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ottawa local  
immigration partnership

partenariat local  
pour l'immigration ottawa



# The Latest Achievements of the OLIP Partners

October 2012 - June 2013

# ... What we have been up to since the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Ottawa Immigration Forum in October 2012



## Launch of the first ever Welcoming Ottawa Week (WOW)



New immigrants in Ottawa will feel more valued as a result of the proclamation of the last week of June as the Welcoming Ottawa Week by the Mayor of Ottawa; and Ottawans will have recurrent opportunities to continue reflecting on and enhancing the warmth of our welcome. During the WOW, OLIP partners will hold a series of dialogues and celebratory activities that include community sport contests, movie screening in neighborhood parks, public lectures and seminars, and community forums. The WOW will also help create opportunities for quality interactions between immigrants and local residents.



## Municipal Work Experience program

The City of Ottawa has launched the first ever Municipal Work Experience Program, designed exclusively for promoting immigrants' access to jobs in the municipal government. The Municipal Work Experience Program will provide paid term internship to immigrants to assist immigrants' in building Canadian work experience. The Program draws from the successes of the Federal Internship Program, led by the Foreign Credentials Office & Integration Branch of Citizenship and Immigration Canada.



## Redevelopment of the Municipal Immigration Portal

Ottawa's current and prospective immigrants will benefit from access to a new comprehensive information on living, working and learning in Ottawa thanks to a complete redevelopment of the Municipal Immigration Portal. As part of content enhancements, the Municipal Immigration Portal will now include information on Ottawa's francophone community and information targeted to international students. The newly developed Immigration Web Portal will be launched in the fall 2013.



## **Greater Access to Business and Professional Development Microloans**

Immigrants in Ottawa can now benefit from greater access to small credit to finance not only their new businesses, but also their professional development, such as professional licensing exams and course tuitions. The program offered by the Ottawa Community Loan Fund (OCLF), in partnership with Settlement SPOs and other community organizations, builds on the 2012 pilot and targets one of the key barriers to immigrants: low access to credit due to lack of credit history in Canada. Microloans from the OCLF will help immigrants to either become self-employed by starting or buying a business, or enter their professional career in Canada by acquiring Canadian credentials.



## **2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards**

The contributions of immigrant entrepreneurs to Ottawa's economic prosperity through job creation, connectivity to global markets, innovation and know-how based on international experience will be publicly recognized and valued for the second year by the City of Ottawa's Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards. The Awards Ceremony, which was launched in 2012 during the 1st Annual Ottawa Immigration Forum, will have its 2<sup>nd</sup> edition in the fall of 2013. In addition to highlighting the contributions of immigrants to the local economy, this initiative also aims to encourage and further leverage the entrepreneurial spirit of new immigrants to Ottawa.



## **Multicultural Health Broker Initiative**

The OLIP Health & Wellbeing Sector is working with the Champlain Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) to develop a program that will help immigrants connect more easily with needed health services. Other partners in this important initiative include health and resource centres; settlement service provider organizations, regional francophone health service planning body, the University of Ottawa and the Ottawa Public Health. Multicultural health brokers (lay health professionals from immigrant communities) are proven to help improve the health outcomes of immigrants through greater awareness of how to access existing services and through targeted community education on culturally significant health promotion strategies.



## **Promoting Healthy Living through Language Instruction**

Immigrants' awareness on healthy living is soon to be improved thanks to the development of lesson plans that ensure language providers will include tips, ideas, and message developed by the Ottawa Public Health (OPH). This collaborative initiative builds on the work of the Ottawa Public Health in 2012 with Settlement Service Provider Organizations (SPOs), which lead to the training of settlement counsellors in providing health maintenance advice to newcomers. The new lesson plans will soon be made available for all language instructors in Ottawa.





## Strengthened Communication Platforms

Thanks to a generous grant by the Community Foundation of Ottawa, OLIP launched two new communications platforms to strengthen information flow among the OLIP partners: a new website and a biannual newsletter. The OLIP website is redeveloped entirely to become a Partnership Portal and a virtual hub of information and idea sharing across sectors. The Portal features information on collaborative initiatives that are taking place across the vast network of OLIP, and alerts viewers to events and knowledge in OLIP's areas of work. The new Portal ([www.olip-plio](http://www.olip-plio)) and the bi-annual newsletter called "Partnerships for Integration Newsletter" will continue to grow as key mediums for linking ideas and initiatives on local immigrant integration strategies.



## Greater Focus on the Integration of Francophone Immigrants

Our work on the Francophone Lens advances and will be launched soon. The Francophone Lens is a new tool developed collaboratively by OLIP, the Centre on Governance, CESOC and le Réseau de l'immigration francophone de l'est de l'Ontario. The tool aims to assist the OLIP Sector Table leaders to think about the unique needs of francophone immigrants as they implement the Ottawa Immigration Strategy.



## Linking Research & Action



A new partnership between OLIP and the Diversity and Equity Research Group (DERG) is established to facilitate shared awareness on opportunities and challenges related to the attraction, settlement and integration of immigrants in our community. Series of seminars will be planned and executed collaboratively by OLIP and DERG on topics intended to enhance and support the work of OLIP partners, to promote greater linkages between research and action, and to disseminate new knowledge by partners both academic and practitioners.



## Ottawa's Equity Project

Phase I of Ottawa's Equity Project is successfully completed and a report summarizing the emerging learning will be launched on June 25<sup>th</sup>, at the first seminar of the OLIP-DERG partnership, which is entitled: "Building Sustainable Capacity for Welcoming Organizations". Plans are underway for the launch of Phase II of the Equity Project, where more organizations can join to help pioneer our collective progress in the cultivation of equitable and inclusive organizations.

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