

## **Update on Newcomer and Settlement Issues and Initiatives**

<b>Date:</b>	August 3, 2010
<b>To:</b>	Community Development and Recreation Committee
<b>From:</b>	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

### **SUMMARY**

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This report provides an update on a range of activities and issues associated with services for newcomers in the City of Toronto. Specifically, the report includes comparative data on federal funding for settlement across provinces and territories, an update of the status of the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement (COIA), and an update on the implementation of the Toronto Newcomer Initiative including the value of the final agreement between the City and Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC).

This report also requests for Council authority to receive and spend up to \$175,000 from the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI) to refresh the City's immigration and settlement web portal.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration recommends that:

1. City Council direct that upon funding approval by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI), Social Development, Finance and Administration's 2010 Operating Budget be increased on a one-time basis an amount of \$87,500 gross and 0 net in 2010 and \$87,500 gross and 0 net in 2011 including one temporary position for a total of \$175,000 for 2010 and 2011.

## Financial Impact

### Update on the funding for the Toronto Newcomer Initiative based on the final agreement between the City and Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)

The contribution agreements with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) for the Toronto Newcomer Initiative signed in May, 2010 resulted in a one-time total increase of up to \$2,102,672 gross and \$0 net in 2010 and \$975,816 and \$0 net in 2011. The total value of the contract over an eleven month period beginning May 1, 2010 and ending March 31, 2011 is up to \$3,078,488. No further Council decision on this expenditure is required.

	<b>Division</b>	<b>FY 2010 (May 1 – Dec 31)</b>	<b>FY 2011 (Jan 1 – Mar 31)</b>	<b>Positions</b>
1.	Children's Services	\$200,000 gross (\$0 net)	\$100,000 gross (\$0 net)	0
2.	Parks, Forestry and Recreation	\$903,397 gross (\$0 net)	\$433,804 (\$0 net)	2
3.	Social Development, Finance and Administration	\$307,166 gross (\$0 net)	\$141,359 (\$0 net)	3
4.	Toronto Public Health	\$692,109 gross (\$0 net)	\$300,653 (\$0 net)	1

### New Funding for Immigration and Settlement Web Portal

Funding from the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI) to refresh the City's immigration and settlement web portal will result in a one-time total increase of up to \$87,500 gross and \$0 net in 2010 and \$87,500 gross and \$0 net in 2011. The total value of the provincial funding grant over a six month period beginning October, 2010 and ending March 31, 2011 will be up to \$175,000.00.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

## DECISION HISTORY

In February, 17, 2010 Council authorized the Mayor and/or City Manager to enter into agreements with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) for a total value of up to \$4,050,000.00.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/exbgrd/backgroundfile-27467.pdf>

On March 31 and April 1, 2010 City Council adopted a report seeking authority for staff to receive and spend/allocate Citizenship and Immigration Canada funding for Services to Newcomers.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Newcomers to the City of Toronto are viewed as an asset because of their cultural, social and economic contributions. These contributions are a part of the fabric of the city, the community and the country.

The City of Toronto does not provide settlement services; however it does provide a wide range of municipal services to all residents regardless of citizenship status. Canada, Ontario and Toronto share in the goal of ensuring newcomers are able to access City and community services to support successful settlement outcomes.

This common goal of improved settlement outcomes for newcomers is guided by a number of intergovernmental agreements including the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement (COIA) and the Canada-Ontario-Toronto Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

In 2010 the City entered into a bilateral funding agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada with the objectives of increasing the accessibility of directly delivered City services and building the capacity for effective service system planning for newcomers.

More recently, the Provincial Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration has approached the City regarding potential funding to update and improve Toronto's Immigration and Settlement Web Portal.

## **COMMENTS**

### **Federal Settlement Funding Allocation to Provinces and Territories**

Federal settlement allocations to provinces and territories fund services to help newcomers settle, including: language training, information and referrals, help finding employment that matches newcomers skills and education, and help establishing networks and contacts in their communities. Funding allocations to each province and territory (with the exception of Ontario and Quebec, which have their own unique agreements) are determined by a formula that is based on the number of newcomers in each province or territory, with additional weight added to refugees to account for their unique settlement needs. The formula does not account for refugee claimants or persons without status as these individuals are not eligible for federally funded settlement services. The funding allocation to each province is listed in Table A (see attached).

