Fax: 905-455-6944</p>
Social Services	<p>Janice Chu Director, Community Investment United Way of York Region 80F Centurian Drive, Suite 200 Markham, ON L3R 8C1 jchu@uwyr.on.ca 905-474-9974 Ext. 243 Fax: 905-474-0051</p>

York Region's Local Immigration Partnership Initiative Community Partnership Council Sector Representatives

Contact Information

Ex-Off cio Members	
Citizenship and Immigration Canada	Richard Lecours Operations Manager Richard.Lecours@cic.gc.ca 905-763-3613
Service Canada	Marlene Avery Service Manager – York/Durham Marlene.avery@servicecanada.gc.ca 905-721-5040
Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration	Catherine Campbell Regional Advisor - MIDHURST OFFICE Catherine.Campbell@ontario.ca 705-737-3010
Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities	Sandy McMillan Service Delivery Manager Sandy.Mcmillan@ontario.ca 905-513-6355

