
**Integration Strategy Committee
Meeting Minutes
Nov. 29, 2011, 2 – 4 pm
New Canadians Centre Board Room**

Present: Debbie Harrison (Chair, Fleming College-Diversity Office), John Coreno (City of Peterborough, Social Services), Hajni Hos (Executive Director, NCC), Brad Fraser (The Cooperators), Karolyn Givogue (Community and Race Relationship Committee), Jason Stabler (PPCII Coordinator), Safo Musta (PPCII Research and Implementation Specialist)

Regrets: Dawn Berry Merriam (Peterborough Social Planning Council), Rob Anderson (City of Peterborough, Community Services Dept.), Lou O' Hara (Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration), Becky Rogers (Peterborough Public Library)

1. Review of minutes from October 4, 2011 ISC meeting

Minutes were accepted.

2. Update on funded projects from previous fiscal year

- a) NCC Executive Director updated the committee on the Housing Community Liaison grant proposal. This grant proposal builds on Housing and Transportation Community Liaison Project, an earlier Integration Strategy project delivered in March 2011.
- b) PPCII Research and Implementation Specialist updated on Peterborough Welcome Pass Program. 30 new families enrolled in the program during the month of November, while the total number of families enrolled into the program since July is 121. The program was promoted during the NCC organized visit for newcomers at Hutchinson House Museum on Nov. 16 and at the PPCII "Together We Prosper" Conference on Nov. 17. The PPCII Research and Implementation Specialist informed the committee that on January 14, PPCII and Peterborough Family Resource Center will co-host "Family Fun Time" event, a promotional activity for the PWP program targeting newcomer families with young kids.

3. Integration Strategy –Action Plan

PPCII Research and Implementation Specialist updated on two TCCBE proposals: ESL audit project and Immigrant Friendly Housing practices. Both project teams are finalizing project agreements and schedules in coordination with PPCII, TCCBE and their academic advisor at Trent. Both project teams requested approval from us to conduct interviews with newcomers to find out either about barriers in accessing existing ESL services, or housing. PPCII staff agreed in principle to allow students' access to NCC clients, only if this was considered critical for the outcome of the project and as the last resort. Client interviews would require additional formal checks and coordination of interviews through PPCII and NCC. Field work for both projects is anticipated to start in January 2012 with interviews of settlement workers and service agencies. Implementation of the projects will continue through April/May 2012. Both projects will move forward objectives of the Integration Strategy

As of Nov. 24 the website of Interactive Action Plan had 6394 hits.

4. Integration Strategy Budget Discussion

ISC committee members discussed the table of IS projects for funding consideration for the remaining period of the fiscal year (ending March 2012). For the purpose of facilitating the discussion and making a decision on the next project/s to be funded, the project table contained in total 29 projects broken down by the 4 sectors of the IS and their current status (i.e. whether the project was complete, partially complete or not initiated/funded). The followings are the highlights of Committee discussion and decisions in this respect:

- Provision of ESL services remains a priority for Peterborough. Committee considers that PPCII should take the lead in establishing the ESL steering committee. Committee directed the staff to start with early preparations for putting an ESL Steering committee together next year. No additional funding is allocated at this stage for this purpose.
- A mid-term evaluation/assessment of IS, followed by an update of the IS was considered as a feasible project proposal for funding purposes
- Training of landlords, following general consultations with landlords on immigrant friendly practices and immigrants barriers in accessing housing, was also considered as a feasible project proposal for funding purposes
- Committee agreed that the labour market research, building on the existing PPCII funded research, should be the number one priority in terms of allocating additional funding. If necessary, the total amount of \$7,000 will be made available to materialize labour market research. To facilitate further steps in implementing this project and the decision making process the Committee recommended the following:
 - A labour market working group to be set up as soon as possible to facilitate the labour market research, including representatives from GPADC, WDB, PPCII, Chamber of Commerce
 - The existing PPCII research (conducted earlier this year by a team of Trent researchers) will be used to implement the labour market survey. However, PPCII staff will ask the researchers to provide the updated/final survey tool(s). The working group will advise staff on how to use the existing research/tool, issuing of an RFP, selection of the implementing partner, etc.
 - PPCII staff to take all steps necessary to implement the project within the broad orientations given by the ISC. For all immediate needs and specific issues staff should consult the ISC chair.
 - ISC authorizes staff to start working toward the implementation the labour market research project as soon as possible.

5. Other items

- a) ISC Chair position is opened from January 2012. ISC Chair, Debbie Harrison informed the committee that Dawn Berry Merriam has expressed interest to co-chair the committee. A call for a co-chair was addressed to all committee members. Debbie Harrison will remain a PPCII member but will no longer continue to be a member of ISC

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committee. Debbie agreed to be present at the next ISC committee to hand over the position to the new chair/co-chairs.

- b) ISC members were informed that the representative from the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board extended its resignation from the Integration Strategy Committee. In an e-mail to the ISC Chair, Leslie Woolcott from KPRDSB expressed her gratitude to all members of the Committee for their ongoing efforts as well as her best wishes for every success in the future. The ISC chair accepted the KPRDSB resignation.

Next ISC Meeting: February 7, 2012, 2011 2-4 pm