

**Integration Strategy Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 5th, 2011, 2-4 pm,
New Canadians Centre Board Room**

Present: John Coreno (City of Peterborough Social Services), Rob Anderson (City of Peterborough Recreation), Melissa Sharpe-Harrigan (PPCII Research and Implementation Specialist), Jason Stabler, (PPCII Coordinator)

Regrets: Davina Bhandar (Trent University/Welcoming Communities Initiative) ,Hajni Hos (NCC Executive Director), Carmella Valles (Carmella Valles Immigration Consulting), karolyn Givogue (Coordinator, Community and Race Relations Committee), Lou O'Hara (Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration), Dawn Berry-Merriam (Peterborough Social Planning Council)

1. Welcome and go around the table
The New Canadians Centre (NCC) has begun planning its Multicultural Canada Day Activities. Citizenship and Immigration Canada has provided a grant that will aid the NCC in hiring an event organizer for 12 weeks. Anyone interested in joining the Multicultural Canada Day Planning Committee can contact Anne Elliott at: anne@nccpeterborough.ca.
2. Review of minutes from the February 1st, 2011 ISC meeting
Meeting minutes were accepted.
3. Update on funded projects from previous fiscal year

An update was given as to the remaining money that was unspent at the February meeting. After consultations with community stakeholders, it was decided that the funds would go towards a Survey Design Project. The Social Science Research Lab at Trent University was given funds to design a labour market survey that will provide information about Peterborough's labour market, and worker's experiences of discrimination/barriers in the work place. This survey will be used to provide reliable and on-going data for policy and strategy development in the Peterborough area. Because this survey will be used over a long period of time to supplement census data and other research gaps, it is important that the survey be designed by an expert in the field of social science methodology.

Upon completion of the survey there are two opportunities for implementing the survey as part of ongoing initiatives exists:

- The Workforce Development Board Eastern Ontario data warehouse initiative (VIBE), which aims to collectively gather information about Eastern Ontario's labour force, which includes immigrants and newcomers as a sector of that population,
- The Community University Research Alliance Aging Workforce Initiative, which does research on how to supplement and replace Peterborough's aging workforce including with newcomers.

The PPCII funded a total of six projects during the last fiscal year. Of the six, three projects have handed their reports in summarizing their results:

- 1) Fleming College Assessing ESL Needs Study – submitted two reports. One report summarized the Telephone Survey of ESL Needs of Employees of local businesses, and one report summarized the focus groups that were held with current ESL students.
- 2) The Newcomer Community Liaison Project Report was submitted by the Housing Resource Centre. The report outlines the process that went into creating the role of a Peterborough Newcomer Community Liaison job description and 12 month work schedule. Carmella is currently looking for opportunities to fund this position.
- 3) Charterfield Consulting submitted the final report for her Multicultural Organizations of Peterborough project. The report provides detailed information of local organizations and groups.

The PPCII Staff will look at the reports in detail and will share next step options with the ISC next meeting.

Three project reports are still to come in; the Community Race Relations Committee Project on Racism in schools, the Trent University Survey Design Project, and the Trent Valley Literacy Association's ESL Capacity projects. All project organizers have spoken with PPCII staff about the delay and it is anticipated that these reports will be received in the first two weeks of April. .

4. Integration Strategy Action Plan – Economic Development

An overview of the Economic Development Sector of the Action Plan was presented, and a number of projects were outlined that are taking place in the Peterborough area. The Peterborough Immigrant Employment Council, a new initiative of NCC, PPCII, and the Workplace Integration Centre was discussed. This initiative is in its initial planning phases, and has been learning from 'Hire Immigrants Ottawa.'

Priorities were discussed in terms of both economic development, and the greater integration strategy. The importance of sustaining community partnerships was discussed at great length, and the ISC decided to prioritize continued community partnerships, including with the City of Peterborough. As specific funding opportunities become available, PPCII staff will discuss the funding opportunity, potential items that 'match' the opportunity, and the ISC will advise on appropriate projects and partnerships.

5. ISC budget discussion for 2011/2012 Fiscal Year (Jason)

The ISC budget was discussed, and in particular, the implementation budget. Although the budget has not been finalized, it is anticipated that there will be no allocated funds for implementation in the next fiscal year. Any project initiatives that the PPCII would like to take part in will be funded by calls for proposals, or partnership funding. The ISC will therefore work closely with the Resource Development Committee to seek out funding opportunities.

6. Other Items – Updating the website

Staff showed the committee the proposed changes to the Integration Strategy page on the website, which will include a “live” version of the Action Plan. Pending budget and other committee approval, the changes will be made effective May, 2011.

Next Meeting: May 31st 2011