

P2P Preconference of the Local Immigration Partnerships

Paving the Way for our Future: A Conference for LIP Engagement and Sustainability



Discuss Challenges

Share Achievements

Learn from Each Other

**November 21, 2018
Hyatt Regency, Montreal**



June 24-28, 2019
Conference

Du 24 au 28 juin 2019
Congrès

The Promise of Migration:
Inclusion, Economic Growth
and Global Cooperation

La promesse de la migration :
inclusion, opportunité économique
et coopération mondiale



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

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Welcome

On behalf of the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership, we welcome you to the third annual Pathways to Prosperity Conference of the Local Immigration Partnerships. The theme of this year's LIPs conference is Paving the Way for Our Future: A Conference for LIP Engagement and Sustainability. This theme is particularly apt as we look back at almost ten years of LIP history and look forward to what the next ten years may bring.

We are very excited about today's sessions, focusing on how we can expand the LIP partnerships to include non-traditional partners, how we can work to sustain and ensure the continuity of the LIPs, how LIPs can continue to do good work on anti-discrimination and promoting welcoming communities, and, finally, on the possibility of coming together to establish a national LIP secretariat. These are topics that the LIP representatives considered important to discuss, and we have taken your advice in this regard. We are also pleased to continue the tradition of preparing a presentation and booklet on LIPs' achievements in order to highlight the many successes of the LIPs and to share promising practices. This year, in response to your feedback, the booklet is available online on the P2P website. The presentation will be shown throughout the day during break times.

This event is led and has been organized by LIP representatives across the country. The organizers this year include: Abdikheir Ahmed, Immigration Partnership Winnipeg; Carol Brouwers, Regina Region Local Immigration Partnership; Petrusia Hontar, St. Thomas-Elgin Local Immigration Partnership; Abiola Daramola, Saint John Local Immigration Partnership; Irmtraud Hutfless, Toronto East Quadrant Local Immigration Partnership; Tahir Khan, Toronto North Local Immigration Partnership; Yvonne Lai, Peterborough Immigration Partnership; Roberto Montiel, Halifax Immigration Partnership; and Sarah Wayland, Hamilton Immigration Partnership. Thank you for taking the lead to make this conference a success. We also thank the MCs, session chairs, and presenters, who will be keeping you busy today. In addition, we thank Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada for their encouragement and participation in this conference.

Thanks too to Maria DiFabrizio, Bukun Adegbebo, and Sonali Advani from the Pathways to Prosperity team for their coordination efforts and logistical support, as well as the members of the P2P Standing Committee on Student Engagement for volunteering their time today. This event would not have been possible without the generous support of our main funder, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

We look forward to an informative and engaging day,
Victoria Esses and Jean McRae
Co-Chairs, Pathways to Prosperity Partnership

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P2P Preconference of the Local Immigration Partnerships
Paving the Way for Our Future: A Conference for LIP Engagement and Sustainability

Wednesday November 21, 2018

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Montreal

Room: Grand Salon Opera

8:00 AM to 9:00 AM

Breakfast and Registration

9:00 AM to 9:15 AM

Welcome and Opening Remarks

- ◆ Masters of Ceremonies: Petrusia Hontar, Project Coordinator, St. Thomas-Elgin Local Immigration Partnership, and Sean White, Project Coordinator, Nanaimo Local Immigration Partnership
- ◆ Welcome from Pathways to Prosperity Partnership – Jean McRae and Victoria Esses, Co-Chairs, Pathways to Prosperity Partnership

9:15 AM to 10:45 AM

Session 1 - Engaging with Non-Traditional Stakeholders

Chair: Sarah Wayland, Senior Project Manager, Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council

LIPs were created to engage with a variety of stakeholders to improve a community's readiness for and receptivity to immigration. Yet immigration partnerships often find it challenging to move beyond the "usual suspects" of the settlement and social service sectors. In this workshop, three LIPs present their experiences engaging with three very different community partners: first responders (police and fire), employers, and Indigenous communities. Each presenter will describe the context and rationale for engagement, identify their successes, and share lessons learned.

