

**Scadding Court Community Centre  
Deputation to Community Development and Recreation Committee  
CD 29.10 – Toronto Newcomer Strategy**

Good morning,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee today in support of the Toronto Newcomer Strategy. My name is Alina Chatterjee and I am the Director of Redevelopment, Development and Community Engagement at Scadding Court Community Centre. Our programs and services are geared towards under-served, culturally and racially diverse groups such as newcomers, low-income women, children and families, at-risk youth, people living with developmental and/or physical disabilities, and seniors. We have priority centre designation in the City of Toronto, and are one of the ten members of the City's Association of Community Centres. Between 500 and 600 people visit the Centre each day.

I am here on behalf of Scadding Court to express support for the development of a Toronto Newcomer Strategy for the City of Toronto because our organization played a strong role in its initial development. A strong newcomer strategy for Toronto must include systematic approaches to ensuring successful settlement for newcomers and the city is positioned to provide the leadership needed.

As the successful proponent of the Toronto Newcomer Initiative- Settlement Workers in City Facilities Project (TNI-SW) in October of 2011, the goal of the project was to identify ways in which city services could better serve newcomers to Toronto. Four city divisions participated in the pilot project and a total of 18 settlement workers were hired to deliver settlement services out of city facilities. We did this in partnership with a number of different settlement agencies located in neighbourhoods across the city, and in partnership with Parks Forestry and Recreation, Toronto Public Health and Children's Services.

Over the course of 22 weeks, the settlement team's three primary job functions involved experiential research, information and referral, and partnership development. These duties were intended to generate a stronger understanding of how each city facility could make improvements to their existing programs and services, apply existing promising practices or introducing new initiatives to better engage and serve newcomers to Toronto. The learnings from this project helped inform the report that is before the Committee today, which includes many of the same findings that our 2011 report highlighted.

It is widely acknowledged that cities around the world are playing leadership roles in developing effective practices to assist newcomer integration and settlement, and we look forward to the City of Toronto providing that same leadership locally. The City must embrace a strategy which recognizes and reinforces that successful settlement service implementation include small and incremental approaches, with pilot projects and diverse initiatives. These need to inform the creation of a robust and multi-pronged strategy for integrated practices, service coordination and delivery. Making this happen requires leadership. In our experience, the City is ideally positioned to create and advance systemic approaches that complement the work of community organizations and that will result in the successful settlement and full economic

participation of newcomers in Toronto. By ensuring seamless access to the full range of city services, including linguistic access, and by introducing inclusionary practices in service design and planning, policy making, and evaluation, we believe the recommendations in this report will prove effective.

Ultimately our experience at Scadding Court makes our organization a strong supporter of the Toronto Newcomer Initiative and we look forward to working with the city as it moves forward on creating a strategy that builds on the recommendations in the report.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alina Chatterjee".

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