

**PIP Annual Meeting**  
**Monday March 19, 2018**  
**Ashburnham Reception Centre**  
**8:30am – 10:30am**

**Attendance:**

Adepele Kemi Akapo	Carmela Valles	Elizabeth Rahman	Jessica Biggar
Alison Sadowski	Christine Post	Hajni Hos	Joelle Favreau
Amanda Gray	Cynthia Hucks	Janet Hunter	John Coreno
Amanda Harrison	Darcy Bonner	Jeffrey Cadence	John Hucks
Andy Cragg	Debbie Harrison	Jennifer Harrington	Joy Uson
Anne Polito	Diane Therrien	Jennifer Lamantia	Julia Wood
Karan Aquino	Reem Ali	Mallory Graham	
Mark Graham	Shegufa Merchant		
Michael Andrews	Tanys Howell		
Murray Rodd	Tracey McConnery		
Peter Carroll	Valerie Dalby		
Peter Williams	Yvonne Lai		

**Minutes**

**1. Welcome by Hajni Hos – Executive Director, New Canadians Centre**

**2. Updates from PIP working groups**

**ESL Forum – Janet Hunter**

- Expansion of language programs that are available to newcomers at NCC
- Professional development opportunities for ESL teachers and volunteer tutors – free training by seasoned ESL tutor Karen Adams and training by Judy Thompson of Thompson Language Centre
- Emphasis on getting out of the classroom and being integrated in the community
- Fleming CREW report findings – important for employment agencies to help develop ESL training that is workplace/employment-focused

**Refugee Resettlement Task Force – Kemi Akapo, New Canadians Centre**

- Slower rate of arrival in the past year so the group is not meeting as regularly
- Continuing to work with partner agencies to support transition (Kawartha Muslim Religious Association hosts weekly support groups for refugees; KPRDSB has organised adult ESL classes at PACE; Fleming supports 6 LINC classes; Peterborough Police Services has re-issued noH8 cards; NCC is expanding our community interpreter training program)
- 2017-2018: 8 refugee families welcomed (38 individuals); 3 have relocated to reunite with families and friends (2 from Syria, 1 from Eritrea)

- High demand for interpretation for medical practitioners; NCC is working with partners to build capacity
- Biggest challenge is employment
- High likelihood that we will continue with the Resettlement Assistant Program in the coming year, welcoming 50 to 75 individuals

### **Growing Belonging – Joelle Favreau, Nourish**

- Importance of being seen, heard and valued ([video](#))
- Nourish – access to healthy food; food & civic literacy; funded by Ontario Trillium Foundation to work on belonging
- Partners include Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre, Lovesick Lake Native Women's Association, YWCA and NCC
- Upcoming activities: Mar 28 Together We Eat free community dinner; Belonging Cookbook (recipes to bring people together)

### **International Student Integration & Retention – Debbie Harrison, Fleming College**

- 1300 new international students registered in Fall 2017, 2100 Winter 2018 (total enrolment of 6275 in fall 2017; 6700 in Winter 2018)
- Historic high is a culmination of many factors – increase in international offers to offset 400 Canadian students who left last fall and 20% increase in immigration processing
- Historic ratio of 4:2 for domestic and international students
- Challenges: housing (students prefer to live off-campus), social integration, career preparation, teachers have to take on the role of settlement workers

### **[International Coffee House video](#)**

### **Employment**

A) Local Employment Planning Council – Jennifer Lamantia, Workforce Development Board (Community Labour Market Plan, Study of Newcomer Employment Activity)

[Presentation](#)

B) Building Capacity in Employment Services for Newcomers to Peterborough – Jessica Biggar, Fleming CREW

[Report](#)

### **Small Enterprise Advisory Group**

Newcomer Kitchen - Amanda Harrison, Nourish ([Presentation](#))

Sewing Collective - Reem Ali ([Presentation](#))

**Diversity & Equity Education Network of Peterborough – Peter Williams,  
Peterborough Police Services (survivortoolkit.ca, addressing  
hate crimes)**

- [Presentation](#)
- Invitation to provide feedback on draft version of hate crimes survey

**3. A year in review by Carmela Valles – Vice-Chair, PIP Coordinating  
Committee on behalf of Chair Dawn Berry Merriam (5 minutes)**

- Thanks to coordinating committee members
- Thanks to Andy Cragg for years of service
- Remembering the contribution of Becky Rogers as a founding member of PPCII and a staunch supporter
- Remembering the inspiring work of Dindin Villarino in Peterborough and Northumberland and some words from her to live by:  
“Even famous people we forget only too soon. Some we hold memorials & services, but these are meant to honour the time, that fraction of the time their life meets ours. So we must strive for significance in the best way we can, for truly nothing marks our presence or absence in this world except the measure of significance our life gets.”

**4. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, Members at Large**

Chair: Dawn Berry Merriam; Vice-Chair: Carmela Valles; Members at Large: John Hucks and Amanda Gray

**5. Outreach – Yvonne Lai**

- **Mar 22 at the Venue: “We Are Not The Others – Stories of Integration”**  
Join us for a 3 part event highlighting newcomer stories and experiences of integration. This event is FREE and will include a reception and light dinner from 6:00 - 6:30pm

Part 1: [WUSC-Trent Documentary](#) Screening on their Award Winning Student Refugee Program (6:30 pm)

The documentary highlights the experiences of student refugees in Peterborough and the role the organisation plays in supporting the education and transition of these students. The documentary aims to put a human face on refugees by highlighting the challenges, successes, and rewards of refugee integration.

Part 2: We Are Not The Others play (7 pm)

A collaboration between McMaster University Social Work Professor Dr. Mirna Carranza and Toronto based Persian-Canadian playwright Izad Etemadi. Based on a two year research project, "We Are Not The Others" explores the experiences many newcomer women face in Canada highlighting the experiences of immigration, trauma, loss, mental health, assimilation, resiliency, disappointment, and hope for a better life in Canada.

Created by Izad Etemadi & Dr. Mirna Carranza  
Directed by Izad Etemadi  
Cast: Rashaan Cumberbatch, Heath V. Salazar, Sima Sepehri, and Angela Sun

Part 3: Panel Discussion (8 pm)  
Moderated by Dr. Colleen O'Manique (Trent)  
Panelists: Clifford McCarten, Emmanuel Gasore, Dr. David Firang, Dr. Carmen Teeple Hopkins, & Dr. Mirna Carranza

Presented by: Peterborough Immigration Partnership, New Canadians Centre, and WUSC at Trent in partnership with the Department of International Development Studies at Trent University.

Sponsored by Trent University Departments of Political Studies, Gender & Women's Studies, Master's Program in Sustainability, School of Business, Office of the Deans of Arts & Sciences, and the Office of the Provost.

6. Meeting ends 10:30am

7. **Networking & “[We Speak Translate](#) Training”**