



EDMONTON LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

Community Stakeholder Consultation Report Executive Summary

April 2016

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In municipalities across Canada, Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) bring together agencies, service providers and community groups to collaborate and strengthen a community's ability to successfully welcome immigrants. LIPs identify assets and obstacles within the immigration and settlement experience, then work together to overcome them. This work allows for a smoother transition and enhanced economic, social, political and civic participation for immigrants.

THE EDMONTON LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP RECOGNIZES THAT:

- Immigration is important to the future of Edmonton – the skills and abilities immigrants possess are assets to our community.
- Settlement and integration outcomes have multiple challenges – many immigrants remain on the margins of our community.
- Local communities, institutions, and leaders have accumulated knowledge and experience we must leverage and build upon.

This executive summary provides the results from stakeholder consultations conducted in March 2016 (by ZenEv and Associates) for Edmonton's Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) initiative. Five consultation sessions were held in which 50 individuals from 43 different organizations, representing five sectors, participated in a conversation about the Edmonton LIP initiative. These sectors include: 1) Settlement; 2) Community organizations; 3) Health and Community Wellness; 4) Community Safety; and 5) Business, Skills Training, and Education.

The objective of the consultations was to obtain more detailed feedback that would help shape the LIP Council, provide guidance on the governance structure of the LIP council, provide feedback on the terms of reference, and give direction on the development of an immigrant advisory body.

SEVERAL IMPORTANT THEMES EMERGED FROM THE CONSULTATIONS:

- The LIP must be guided by those who have firsthand experience as newcomers. They are important partners in the LIP, and their stories and wisdom should be used to ground the work.
- The partnership should build on existing networks and coalitions to support ongoing collaboration and information sharing, which would support informed and coordinated community and municipal planning.
- Partners in a future LIP wish to improve their capacity to provide accessible services and ensure that they contribute to making their organizations and the city more welcoming.
- While issues of representation are important in formulating the Council and developing working groups, it was strongly suggested that the knowledge and skills required to participate on the Council be identified and used to guide decisions about membership on the Council.

STAKEHOLDER VISION FOR THE EDMONTON LIP



CONSIDERATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTION

Continue to Engage with Stakeholder Organizations

Almost all the participants that attended the consultations expressed their enthusiasm and willingness to participate in and contribute to the partnership. To maintain this high level of interest and engagement:

1. Identify the individuals and organizations that were not able to participate in the consultations and obtain their feedback on the issues discussed.
2. Continue to engage with individuals and organizations that participated in the consultations:
 - i. Share the consultations draft report and request comments and feedback.
 - ii. Identify specific skills, knowledge and expertise that stakeholder organizations can contribute to LIP and that could be used in the Council selection process.

- iii. Create a distribution list and provide periodic status updates on progress of the initiative to all interested stakeholders.

Establish the LIP Governance Model and Structure

Governance planning

3. Develop a competencies matrix for LIP Council members that can be used in the selection process to ensure that the required skills and expertise are available on the Council.
4. Determine the sectors that should be represented on the LIP Council.
5. Identify umbrella/representative organizations and other existing informal networks within and across sectors that would be able to represent their member organizations on the Council.
6. Consult with indigenous communities and organizations to determine how they can best participate in the LIP initiative, by being represented on the Council and in other ways.

Representation

7. Rather than form a separate immigrant advisory body, ensure that immigrants are well represented on the LIP Council and in other processes and bodies as they emerge.
 - i. Determine the number of seats to be allocated to immigrants on the Council.
 - ii. Consult with immigrant communities and organizations to obtain their thoughts on the selection process for immigrants on the Council.
 - a. Identify the existing individuals and groups that have connections to immigrant communities, including connections with key contacts within the communities (e.g. respected elders, faith group leaders, community workers, health and cultural brokers).
 - b. Identify strategies and best practices that have successfully been used by other LIPs to connect with immigrant communities and select the ones that are appropriate for the Edmonton context.
 - iii. Develop a plan to elicit ongoing feedback from immigrant communities. Ensure that smaller immigrant communities and organizations are included in this process and that the diversity within communities has been considered.

Council formation

8. Invite members to form the LIP Council.

Next steps for the Council

9. Ensure that the outcomes identified by stakeholders in these consultations are incorporated into the vision, strategic and action plan of the LIP Council.
10. Determine the structure for the LIP WGs after the LIP Council has formed and priority areas for action have been determined.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge the contributions of the community members and stakeholders in Edmonton who took the time to participate in the consultations. The consultations are part of the Local Immigration Partnership initiative in Edmonton, funded by the Government of Canada through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

ACFA

Africa Centre

The ASSIST Community Services Centre

Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Brooks Local Immigration Partnership

Association canadienne des volontaires unis dans l'action (CANAVUA)

Catholic Social Services

Centre for Public Legal Education

Chartered Professional Accountants of Alberta

City of Edmonton

Concordia University College

Edmonton Arts Council

Edmonton Chamber of Commerce

Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations

Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues

Edmonton Heritage Council

Edmonton Police Service

Edmonton Public Library

Edmonton Regional Immigrant Employment Council

Edmonton Immigrant Services Association

Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers

Government of Alberta

Islamic Family and Social Services Association

Immigrant Access Fund

John Humphreys Centre for Peace and Human Rights

KARA Family Centre
Legal Aid Alberta
MacEwan University
Mediation and Restorative Justice Centre
Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative
Norquest College
RCMP
REACH Edmonton
Sierra Leone Community Organization
Solomon College
Somali Canadian Women & Children Association
Today Centre
University of Alberta, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
YMCA