Attachment 2: Background on Local Immigration Partnerships

As part of the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and Ontario's Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI) are working with municipalities in Ontario to support Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) to integrate newcomers into the economic and social life of communities.

LIPs support policy and planning as well as coordination among multiple sectors and funders. LIPs help place settlement and integration issues on the municipal planning agenda so that communities can benefit from improved successful social and economic integration of immigrants.

Seventeen neighbourhood-based LIPs were established in Toronto communities with high numbers of newly arrived residents. The goal of LIPs is to:

- improve access to effective services that facilitate immigrant settlement and integration.
- improve coordination of services
- improve immigrants' access to the labour market
- strengthen local and regional awareness and ability to integrate immigrants.
- establish or enhance partnerships of multiple stakeholders in planning and coordinating the delivery of integration services (including settlement, language training, labour-market integration), especially current services supported by the federal government through Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) or through the provincial Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration

LIPs are made up of settlement agencies and other newcomer serving organizations. Toronto Public Health has participated in the LIP process in several communities. During 2009 and 2010, each LIP consulted with stakeholders and residents in their communities and produced strategy documents outlining their findings and action areas.

In Toronto, there is also a Toronto City-wide LIP Council that is facilitated by Social Development Finance and Administration. The City-wide LIP facilitates connections between the 17 LIPs and produced a synthesis of the strategy documents. The consistent themes relate to health, education and employment and the need to:

- 1. ensure **timely access to information** for newcomers
- 2. support full participation of newcomers in society (**civic engagement**)
- 3. enable improved newcomer **access to the right services** and programs
- 4. ensure appropriate design/access to language, education and **skills** programs
- 5. faster access to skill-matching **jobs**
- 6. support **human service system coordination** to achieve the above

While newcomer settlement services have traditionally been framed in terms of supporting entry into the job market and gaining English or French language skills, the LIP strategies reflect an increasing recognition that newcomer health and well-being is a necessary condition for successful settlement.

