

Immigration and Settlement Strategy-Vernon, B.C.

Local Immigration Partnerships Council Meeting Minutes: June 24 2015

In Attendance: Jane Lister *Okanagan College*, Tannis Nelson *RDNO*, Scott Manjak *Family Resource Centre*, Marcel Korver *Community Futures*, Carol Wutzke *VDISS*, Julie Steffler *Interior Health*, Lisa deBoer *School District 22*, Dan Rogers *Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce*, Annette Sharkey *SPCNO*, Wayne Robert *Urban Matters*, Ted Treller *Urban Matters*, Brigitt Johnson *Consultant*

Regrets: Pam Myers *Nexus BC*, Lynn Belsher *Nexus BC*, Lisa Krushen *NOYFSS*, Alison Krick *Silver Star Ski Resort Ltd*, Marlene Higgins *Kal Tire*, Juliette Cunningham *City of Vernon*, Tara Thompson *Vernon Branch Okanagan Regional Library*, Lara Konkin *DVA*, Dauna Grant *Vernon Public Art Gallery*, Cheryl Bannoya *Club Filipino Okanagan Shuswap*, Kevin Poole, *Economic Development & Tourism City of Vernon*, Heather Press *Tolko Industries Ltd.*, Narinder Bal *APNI Directory*

1. **Introductions:** Participants introduced themselves and the organization they represent. A high level review of the project process, progress to date and results from the Immigrant Perspectives Workshop was presented.
2. **Strategic Vision Statement:** Sample vision statements from other LIPS projects were reviewed. It was emphasized that strategic vision is a future path. The vision statement will drive strategic priorities, communicate a sense of direction and community, create inspiration, mold organizational identity and reinforce commitment.

Participants were invited to complete the phrase: *"I would like to see Vernon become..."*

Suggestions were:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| >thriving | >integrated |
| >meaningful opportunities | >inclusive |
| >meaningful employment | >healthy |
| >welcoming | >leader in education |
| >embracing | >adaptable |
| >supportive | >celebrate & respect multiculturalism |
| >collaborative | >safe |
| >integrated | >resilient |
| >active | >a learning community |
| >vibrant | |

The top four selected by the group were: **diverse, collaborative, welcoming and opportunities.**

3. **Goals & Objectives:** The example of the Timmins LIPS strategy was featured. That project identified 4 key "buckets" or strategic priorities focusing respectively on attraction, welcoming, retaining and employment.

Participants were asked to complete the phrase: *"I want the strategy to address...."*

Responses included:

- meaningful employment opportunities,
- attraction and retention of newcomers,
- healthy community with recreation and cultural opportunities,
- educational opportunities,
- safe community,
- community sustainability,
- adequate immigrant services,
- adequate housing,

- multiculturalism and diversity,
- address racism and promote diversity
- reflect the priorities of immigrants.

Areas of key focus for this project were identified as: **Economic Opportunities, Social Inclusion, Quality of Life/Healthy Community and Organizational Buy-In** (from all participants involved in implementing the strategy). There was discussion around possible structure to accommodate both the areas of focus and the key goals of Attraction, Welcoming, Retention, and Employment/Economic Opportunities that were identified.

4. **Next Steps:** The federal government has issued a call for proposals for both the next phase of the LIPS projects and direct services to immigrants covering the period April 2016 to 2018. The focus is on project facilitation rather than concrete project dollars. The project team will use the results of this meeting, as well as input from the workshops, public opinion survey and previous project meetings to frame a proposal. The deadline for submissions to CIC is in August, before the next quarterly LIPC meeting.

5. **Next Meeting: Strategy Development**

Sept 23 2015 10-12 am
 3rd Floor Board Room
 Community Futures
 3105 33rd Street