Federal settlement funding to Ontario and Quebec is based upon negotiated agreements between each province and the Government of Canada. A historical comparison of funding levels since the signing of the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement in 2005 is outlined in Table B (see attached). In Ontario, settlement funds are directly administered

by the federal department of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), and total \$478 million in 2010-2011. In Quebec, the funds are transferred directly to the provincial government. Quebec is responsible for the selection and settlement of immigrants to the province. The federal government does not administer or deliver settlement services in the Quebec. It is estimated the province will receive \$253.7 million in grants in 2010-2011 under the Canada-Quebec Accord.

### **Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement**

Citizenship and Immigration Canada's Settlement Program aims to achieve outcomes that are comparable across Canada, delivered through a range of governance and funding models. In Ontario, CIC co-manages with the Province the delivery of settlement services through contribution agreements with service providers.

The Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement was signed in 2005 and committed \$920 million over 5 years in Ontario for settlement and language training programs. This was in addition to the \$540 million Ontario was allocated to receive in basic settlement funding over the same period. In 2010, the federal government and the Province of Ontario signed a one-year extension to COIA ending March 31, 2011 and are currently engaged in a process of negotiating a successor agreement.

### **Canada-Ontario-Toronto Memorandum of Understanding**

The City of Toronto does not have a direct role in the COIA. However, the COIA Strategic Plan commits to "Work with municipalities and federal-provincial departments to enable partnerships that will integrate newcomers in the economic and social life of Ontario communities." An annex to the COIA explicitly recognizes the role of municipalities in the planning of service delivery expansion.

The Canada-Ontario-Toronto Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Immigration and Settlement enables tri-party collaboration on research, policy, and program development, and City participation on the COIA working groups. As a result of the MOU the City provides direct input into ongoing and future federal and provincial policies and programs and is informed of any changes that might affect City services.

The MOU is not a funding agreement. Through the MOU, there is a formal commitment and structure to work across three orders of government on enhancing newcomer access to: employment, services, education and training, and citizenship. Over the past two years, progress has been achieved working on four items in particular: a scoping study of settlement services in Toronto; research on the Temporary Foreign Workers program in Toronto; an agreement on information and data sharing; and the establishment of an annual meeting cycle to discuss Toronto-specific immigration and settlement issues. The City Manager's Office is the lead city representative at the MOU table. Partnering divisions contributing to this effort include: Social Development, Finance and Administration (SDFA); Economic Development and Culture (EDC); and, Toronto Employment and Social Services (TESS).

The MOU provides for the level of collaboration necessary to support the delivery of Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) in Toronto which are funded through Ontario's settlement allocation, administered by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). Through the MOU, the City has played an active role in the design and execution of the roll-out of the Local Immigration Partnerships.

### **Toronto Newcomer Initiative**

The Toronto Newcomer Initiative (TNI) agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the City of Toronto was finalized in May, 2010. The TNI has five activity streams delivered by four City divisions. The City Senior Employment Steering Committee is the inter-divisional group responsible for oversight of the TNI, with the Social Development, Finance and Administration Division providing secretariat support.

#### 1. City-Wide Local Immigration Partnership

The purpose of the City-Wide Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) is to oversee the development and operation of a broad based partnership table addressing newcomer needs. The overall objective of the City Wide LIP is to enhance community and government service system planning for newcomers.

The first meeting of the City-Wide Local Immigration Partnership (CWLIP) occurred on June 28, 2010 with monthly meetings scheduled starting on September 20 until the completion of the initiative on March 31, 2011. A final report and recommendations from the City-Wide LIP will be submitted to all orders of government in the spring of 2011.

#### 2. Newcomer Programming in Parks and Recreation Centres

Two project staff have been hired to develop newcomer specific programming opportunities in both Parks and Recreation sites. The project will determine how existing programs can be modified to provide increased access for newcomers.

#### 3. Settlement Workers in City Facilities

Scadding Court Community Centre was selected through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to place 18 settlement workers in City facilities, four in Children's Services, four in Toronto Public Health and ten in Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

#### 4. Reunification and Adaptation Project

The purpose of this project is to support the successful reunification of newcomer families, including improved coordination of settlement services to provide holistic (wrap-around) support and services to newcomer families.

