

**TORONTO SOUTH LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP
REGIONAL THREE-YEAR SETTLEMENT STRATEGY (2013 to 2016)**

PREAMBLE

Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) is the mechanism through which Citizenship & Immigration Canada (CIC) supports the development of local partnerships and community-based planning around the needs of newcomers. LIPs seek to engage various stakeholders in the partnership development process, including employers, school boards, boards of trade, levels of government, professional associations, ethno-cultural organizations, faith-based organizations and the community, legal, health, and social service sectors.

CIC's long-term vision is for LIPs to support the development of self-sustaining multi-sectoral partnerships at the local community level, so that newcomer needs are integrated seamlessly into the community planning process, and community-specific strategic priorities are identified and action plans implemented to improve newcomer outcomes.

The Toronto South LIP is one of four Quadrant LIPs in Toronto, and is focused on the downtown geographic area of Toronto. The Toronto South LIP continues and expands on the work of three previous neighbourhood-based local immigration partnerships, including the East Downtown Toronto LIP, the Toronto East LIP, and the West Downtown Toronto LIP.

The Toronto South LIP is funded by CIC to support better coordination and collaboration in the planning and delivery of services to newcomers across multiple sectors.

The Toronto South LIP has been mandated to develop a Quadrant Settlement Strategy as well as a Quadrant Action Plan for the Toronto South area. The Toronto South LIP is committed to developing and implementing its Settlement Strategy and Action Plan in a way that:

- (a) builds on the area's history and expertise in the delivery of settlement services;
- (b) acknowledges member agencies' areas of specialization and uniqueness;
- (c) recognizes the desirability of multiple service choices and variety in service delivery styles so as to best meet the diverse and unique service needs of newcomers and immigrants;

Section 2 Information, Outreach & Service Navigation

To support the seamless settlement and inclusion of newcomers by fostering collaborative information and outreach approaches in the Toronto South area that enhance the ability of all newcomer and immigrant groups to: (a) access up-to-date and comprehensive information on available services and supports; and (b) effectively navigate the service system.

Section 3 Planning, Research & Assessment

To recognize the ever-changing nature of immigration trends and to support the effective settlement and inclusion of newcomers by engaging in ongoing planning, research and assessment processes . These processes will seek to provide information to support systemic change and to ensure that service providers in the Toronto South area remain responsive to the changing and distinctive service needs of newcomers and immigrants regardless of their immigration status.

Section 4 Labour Market Access & Employment

To be supportive of the Citywide LIP in fostering the ability of newcomers to gain, maintain, and advance in suitable jobs, businesses, or other paid work consistent with their education, skills, experience, aptitudes, and life goals. As part of Strategy 3, the Toronto South LIP will encourage service delivery coordination and collaborative service delivery approaches within and across sectors, including approaches that seek to ensure that newcomers and immigrants regardless of their immigration status have timely and coordinated access to employment and business services, information, skills training, and other supports that are responsive to newcomers' and immigrants' individual needs, circumstances, and inclinations. In addition, the LIP will support the Citywide LIP's efforts to: (a) engage and educate local employers regarding the benefits of hiring, retaining and promoting newcomers and immigrants, and (b) effect system-wide changes in access to career accreditation, access to regulated professions, and recognition of international education, work experience, and credentials.

Section 5 Language Learning

To foster the settlement and inclusion of newcomers and immigrants regardless of their immigration status by supporting increased access to local, high-quality language learning services, assessments, and supports. The LIP is committed that these services, assessments, and supports are available across the Toronto South area and are responsive to newcomers' and immigrants' particular needs, circumstances, and inclinations.

Section 6 **Health, Mental Health & Dental Services**

To support the Citywide LIP's efforts to foster increased access to culturally competent health, mental health, addictions, and dental services in the Toronto South area for newcomers and immigrants regardless of their immigration status, including access to health interpretation services or health services in first language.

Section 7 **Key Support Services & Welcoming Communities**

To support the effective settlement, inclusion, and social engagement of newcomers by fostering increased newcomer and immigrant access to key support services in the Toronto South area that are culturally competent and locally accessible.

Key Support Services include, but are not limited to:

- Housing
- Education/School Systems
- Legal Advice
- Family Support Services
- Women's Services
- Children's Early learning and Care
- Youth Supports & Social/Recreational Activities
- Eldercare & Seniors Supports
- Financial Advice & Income Supports
- Social, Cultural and Recreational Services & Sports Programs

Section 8 **Marginalized Newcomers**

To support the effective settlement and inclusion of marginalized newcomers in the Toronto South area by: (a) fostering increased service provider understanding and skill in serving marginalized newcomers; and (b) supporting related cross-sectoral collaborations.

Marginalized Newcomers include:

- Individuals and families without immigration status
- Temporary foreign workers
- Live-in caregivers
- Unaccompanied youth / independent young adult newcomers
- Racialized newcomers
- LGBTQ newcomers
- Newcomers impacted by violence (elder abuse, child abuse, partner abuse, bullying, human trafficking, torture, etc.)
- Newcomers experiencing homelessness

- Socially isolated newcomers / newcomers from smaller or emerging newcomer groups
- Newcomers experiencing discrimination or oppression on the basis of religion, ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, disability or other human rights grounds
- Newcomers with disabilities or other physical or mental health issues, including elderly newcomers, newcomers with mental health challenges, and people living with HIV/AIDs
- Other newcomer groups as may be identified