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## Speaking Points for PPCII Members

### Background

In 2008, in an effort to create a cohesive regional response to the emerging needs of newcomers, the City of Peterborough and the New Canadians Centre joined together with more than twenty-five local organisations to establish the Peterborough Partnership Council on Immigrant Integration (PPCII). The PPCII receives federal and provincial funding under Citizenship and Immigration Canada's Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) program. The New Canadians Centre provides administrative support for the PPCII.

To date, the PPCII is comprised of more than 160 individuals, with representation from over 50 member organizations which represent sectors such as education, employment, health and social services. Currently, there is no fee required to become a member, and new members are always welcome.

### Why Does Immigration Matter?

Immigrants bring a broad range of skills and talents that enrich the Canadian landscape. With an ageing population and declining birth rate, there is also a lot of pressure to improve labour productivity. On average, Canada sees on average 220,000 new immigrants a year<sup>1</sup>. As of 2011, immigration is expected to account for 100% of labour force growth in Canada<sup>2</sup>. By 2030, it is expected to account for 100% of population growth in Canada<sup>3</sup>.

### Objectives

The overall goal of the PPCII is to develop and implement a five-year Immigrant Integration Strategy for the community that will

- Improve access to and coordination of immigrant integration services
- Improve labour market outcomes for immigrants
- Strengthen local awareness and capacity to successfully integrate and retain immigrants

### Structure

The Council is the main governing body of the PPCII and is responsible for committees which:

- Ensure that all activities work towards achieving the objectives of the PPCII
- Develop, implement, monitor, and continually modify 3-5 year Immigrant Integration Strategy for the Peterborough region
- Seek stakeholders to provide input on PPCII initiatives
- Promote education and awareness of the PPCII and its work.
- Build capacity in our community by organizing conferences and workshops

### Integration Strategy (launched September 2010; details available at <http://ppcii.ca/about-us/integration-strategy>)

The four sectors of the Peterborough community which have an important role in furthering immigrant integration are:

- Economic Development
- Health, Social Services and Voluntary
- Housing and Transportation
- Education

The themes of the strategy are:

- *Capacity building* to improve existing capabilities, competencies and readiness and put in place those that do not yet exist
- *Access to services* in terms of availability of service, quality of service, method of service delivery, and its frequency and affordability
- *Opportunities for participation* and engagement ranging from paid employment to volunteering at and /or attending events, joining clubs or after hour activities for children, etc

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<sup>1</sup> [www.clbc.ca/files/Reports/IHB\\_section\\_a.pdf](http://www.clbc.ca/files/Reports/IHB_section_a.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Canada's Innovation Strategy, Knowledge Matters: Skills and Learning for Canadians, Section 5.1

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/91-003-x/2007001/4129907-eng.htm>

- *Research and Development* for efficiency and to ensure equity
- *Attraction and retention* strategies for immigrants to contribute to the long term diverse economic, social, and quality of life of all citizens in the region

## PPCII Resources:

- **The PPCII Action Plan** showcases projects and partnerships that help meet the objectives of the Integration Strategy over the next five years. The interactive Action Plan allows you to find out what activities are already underway in the community as well as how you can get involved in helping to implement the objectives of the Immigrant Integration Strategy. See [www.ppcii.ca](http://www.ppcii.ca) for details.
- **The Newcomer Integration Toolkit** aims to support social service agencies by providing resources, practical supports and best practices that will enable the community to better meet the unique needs of newcomers. Staff are available to assist agencies in determining priority areas and implementing measures and to provide customized training sessions for management, staff and volunteers. See [www.ppcii.ca](http://www.ppcii.ca) for details.
- **Map and Directory of Multicultural Organizations in Peterborough** is an inventory of the cultural groups that exist in our community. This resource includes a map indicating their location in Peterborough, along with tools and easy reference materials for newcomers and residents of Peterborough to find the multicultural group that represents them and a 'how to' guide for starting a cultural group. See [www.ppcii.ca](http://www.ppcii.ca) for details.

## PPCII Action Plan Project of the Month: ESL Service Audit

Through a [Trent Centre for Community-Based Education project](#), two Trent students are engaged to conduct an audit of English as a Second Language (ESL) services in the Peterborough area. This audit will showcase the available services from pre-school to adult, at all levels and pinpoint the specific gaps in ESL service in the Peterborough area. If you are interest in being involved in this project, contact Safo at [safo@nccpeterborough.ca](mailto:safo@nccpeterborough.ca).

## Upcoming Event

### March 1: Presentation at the GPAEDC Staff Meeting

The purpose of this session is to explore possible synergies between the PPCII Integration Strategy and the GPAEDC strategic plan

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