



## MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

MONTH: August 2017

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**AGENCY NAME:** New Canadians Centre Peterborough  
**PREPARED BY:** Yvonne Lai, Director of Community Development  
**DATE:** 25 September 2017

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### I. Updates from the Director of Community Development

- Aug 17: Met with staff at Aria to discuss logistics for Mar 2018 fundraising gala
- Aug 22: Coordinating Committee meeting
- Aug 30: Community Development team strategic planning meeting
- Aug 30: Meeting with Women's Exchange grantwriting team
- Aug 30: Meeting with Northumberland County research project staff on service delivery project
- Aug 30: Meeting with Emmanuel United Church and Seeds of Change volunteers about community dinner for refugees
- On holidays for the first 2 weeks of August

### II. PIP Coordinating Committee Meetings

August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, 1:30pm at the New Canadians Centre

#### Attending:

From the NCC: Reem Ali and Yvonne Lai.

PIP Committee Members: Dawn Berry Merriam, Elizabeth Rahman, Janet Hunter, John Hucks, Becky Rogers, Amanda Gray, and Julia Wood.

**Regrets:** Hajni Hos, Brenda Dales, Andy Cragg, Carmela Valles, Charmaine Magumbe.

#### Minutes:

1. Approval of meeting agenda – Yes.
2. Approval of meeting minutes from June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Yes.



### **3. Updates from the Executive Director.**

- Yvonne (on behalf of Hajni): IRCC amended our grant and we have the funds to support our pro-diversity campaign without having to submit the multiculturalism grant. Application is in to support hiring of staff for work to support newcomer entrepreneurs, thanks to Julia and Rhonda for support letter from PKED.
- Yvonne Lai is now our new Director of Community Development at the NCC.
- Status of outreach position that is tied to PIP: we are currently evaluating the roles and responsibilities of the community development team, especially considering its growth in the last year. We hope to start hiring accordingly by September or October 2017.

### **4. Updates from the Director of Community Development.**

- Yvonne: the PIP coordinating committee had lunch with Police Chief Rodd and other members of the Peterborough Police force on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Christie Lee from Victim Services followed up with us and made arrangements with the NCC staff to provide them with tips and advice once a month. Jack Gillan also led a group of refugee youth in a visit to the Peterborough Police Station recently. Additionally, we have been invited by Peter Williams, the Community Engagement and Development Coordinator at the Peterborough Police Service to sit on a committee tasked with reviewing the relevance and appropriateness of cross-cultural training material that may be potentially delivered to members of the Peterborough Police force. Peter is also working with us and other members of the Diversity and Equity Education Peterborough (DEEP) team to schedule a Training of Trainers workshop on cultural competency, tentatively scheduled for Monday October 23rd. More details to follow soon.
- Yvonne attended the trial run sessions for the Vital Conversations initiative with the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough (CFGF). The aim behind these conversations is to gather information from different and diverse members of the community that could be used annually for the Vital Signs report. This information would also serve as key points for those who are going to be running for council elections next year. The launch is scheduled for October 2017. You may sign up to be a conversation leader, as CFGF is looking to broaden the sectors that are involved in the community. Funding is available for recruitment and support of these conversations in the community including for providing interpretation for newcomers who would like to be involved in these conversations. More information will be shared soon.
- As PIP we should organize a session and perhaps have this conversation with colleagues from other agencies, particularly those we don't often interact with. Questions could include why we live here and enjoy this community? We can help bring topics of importance to the discussions and through this build an action plan and recommendations for funding.

### **5. Updates on Community Development Activities:**

*Current working groups: ESL Working Group; NIT Working Group; Outcomes Measurement*



*Working Group; Retention Strategies Working Group; Refugee Resettlement Task Force; “Official Plan” Working Group; Growing Belonging; Small Enterprises; LEPC. All groups are headed by various PIP members and coordinated through the Community Development Worker.*

