

Toronto Newcomer Strategy

Date:	January 17, 2013
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	AFS #14902

SUMMARY

The *Toronto Newcomer Strategy* lays out a framework and vision for successful newcomer settlement in Toronto. The strategy describes how the City of Toronto will contribute to shared leadership and facilitate more effective coordination across multiple sectors to ensure newcomers maintain their good health, fully contribute their skills in the labour market, engage more with their municipality and build capacity in the community-based sector.

Building on the work of the Toronto Newcomer Initiative, the *Toronto Newcomer Strategy* outlines three components to build stronger intergovernmental and multi-sectoral collaboration to help newcomers thrive and prosper.

The *Toronto Newcomer Strategy* results from the joint efforts of several City Divisions, community based partners and other orders of government. Implementation plans for the strategy are meant to be responsive, evolving through shared planning and leadership, learning by doing, and integrating work across other City priorities and directions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration Division recommend that:

1. City Council endorse the mission, vision and guiding principles contained in the *Toronto Newcomer Strategy*, and

2. City Council endorse the strategic approach contained in the *Toronto Newcomer Strategy* and receive an update on the progress of implementation activities during the next term of Council.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with this report. The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

On 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.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/cc/bgrd/backgroundfile-29368.pdf>

On August 3, 2010, the Community Development and Recreation Committee received a staff report titled Update on Newcomer and Settlement Issues and Initiatives.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-32953.pdf>

On February 10, 2011, the Budget Committee adopted a staff report titled Authority to extend an existing agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada funding for Toronto Newcomer Initiative.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2011/bu/bgrd/backgroundfile-35781.pdf>

On November 21, 2011, the Board of Health received findings from Toronto Newcomer Initiative pilot projects related to Newcomer Health.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2011/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-42360.pdf>

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2011/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-42354.pdf>

On January 9, 2012, the Budget Committee adopted a staff report titled Contract with Citizenship & Immigration Canada (CIC) for Toronto Newcomer Initiative for 2012-2013

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2012/bu/bgrd/backgroundfile-43808.pdf>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Demographics

Toronto is an extremely diverse city, with over half of its 2.5 million residents born outside Canada. Almost 500,000 people who live in the city are recent immigrants.

The city's population speaks over 140 different languages and comes from 188 countries worldwide. The top three source countries (2011) of immigrants to Toronto are China, India and the Philippines. Recent immigrants most often speak Mandarin, Urdu, Russian and Farsi.

Newcomers have a higher than average education level, but have difficulty in finding work that matches their qualifications. Over 37 percent of the recent immigrant population in the city live below the Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) Rate, compared to 15 percent of the Canadian-born population. Newcomers experience a 12 percent rate of unemployment; almost double that of Canadian-born residents.

More information about Toronto's newcomer demographics is found in Attachment 3.

COMMENTS

Toronto Newcomer Strategy

The *Toronto Newcomer Strategy* was developed from the findings of the Toronto Newcomer Initiative. The strategy lays a vision and framework that builds capacity for effective, coordinated and collaborative newcomer-focused service system planning by multiple stakeholders, including the City of Toronto.

There are three key components to the *Toronto Newcomer Strategy*:

- the Newcomer Leadership Table (NLT);
- Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs); and
- Strategic Pillars

The strategy allows for flexibility, with four strategic pillars currently identified and the option of adding new strategic pillars in the future as needs arise.

The *Toronto Newcomer Strategy* Secretariat (TNS Secretariat) is funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada to facilitate the development and implementation of the strategy.

The *Toronto Newcomer Strategy* is included in Attachment 1.

Local Immigration Partnerships

Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs), funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, provide a mechanism to create stronger multi-sectoral and intergovernmental collaboration that responds to local needs.

LIPs were developed through discussions held under the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement between Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration to respond to the need for more local leadership, coordination and collaboration across all parts of the service system. The City of Toronto and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario both played roles in the design and development of LIPs.

Between 2009 and 2011, 45 LIPs were instituted in Ontario, primarily led by municipalities. Toronto began a unique neighbourhood model, with 17 neighbourhood-based LIPs established through direct funding by Citizenship and Immigration Canada to community-based trustee organizations. Each partnership focused on neighbourhoods with a high density of newcomers. The project teams hired by the community-based trustees conducted consultations with newcomer residents and service providers to identify local priorities and action responses to local needs.

In addition to the 17 neighbourhood-based LIPs, a City-Wide partnership began in 2010, with the City of Toronto providing leadership. The City-Wide LIP was one of the activities that took place under the Toronto Newcomer Initiative.

As of April 2012, the 17 neighbourhood-based LIPs were consolidated to form four Quadrant LIPs representing the north, east, south and west parts of the city, now providing full geographic coverage of Toronto's 140 neighbourhoods.

Toronto Newcomer Initiative

The Toronto Newcomer Initiative was launched in June 2010 with funding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The Initiative had two main objectives. The first objective was to explore how municipal services were serving newcomers and recommend improvements. The second was to provide municipal leadership to Toronto's Local Immigration Partnership model and examine how the broader human services system might be improved through multi-sectoral collaboration in a city-wide context.

A program report of the activities conducted under the Toronto Newcomer Initiative between June 2010 and December 2011 is provided in Attachment 2. This report informed the development of the *Toronto Newcomer Strategy*.

2012 Developments and Achievements

In 2012, the TNS Secretariat undertook developmental activities which laid a strong foundation for strategy implementation in 2013. These include:

- Developing the mandate and terms of reference for the Newcomer Leadership Table and convening its first meeting. Four meetings are planned for 2013;
- Supporting the transition of the neighbourhood LIPs to a Quadrant model;
- Working with Toronto Public Health and community based partners to hold a Newcomer Health Forum in October 2012. A report on the outcomes of the

Forum will be presented to the Board of Health in February 2013 and will delineate next step actions;

- Collaborating with the Intergovernmental Committee on Workforce and Labour Force Development¹ (ICE Committee) to develop action-research that will address newcomer and youth labour market outcomes, two groups with the highest rates of unemployment in Toronto. The research study will be completed in mid-2013 and will identify next steps to complement the implementation of Toronto's Workforce Development Strategy, Economic Action Plan and Strong Neighbourhoods 2020; and
- Providing advice, training, consultative support and other resources to City Divisions and community partners to improve newcomer access to municipal supports and build community capacity.

Moving Forward

The *Toronto Newcomer Strategy* describes how the City of Toronto will continue to provide leadership during its implementation. Collaboration among diverse stakeholders is essential to achieving the strategy's mission and vision.

The Newcomer Leadership Table will meet four times a year to begin tackling the complex and interconnected challenges that many newcomers face.

The five LIPs in Toronto will collaborate through its network of project teams and membership. They will share information and tools, enhance the coordination of their respective activities and inform the work of other elements of the Strategy.

The Strategic Pillars remain a core focus. Progress on implementation activities will be reported back to Toronto City Council during its next term.

CONTACT

Sonali Chakraborti
Project Manager, Toronto Newcomer Initiative
Social Development, Finance and Administration
Tel: 416-397-0441
E-Mail: schakra2@toronto.ca

¹ www.icecommittee.org

SIGNATURE

Chris Brillinger
Executive Director
Social Development, Finance and Administration

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1: Toronto Newcomer Strategy
Attachment 2: Toronto Newcomer Initiative Program Report
Attachment 3: Toronto Newcomer Demographics
Attachment 4: Toronto South Quadrant LIP Strategy
Attachment 5: Toronto West Quadrant LIP Strategy
Attachment 6: Toronto North Quadrant LIP Strategy
Attachment 7: Toronto East Quadrant LIP Strategy