

South Okanagan | Similkameen Local Immigration Partnership Council

Terms of Reference

Background

Since the mid-1990's, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) has increasingly recognized the importance of engagement at the local level. Municipalities play a central role in delivering many services that impact the integration outcomes of newcomers. Communities across Canada are recognizing the importance of newcomers while making immigration a main component of their plans for the future.

The Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) innovation is a means to systematize local engagement in settlement with resources available to hire individuals to:

- a) Coordinate the activities of the LIP Councils
- b) Build on existing local initiatives
- c) Contribute to the enhanced planning and modernized approach to settlement
- d) Augment engagement of "host" populations in a two-way street model of integration.

In April of 2014 the LIP model was introduced in British Columbia, with CIC supporting 19 communities throughout the province. In service to the South Okanagan | Similkameen Region, the South Okanagan Immigrant and Community Services (SOICS) was selected for the role of Secretariat. The Secretariat acts as the backbone organization and ensures progress for the SOS LIP Council.

Mission

The South Okanagan | Similkameen (SOS) LIP Council members share a commitment to the core values of diversity, equity, and respect. The SOS LIP Council recognizes the potential of all Canadians and encourages the integration of new immigrants through involvement in social, cultural, economic and political affairs. The Council facilitates synergistic relationships, collaboration and effective communication supporting immigrant attraction, settlement, integration and retention.

Goals

The overall objective of the SOS LIP Council is to enhance collaboration, coordination and strategic planning at the community level thereby fostering more welcoming and inclusive communities while improving settlement and integration outcomes.

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The SOS Local Immigration Partnership is a community-based partnership that aims to:

- 1) Foster local engagement of service providers and other institutions in newcomers' integration process
- 2) Support community-based knowledge-sharing and local strategic planning
- 3) Improve coordination of services that facilitate immigrant settlement and integration
- 4) Integrate newcomer strategies within local labour market plans

Scope

To:

- 1) Create an inclusive partnership council that is representative of the community
- 2) Conduct research on the needs of newcomers and the community and raising awareness of these needs
- 3) Establish a local settlement strategy identifying key priorities for the community
- 4) Develop action plans with specific, measurable and time-bound activities
- 5) Support the implementation of action plans and report on results achieved

Membership

The SOS LIP Council is an independent affiliation of non-government organizations, government agencies, health groups, education groups, business networks, employers, and citizens interested in promoting the successful settlement of new immigrants to meet the needs of the South Okanagan | Similkameen. Members who can speak on behalf of a number of stakeholders and represent the broadest range of interests and voices are deemed key for the LIP Council. Attached is the current list of members and their affiliations. Representation by sector will be reviewed/renewed every two years.

Resources and Budget

In addition to the funding CIC provides for administration and coordination, the SOS LIP Council will maximize their impact through leveraged resources and external funding partners.

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Governance / Decision Making

The SOS LIP Council forms the governing body that oversees the development and operations of the SOS LIP Strategy and Action Plan. The Council will have two Co-Chairs that will preside over all regular meetings (the assigned Secretariat staff member and one elected member).

All media inquiries are to be directed to the Secretariat staff person. Any member resignations should be tendered to the Co-Chairs.

Any member with a conflict of interest or a perceived conflict of interest should immediately disclose this conflict to the Co-Chairs.

Membership Roles and Responsibilities

Each member will:

- 1) Use best effort to attend all scheduled meetings
- 2) Understand that they will periodically receive correspondence and will come prepared to meetings having read the correspondence in advance.
- 3) Be responsible for making decisions regarding the work, direction and development of the partnership as a whole, maintaining primary responsibility for a range of activities.

Meetings

The SOS LIP Council will meet three to four times per year. Any established working groups will have the opportunity to directly report at Council meetings. A recording secretary will distribute minutes and correspondence.

Reviewing Terms of Reference

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