

Newsletter Issue 1, Winter 2013

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CONGRATULATIONS EUNICE!

The Immigration Partnership would like to extend congratulations to one of our Council members, Eunice Valenzuela, for receiving the 2013 Focus on Friends Award from Focus for Ethnic Women. Eunice receives this award as recognition for her leadership and dedication to volunteering in the community.

Congratulations from us all!

Welcome to our first Newsletter!

Hello to all our Partners and friends of the Immigration Partnership! Welcome to Issue 1, our first Immigration Partnership newsletter. We will be sharing a quarterly newsletter to update you on activities of the Partnership, as well as highlights about programs, services, research, connection opportunities, stories and much more.

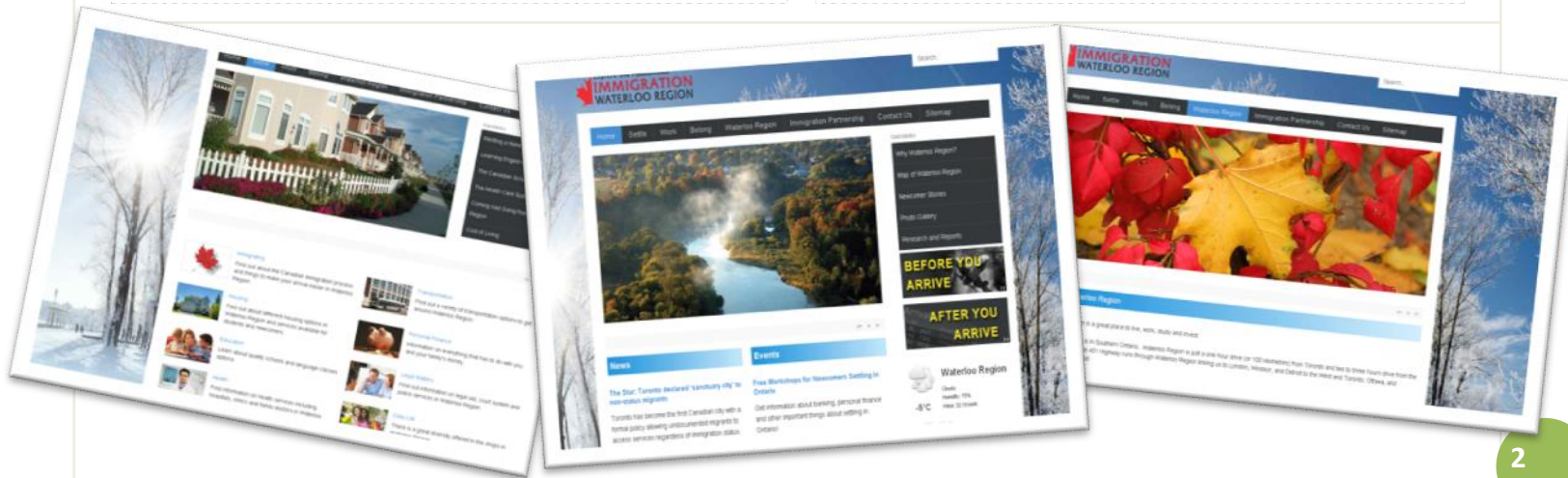
The year has started with great momentum in Council and our pillar groups. Council, along with the Settling and Belonging Action Groups, has completed their first 2 year term as committee members. This provides an ideal time for us to reflect on and review our model, terms of reference describing our roles and responsibilities within the partnership, and recommend changes going forward. I will continue to update you on this process as we move forward, and seek your input and feedback at appropriate points along the way.

In this newsletter, you will find news and program highlights, as well as an overview of the Immigration Partnership vision and structure, as a reminder of our partnership system. A 2012 Annual Report is currently being developed and will be shared with you soon, which will provide an update on the activities undertaken in each of our pillars.

Please be sure to check out our Immigration Partnership pages on our website as this has been recently updated, and will continue to be updated, with information about your partnership activities.

And finally, I welcome your feedback and input in all our work, so if you have an idea, concern, opportunity or connection, please give me a call!