- ◆ **NSAG: The Newcomer Safety Advisory Group – A Working Group of the Chatham-Kent Local Immigration Partnership**
Victoria Bodnar, Coordinator, Resident Attraction and Retention, Municipality of Chatham-Kent
- ◆ **The Role of the LIP in Newcomer Employment Initiatives**
Abigail Cameron, Manager, Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership
- ◆ **Inter-Community Circles: Facilitating Spaces between Newcomers and the Mi'kmaq**
Roberto Montiel, Coordinator, Halifax Immigration Partnership

10:45 AM to 11:00 AM

Refreshment Break

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Session 2 – Sustainability and Continuity of Local Immigration Partnerships

Chair: Carol Brouwers, Project Coordinator, Regina Region Local Immigration Partnership (RRLIP)

Since 2009, 77 LIPs have been established in communities across Canada. As we near Year 10 it seems right to pause and reflect on the good work we have all undertaken to get us to this point, and to look ahead towards what will keep LIPs sustainable for the next ten years. With that in mind, this workshop will feature discussion on:

- membership engagement — ensuring members feel useful and involved
- funding— diversifying sources to support our work
- outcome measurement—proving our worth through the capture of meaningful data

◆ **Community Owned - Building, Sustaining and Measuring Partnerships**

Dan Vandebelt, Community Engagement Coordinator, Waterloo Region Immigration Partnership

◆ **Sustainability of LIPs**

Kathryn Doiron, Acting Assistant Director, Settlement and Integration Policy Branch, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

◆ **Importance of Outcome Measurement**

David Kurfurst, Director, Evaluation and Performance Measurement, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC); and Jeslyn Thibedeau, Acting Senior Analyst, Evaluation and Performance Measurement, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

12:30 PM to 1:45 PM

Lunch Provided

1:45 PM to 3:00 PM

Session 3 — Anti-Discrimination and Welcoming Communities Campaigns

Chair: Carol Brouwers, Project Coordinator, Regina Region Local Immigration Partnership (RRLIP)

In recent years, discriminatory events have gained headlines across Canada. Local Immigration Partnerships foster community support for change through awareness campaigns that increase knowledge and shift attitudes. This workshop will highlight three approaches to anti-discrimination and welcoming communities campaigns. Each project showcases a different means to reach their audience: social media, community capacity building, and an event-based campaign.

◆ **SayHello**

Sunita Gupta, Lead, Kingston Immigration Partnership

◆ **Bread and Borders Toolkit: Exploring Fears, Facts and Impacts about Refugee Claimants in Manitoba**

Abdikheir Ahmed, Director, Immigration Partnership Winnipeg

◆ **Rising Above Racism and Hate**

Ana Maria Bustamante, LIP Coordinator, Burnaby Local Immigration Partnership

3:00 PM to 3:15 PM

Refreshment Break

3:15 PM to 4:45 PM

Session 4 — Planning a National LIP Secretariat

Chair: Roberto Montiel, Coordinator, Halifax Immigration Partnership

Following conversations that took place at the LIP National Event in Calgary on March 2018, and which started with the interest that LIPs expressed on having representation at the National Settlement Council, a working group was put together to look at what a LIP National Body would look like. This session will follow the outcomes of these conversations as well as the progress made by the working group so far, including IRCC's take on this project. The session is meant to help inform the future of the LIP Secretariat in a way that enhances the work of all existing and potential LIPs.

◆ **Supporting a Growing and Diverse LIP Network: IRCC's Views on a National Secretariat**

Kathryn Doiron, Acting Assistant Director, Strategic Policy and Analysis Division, Settlement and Integration Policy Branch, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

◆ **National LIP Secretariat: Vision, Process, and Next Steps**

Paulina Wyrzykowski, Director, Toronto South Local Immigration Partnership

Table Discussion Questions

1. What should a national body that brings together all LIPs across Canada do?
2. What should a National LIP secretariat absolutely not be responsible for/do?
3. What would be the ideal governance structure of a LIP national body that would adequately represent the broad diversity of all LIPs (regional, rural vs. urban, municipal vs. SPO led, etc.)?
4. What would be the ideal funding model for this secretariat, a model that does not siphon resources (financial, administrative, etc.) away from existing (and prospective) LIPs?