#### 5. Newcomer Related Research

There are two Toronto Newcomer Initiative related research projects:

"Understanding the Health Needs and Health Status of Recent Immigrants Living in Toronto" will identify unique and specific health conditions affecting newcomer subgroups. The research will explore the relationship between settlement and health through variables that include socio-economic

circumstances and health outcomes. A Request for Proposal (RFP) has been issued for a research partner to be identified by September, 2010.

The second project, “Service System Research and Mapping”, will research and define the parameters of the current service system for newcomers in Toronto, including community/institutional support services used by newcomers to achieve their economic and social goals. This research and mapping project is underway.

### **Immigration and Settlement Web Portal**

The City of Toronto Immigration and Settlement web portal presents Toronto as a global, newcomer-friendly city. Since January, 2010, the Immigration and Settlement web site has had 35,718 ‘hits’/views.

The primary audiences for this portal are potential newcomers to Toronto, newcomers who have chosen to immigrate here but have not yet made the move and newly arrived newcomers. The secondary audience is recent newcomers to Canada who have settled in other provinces and are seeking to relocate here, as well as current longer term newcomer residents of Toronto.

City staff has identified three main activities that will be submitted to MCI through a funding proposal. These activities include:

- Pre-design user and user testing input from several focus groups with internal and external stakeholders;
- Design – a new user-friendly web site that is easy to navigate and incorporates fresh visual design concepts and web-site mapping;
- Content improvement, and a clear language rewrite of the current content

The anticipated outcome of the proposal is an enhanced immigration and settlement portal on the City of Toronto’s website, providing greater access to newcomers.

Once funding has been approved by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI) these activities will be implemented by the Social Development, Finance and Administration Division securing the required temporary staff and program materials. It is anticipated implementation of these activities will begin in October, 2010 for a six month period, ending March 31, 2011.

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Lydia Fitchko  
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Social Development, Finance and Administration

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 - Federal Settlement Funding for the Provinces and Territories

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Table A

### Federal Settlement Funding Allocation - Provinces and Territories (Except Ontario and Quebec)

Province or territory	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-2010	2010-2011
Newfoundland and Labrador	\$892,475	\$1,244,276	\$1,311,252	\$1,391,455	\$1,880,669	\$1,907,370
Prince Edward Island	\$327,800	\$424,744	\$773,702	\$990,367	\$1,915,475	\$2,765,375
Nova Scotia	\$2,127,778	\$2,722,534	\$3,380,925	\$4,967,025	\$6,767,461	\$7,097,327
New Brunswick	\$1,012,201	\$1,305,218	\$1,785,240	\$2,709,592	\$4,219,820	\$4,715,257
Manitoba	\$8,819,850	\$13,101,588	\$14,952,888	\$21,142,831	\$27,941,126	\$29,429,097
Saskatchewan	\$2,577,750	\$3,247,595	\$3,985,192	\$5,560,039	\$8,030,275	\$10,127,313
Alberta	\$15,940,875	\$25,123,492	\$30,591,991	\$47,199,829	\$58,536,986	\$60,048,771
Northwest Territories	\$150,000	\$203,647	\$306,142	\$271,915	\$612,413	\$633,079
Nunavut	\$109,248	\$137,812	\$215,056	\$102,523	\$434,030	\$459,975
British Columbia	\$40,401,285	\$63,288,495	\$75,427,732	\$104,368,395	\$120,729,982	\$114,079,030
Yukon	\$150,000	\$195,513	\$287,427	\$219,345	\$571,080	\$597,624

**Table B**

**Federal Settlement Spending in Ontario under the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement (COIA) and to Quebec under the Canada-Quebec Accord**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Nationally</b>	<b>Ontario</b>	<b>Quebec</b>	<b>National Landings (# of permanent residents)</b>
2005-2006	\$445,024,442	\$159,600,000	\$188,353,000	262,241
2006-2007	\$550,622,407	\$224,600,000	\$193,893,200	251,643
2007-2008	\$667,860,463	\$294,600,000	\$198,193,523	236,754
2008-2009	\$940,800,000	\$359,600,000	\$237,500,000	247,243
2009-2010	\$921,500,000	\$429,600,000	\$234,200,000	252,177
2010-2011 (allocated)	\$1,076,000,000	\$408,000,000	\$253,700,000	