- Other ongoing/completed tasks and activities:
  - ✓ Speakers Bureau:
    - The second round of Toastmasters training starts on Wednesday September 13<sup>th</sup> and runs for 5 consecutive Wednesdays. We have selected 5 participants who will be paying a deposit that will be collected upon completing the training. The deposit is a way for us to ensure their commitment to the training.
    - The third round will be scheduled in early 2018.
  - ✓ Growing Belonging:
    - The project is organizing 2 wild rice harvesting trips to Curve Lake under the title: “Together We Harvest”. The trip on August 29<sup>th</sup> will be for kids and youth, while the trip on September 9<sup>th</sup> will be for families.
    - We are also planning for a “Together We Picnic” event sometime late September/early October at the Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre.
  - ✓ Retention Strategies:
    - We will be approaching Paul Longhurst, International Student Advisor at the Trent International Program (TIP), to discuss Trent University’s willingness to participate in this working group. A new TIP Director had also been hired and we will put some effort into contacting her very soon.
    - We met with David Tough from the Trent Community Research Centre (TCRC) to discuss a potential project to be supervised by the New Canadians Centre this academic year. The focus will be on best practices in retaining international students, which should tie into and inform the work that the Retention Strategies group is doing.
  - ✓ Sewing Collective:
    - The group had a very successful day during the Del Crary Park Multicultural Canada Day Celebrations. Overall, sales from the project totalled just over \$2,500.
    - This phase of the project wrapped up during the first week of July where committed participants were handed certificates for completing this phase. Many thanks to Elizabeth Rahman for her help with the group.
    - Funds are available for the next 3 years through the support of the Lloyd Carr Harris Foundation. Following the wrap-up of Phase I, the group took a break and will be resuming activities very soon. We are helping them explore next steps, such as selling and displaying at local stores (such as Kawartha Local), and looking into new ideas for marketing and product development. Additionally, a new group of 6 newcomers will be recruited for a new beginners class as the first group advances into Phase II.



✓ Newcomer's Kitchen:

- The group's first cook-off will be tomorrow as they prepare for a pre-launch "taste test". The pre-launch dinner will be held at the Jewish Community Centre where a selected number of our community partners have been invited to provide us with advice and feedback prior to our official launch. The participating women will complete the cooking in 2 shifts on 2 separate days, and the dinner will be served on Thursday August 24<sup>th</sup>.
- The NCC recently received donations from Costco, most of which are kitchen items. Staff has sorted these out, and some will be going to benefit the Newcomer Kitchen project.

✓ Next steps for the coming months:

- Focus on getting the Newcomers Kitchen Peterborough up and running;
- Re-visit the Sewing Collective and identify ways for advancing the first group and starting a second beginners group;
- Look into establishing other collectives, or supporting similar initiatives;
- Produce write-up of pilot projects – documentation (Knowledge Management) and outcomes evaluation;
- Continue working on the Newcomer Integration Toolkit in light of the upcoming ToT;
- Look at previous research projects conducted at/with the NCC;
- Update Immigrant Entrepreneurs Map; Peterborough Welcome Pass; ESL Inventory... etc.

**Next PIP Coordinating Committee Meeting: Tuesday September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 1:30pm at the New Canadians Centre.**

**For 2017, PIP Coordinating Committee Meetings will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month from 1:30-3:30 pm at the New Canadians Centre.**

### **III. Members of the Partnership**

- As of July 31, 2017, the Partnership has 79 organizational members and a total of 179 organizational and individual representatives.

### **IV. Outreach and Other Activities (Community Development Worker)**

August 11th - Met with the participants of the Newcomer Kitchen project Re: the pre-launch dinner.



August 17th - Attended a Growing Belonging meeting.

August 22nd - Met with David Tough from the Trent Community Research Centre Re: new research project.

August 22nd - Attended the PIP Coordinating Committee meeting.

August 23rd - Supervised the participants of the Newcomer Kitchen project as they prepped for the pre-launch dinner.

August 24th - Attended a meeting as part of a committee organized by Peterborough Police to review potential training modules for the local police force.

August 24th - Supervised the participants of the Newcomer Kitchen project as they prepped and served the pre-launch dinner.

August 29th - Attended the "Together We Harvest" wild rice harvesting trip that is organized by the Growing Belonging project.

August 30th - Met with Joe Teichman, manager at the Jewish Community Centre Re: the Newcomer Kitchen project.

August 30th - Met with Anne McLeod, Trent University, Rebecca Lyon and Rebecca Abavi, students at Dalla Lana School of Public Health, and Yvonne Lai, Director of Community Development Re: Women's Exchange grant.

August 30th - Met with Susan Basque from Seeds of Change and Yvonne Lai, Director of Community Development Re: community thanksgiving dinner hosted by Emmanuel United Church.

August 31st - Met with facilitator of the Newcomer Kitchen project.