The guiding principle to answer these questions is: How would having a LIP Secretariat enhance your work and the work of your LIP?

4:45 PM to 5:00 PM

Closing Remarks

Victoria Esses and Jean McRae, Co-Chairs, Pathways to Prosperity Partnership

Biographical Notes

Abdikheir Ahmed is the Director of the Immigration Partnership Winnipeg (IPW). He has previously served as the Executive Director of the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba (IRCOM) Inc. Abdi has extensive experience working with immigrant and refugee communities in Winnipeg's inner city and is a passionate advocate for immigrants and refugees in Canada. Abdi has received numerous awards for his work creating life-changing opportunities for new Canadians. He was a CBC Manitoba Future 40 Finalist in 2014 and is the recipient of the Order of the Buffalo Hunt, one of the Province of Manitoba's highest honors, for his work advocating for refugees and building bridges with Canadian communities. Abdi has a Master's degree in International Peace and Conflict Resolution from the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia where he studied on a Rotary Peace Fellowship.

Victoria Bodnar. After working as the Project Coordinator for the Chatham-Kent Local Immigration Partnership for over two years, Victoria has spent the last two years working as the Coordinator of Resident Attraction and Retention with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. Victoria's current position oversees activities that develop and promote Chatham-Kent's quality of life with the aim of attracting and retaining residents, including young people, immigrants, and active retirees. As part of this portfolio, Victoria manages the Contribution Agreement with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada for CK LIP.

Ana Maria Bustamante is a Colombian-born Canadian, with a Master's Degree - Latin American Studies, Sociology / Anthropology and graduate certificates in International Development, Teaching & Learning, and Public Policy. She has strong experience in working with immigrants, refugees and vulnerable populations. Community Development is her passion; one of her strengths is establishing partnerships to support social causes maximizing community resources, developing social initiatives and building community capacity. Her previous experience with the World Health Organization provided the background for her work in Canada, within the Settlement sector, Multicultural Community Development, Multicultural Health. She was part of the Homelessness Seniors Community of Practice Metro Vancouver (previously) Steering Committee; former Vice-President of the North Shore Multicultural Society, and over the last three year has been the Chair of the Parent Support Services — Spanish Steering Committee.

Carol Brouwers is the Project Coordinator of the Regina Region Local Immigration Partnership. She has been with the RRLIP since its launch in September of 2014. Carol's educational background includes a Social Sciences Degree and numerous certificates in topics such as leadership and non-profit sector leadership, professional and project management. Carol came to the Local Immigration Partnership role with extensive experience in the non-profit sector, as well as small business experience. As a past Executive Director, community development was key to client and organizational success, and it continues to be important in her role with the RRLIP.

Abigail Cameron joined S.U.C.C.E.S.S. in 2017 as the Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership Manager, where she has been able to expand membership and identify partnership opportunities to support the implementation of the LIP Strategic plan. Abigail has over 12 years of experience in community development and project management in the not-for profit sector. Her career began in Scotland where she implemented a city-wide physical activity strategy. Upon returning to Vancouver, she joined the health sector and worked with family physicians, patients and other agencies to support health care improvements at local and provincial levels.

Kathryn Doiron is the Acting Assistant Director in the Settlement and Integration Policy Branch at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, and the lead on Local Immigration Partnership policy. Since taking the LIP file in 2016, Kathryn has gained a deep appreciation of the work undertaken by LIPs and sees the strength of the local partnership approach to supporting newcomers' integration and fostering welcoming communities. During her thirteen years with the federal public service, she has also worked in youth labour market programming and foreign credential recognition policy. Kathryn is an alumna of Concordia University's Master's in Public Policy and Public Administration program.

