

Grey Bruce Local Immigration Partnership Partner Council September 15, 2020; 8:45am

The Partner Council met via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Aakash Desai, Adel Ghie, Andy Foster, April Marshall, Carling Fee, Claudia Carleton, Crystal Gunn, Debera Flynn, Diana Liu, Francesca Dobbyn, Gary O'Donnell, Ian Riech, Jacinda Rudolph, Jill Roote, Kayla Best, Laura Fullerton, Lauren Galloway, Linda Alexander, Lisa Taylor, Manpreet Kaur Sangha, May Ip, Melissa Avedesian, Michelle Goetz, Olga Gura, Oliver Pryce, Patty Sinnamon, Paulette Peirol, Peggy Van Mierlo-West, Phyllis Lovell, Rose Austin, Sarah Bacchus, Sarah Pelton, Savanna Myers, Stephanie Reid, Tina Cassidy, Tracy Grubb, Waleed Aslam

Welcome

Melissa Avedesian introduction as Coordinator.

Savanna Myers (Grey County) and Jill Roote (Bruce County)

Message from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

Adel Ghie (Manager, Integration - Settlement Network)

Words of welcome provided on behalf of IRCC.

Introduction to the purpose of LIPs: mechanisms where community-based partnerships are established to collaborate in the support of newcomers. This could include partners such as: employers, chambers of commerce, health centres, faith-based organizations, agricultural partners etc. Ontario has 36 LIP programs; 16 non-government and 20 municipal.

Importance of establishing a council that has cross-sector representation was identified.

Roundtable / Introductions of Partners in Attendance

Lauren Galloway	The Agency
Andy Foster	Arden Language Centre
Laura Fullerton	Municipality of Arran-Elderslie
Gary O'Donnell	Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board
Phyllis Lovell	Bruce Grey Child & Family Service
Paulette Peirol	Municipality of Brockton
Manpreet Kaur Sangha	Bruce County
Stephanie Reid	Grey Bruce Community Legal Clinic
Crystal Gunn	Township of Georgian Bluffs
Lisa Taylor	Georgian College
Jacinda Rudolph	Grey County
Aakash Desai	Municipality of Grey Highlands
April Marshall	Town of Hanover
Michelle Goetz	Township of Huron-Kinloss
Peggy Van Mierlo-West	Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula CAO
Olga Gura	Rural Pathways for Newcomer Women Grey Bruce
May Ip	Rural Pathways for Newcomer Women Grey Bruce
Ian Reich	Grey Bruce Public Health
Oliver Pryce	Rural Employment Initiative
Rose Austin	Saugeen Connects & Saugeen Economic Development Corporation
Kayla Best	Township of Southgate
Carling Fee	Town of Blue Mountains
Francesca Dobbyn	United Way of Bruce Grey
Waleed Aslam	Welcoming Communities Grey Bruce
Linda Alexander	YMCA Grey Bruce
Tina Cassidy	VPI Working Solutions
Sarah Pelton	Four County Labour Market Planning Board
Debera Flynn	QUILL Learning Network
Sarah Bacchus	Port Elgin Montessori
Diana Liu	IRCC

Past Projects in Grey and Bruce Counties

Jacinda Rudolph (Grey County)

Starting in 2015, the member municipalities of Grey and Bruce counties saw an influx of new immigrants coming to the region through private sponsorship groups and/or family sponsorships. Grey and Bruce counties have been unofficially working in partnership through multiple newcomer projects that cover both Counties. Introduction provided to some of these programs, projects and activities that have increased the community's capacity to be more welcoming to newcomers and have highlighted the importance of cultural awareness within the rural communities.

Manpreet Kaur Sangha (Bruce County)

Introduction to the Welcoming Communities Grey Bruce initiative. This was established to advance work begun by groups to work towards making Grey Bruce more welcoming and breaking down systemic barriers.

Local Immigration Partnership & Partnership Council Overview

Melissa Avedesian (Coordinator – Grey Bruce Local Immigration Partnership)

[Partnership Council Presentation](#)

Grey Bruce Settlement and Language Services Overview

Claudia Carleton (Coordinator – Grey Bruce Settlement and Language Services)

[YMCA Settlement and Language Services Presentation LIP](#)

Q&A

Please feel free to reach out to Melissa at any point – Melissa.Avedesian@grey.ca

Next Steps

Settlement Strategy and Action Plan – working with a consultant to gather relevant information and produce an Action Plan that will guide the work of GBLIP for the next 4 years.

Logo and Brand – Staff will be working with a branding and logo expert to create a brand for GBLIP that strongly represents the partnership and the vision of **coordination, connection and collaboration** amongst community partners.

Next Meeting

Settlement Strategy and Action Plan Working Meeting – slated to take place October/November (Date and Time TBA) – please watch for your invitation in the coming weeks

Adjournment

10:27am