
**Integration Strategy Committee
Meeting Minutes
Oct. 4th 2011, 2 – 4 pm
New Canadians Centre Board Room**

Present: Debbie Harrison (Chair, Fleming College-Diversity Office), Dawn Berry Merriam (Peterborough Social Planning Council), John Coreno (City of Peterborough, Social Services), Lou O' Hara ((Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration), Hajni Hos (Executive Director, NCC), Brad Fraser (The Cooperators), Jason Stabler (PPCII Coordinator), Safo Musta (PPCII Research and Implementation Specialist)

Regrets: Rob Anderson (City of Peterborough, Community Services Dept.), Karolyn Givogue (Community and Race Relationship Committee)

1. Introduction of ISC members and new staff

2. Review of minutes from July 26, 2011 ISC

Minutes were accepted.

3. Update on funded projects from previous fiscal year (Jason)

PPCII Coordinator updated on the status of funded projects including: a) ESL (TVLA); b) Multicultural organizations; c) Housing Community Liaison; d) ESL Survey (Fleming); e) Trent Survey.

Committee members required additional explanations regarding Housing Community Liaison position, including the purpose of this position, the job profile, which client category will be served and where will he/she sit (i.e. whether with NCC or Housing Resource Centre). Additional information was required on the status of Trent Survey on Peterborough labour market data. While the questionnaire tool is already developed by Dr. Alan Law and available to PPCII, the survey is not implemented, pending a follow up project and additional budget. Committee members put the emphasis on the importance of economic development pillar within the Integration Strategy and the need for local labour market data and research.

4. Interactive Action Plan

PPCII research and implementation specialist updated on programs and events falling under the Interactive Action Plan, including: a) Newcomer Bulletin; b) TCCBE project on audit of ESL service providers in Peterborough area; c) TCCBE project on newcomer friendly practices in housing sector. With regard to the last project it was recommended to include the Housing Division of the City of Peterborough into the TCCBE study.

A brief update was provided on programs and activities within the Economic Development pillar of the Integration Strategy, including Nov. 1, Evening of International Business, for International Students in the BA degree program at Trent University and business professionals in Peterborough area. This event is put together by WIC staff. An update was

also provided on Peterborough Workplace Integration Centre (PWIC). PPCII staff assisted putting together the project rational component of the grant application submitted by the NCC and WIC to MCI for the PWIC. If the proposal is accepted the WIC will evolve into the PWIC. The mandate of the PWIC and its relationship to PPCII were also explained to ISC members.

To date the website of Interactive Action Plan has received 5900 hits and staff will report in subsequent meetings on website traffic, using this number as baseline data.

5. Integration Strategy Budget

There was no progress to be reported on this item since the last ISC meeting. Committee required from staff to prepare a report on the status of each proposed project, together with budget estimates for consideration before the Nov. 29 meeting of ISC. The focus should be on those projects that can multiply the current total budget available (approx. 7000 dollars) till March 2012. Staff will report on this item via email by Nov. 5. Committee members will decide whether an ad hoc meeting will be needed before Nov. 29 to specifically discuss this item.

6. Update on PWIC:

This discussion was covered under item 4 in the agenda.

7. ISC Terms of reference on member's absences

Under the ISC TOR members should notify the chair of their absence. In case two absences occur without notice, the chair should follow up with the individual member and make a decision on the membership status of that member.

8. Other items

- PPCII Strategic Planning Meeting: The date and details of this event are not finalized. The Strategic Planning Meeting will take place following the Nov. 17 Conference, somewhere during the first week of December.
- Debbie Harrison, Chair of ISC, asked committee members on their feedback and thoughts following staff update and asked them guide staff on ideas/projects that should be a priority. Committee members put the emphasis on **capacity building** outside NCC its programs (e.g. build capacities of social services agencies to serve newcomers along other population groups). Committee agreed that **economic development** remains a priority and **labour research** is very much needed. **Affordable housing** also represents an important and sensitive issue at the same time. Attention should be paid to avoid tension among different segments of population (i.e. newcomers vs. the rest) and focus on creating a level playing field rather than placing one group ahead of the other. In addition, attention was drawn to the current status of **ESL services** in Peterborough (no ESL classes are offered beyond level 6), which puts Peterborough in a disadvantage position in attracting and retaining newcomers compared to other areas. The need for an **ESL steering committee** in Peterborough was emphasized once again. Committee members

Together we prosper



suggested to the staff to make use of **current PPCII research and studies** when considering future project ideas.

- Debbie Harrison, Chair of ISC, informed the members that she will give her resignation from the position effective January 2012. She also asked members to consider volunteering for this position.

Next ISC Meeting: November, 2011 2-4 pm