Sunita Gupta has been an active member in the Kingston Community for the past twenty years. Born in Kenya to parents of East Indian origin, she lived in Kenya, India and England before moving to Canada. She has first-hand knowledge of struggles faced by newcomers. She is a mother of two daughters — eighteen and twenty years old, both in university now. Throughout her career she has shown her support to the community as a volunteer on several boards. Sunita is the Past President of the India-Canada Association of Kingston, recently completed a three year term as a Director on the Tett Centre Board of Directors, and has currently joined the Greater Kingston Chamber Of Commerce Board. She has been with Kingston Immigration Partnership for almost five years and has strived to strengthen community partnerships. KIP's affiliation with ethno-cultural associations has grown in number from nine to twenty-four during this time.

Petrusia Hontar holds a M.Sc. in Economic History: Demography, and a M.Sc. in Society, Science, and Technology, both from Lund University in Sweden. She has been a member of the St. Thomas-Elgin Local Immigration Partnership team since it began in 2011, taking the Coordinator role in 2015. In her role, she has recognized the importance of relationship building between agencies, government, and committees, making this the cornerstone of the Local Immigration Partnership's work. In addition to community capacity building, key initiatives she has developed are the annual Walk With Me Networking Event as well as the Cultural Diversity Committee. Her passion for community work extends past the LIP and includes being a member of the Elgin County Ambassadors, the researcher for the local Living Wage calculation, Administration team member for Elgin Business Women's Network, and the instructor for the Kids Creative Cuisine program.

David Kurfurst is the Director of Evaluation and Performance Measurement at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), leading the function responsible for assessing the outcomes of departmental programs and playing a lead role in advancing the performance measurement and results regime in the Department. David has been with IRCC Evaluation for over 15 years, working on many evaluations and numerous performance measurement projects across all sectors and business lines of the department during that time. He holds an M.B.A. (Finance) degree from Dalhousie University.

Roberto Montiel immigrated to Canada from Mexico City, where he taught in the Communications Department at the Universidad Iberoamericana for five years. He came to Halifax to work on a PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies, which he completed in 2014. His fields of study were Philosophy and Postcolonial Literature. He has been coordinating the Halifax LIP since August 2015.

Jeslyn Thibedeau is an Acting Senior Analyst in Evaluation and Performance Measurement at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). She has experience in all aspects of research, performance measurement and survey

design and implementation. She was the team lead during the developing and initial implementation of iCARE. Jeslyn has been with IRCC Research and Evaluation for over 8 years and previously worked for a private sector research firm conducting primary research and evaluations.

Dan Vandebelt is a Community Engagement Coordinator with the Immigration Partnership in Waterloo Region. He has been involved with the Immigration Partnership since its inception in 2009. He has had various roles from Project Manager in the early days of forming the Partnership Council, sitting at steering group tables as a community partner, being seconded to undertake local research on immigrants and refugees, and now on staff in his current role.

Sarah Wayland is Senior Project Manager for the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council. Until March 2018, she was the creator and leader of Global Hamilton, the City's immigrant attraction and retention initiative. A dual US-Canadian citizen, she earned her PhD in political science from the University of Maryland. She has worked as an independent researcher focusing on various social issues, especially immigration-related, and her clients have included CIC/IRCC, Government of Ontario, Region of Peel, Maytree, Metcalf, and Community Foundations of Canada. From 2005 to 2014, she served on the board of Hamilton's largest settlement agency, including as Secretary and President.

Sean White has been the Local Immigration Partnership Coordinator at the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society in Nanaimo, BC since September of this year. Currently, Sean is in the midst of forming the first ever Council for this recently established Local Immigration Partnership. Prior to taking on the position of LIP Coordinator, he worked in Somalia, China, and Vancouver in the field of international education and studied Canadian immigration law, policy, and procedures at the University of British Columbia.

Paulina Wyrzykowski holds a Master of Social Work and a Law degree from the University of Toronto. She practiced immigration law with a Toronto firm for several years before moving overseas to work as Senior Research and Advocacy officer with Makerere University's Refugee Law Project. Over the past twenty years, Paulina has worked on behalf of refugees and immigrants in Egypt, Canada, and Uganda. Prior to taking on the position of Toronto South LIP Director, Paulina was employed as Manager of Family and Newcomer Programs at West Neighborhood House.

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