Jo-Anne Gibson, Manager



Come to See the *NEW LOOK* of Waterloo Region's Immigrant Portal!

The Waterloo Region's Immigration Portal has been updated! The portal is funded by Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration and provides information about settling, working and belonging in Waterloo Region for newcomers to or already living in the region.

What is the difference between the old and the updated portal?

- We updated the **News and Events** section on the home page which includes news about immigration policies and activities and events for immigrants and refugees in Waterloo Region. Do you want to use this platform to

promote your events? Send posters or flyers to us!

- In the **Photo Gallery** you can find award winning photos from the Immigration Partnership Photo Contest about *nature, people and place* taken in our community, by our community.
- In **Before You Arrive** and **After You Arrive**, you can find checklists for potential immigrants to better prepare themselves for the new life in our region.

Visit www.immigrationwaterlooregion.ca **NOW** and **introduce it to your clients!**



New Reports

Our Settlement Systems Mapping Report is published! This project was conducted last year by an ad hoc System Mapping Working Group to find out what settlement services currently exist and identify gaps and needs of what services should exist for immigrants and refugee in Waterloo Region. Click [here](#) to see the executive summary and [here](#) to see a full report.

Upcoming Events

Here you will find exciting opportunities happening locally over the next few months!



Global Skills Conference

The 5th Global Skills Conference will be held on **March 21, 2013** at Bingeman's. This one-day, free conference for **Internationally Trained Professionals (ITP)** provides ITPs with resources and information on: credential recognition, skill development, professional associations, regulatory bodies, related professions, networking and more...Come to join us and meet international trained talents!

If you are an interested in attending this event, or know someone who is, please contact Bardish Chagger at 519.745.2531 x 138 or bardish@kwmc-on.com



Networking Event as part of the Global Skills Conference

Employers would you like the opportunity to connect with immigrant talent? You can have a complimentary table at the Global Skills Conference Networking Event. Come and connect with over 200 internationally trained professionals. You don't need to be hiring to attend! If you are an employer and would like to have a booth at our event, please contact Nora Whittington at 519-575-4757x3173 or nwhittington@regionofwaterloo.ca.

We need your input!

We hope our quarterly newsletter will become a platform to keep you informed about activities, programs, opportunities, ideas and stories on immigration in our community. We invite you to give us feedback, as well, if you are interested in writing an article or get your program featured in this newsletter, please contact our Manager Jo-Anne Gibson at 519-575-4757 x 3171 or jgibson@regionofwaterloo.ca.

Programs in Focus

Mentorship Program



The Mentorship Program, provided by YMCA's of Cambridge and Kitchener-Waterloo, matches foreign trained professionals with experienced professionals from Canada based on shared education, similar work experience, and common career goals.

The purpose of the Mentorship program is to empower newcomers with professional backgrounds by connecting them with professionals from Canada who will share their valuable work experience and cultural knowledge.

If you would like to become a MENTOR and help new immigrants embark on their professional career in the community, please visit <http://www.ymcaemploymentservices.ca/en/training/Mentorship.asp>



Internship Program



The Immigrant Internship program, delivered by Conestoga College, matches immigrants with post-secondary degree or journey person status from another country with employers through paid internships. The length of the internship can vary. Participating in the Internship Program is a great way for employers to connect with international talent in Waterloo Region.

For more information please contact: Lil Premasukh at 519-748-5220 ext. 2387 or by email at lpreamsukh@conestogac.on.ca.

Working together for mutual benefit for all

The Mentorship and Internship Programs are key strategies in the Immigration Partnership Working Pillar. The Immigration Partnership team collaborates with these programs and works locally in our community to promote, connect and engage employers and immigrants to program staff. In December 2012, the Immigration Partnership Team received a **Certificate of Appreciation Award** from Conestoga College, in recognition of our work together. Thanks Conestoga! We look forward to continuing to support these and many more partner programs in the future.

About the Immigration Partnership

Our Vision:

Waterloo Region will be a community where immigrants and refugees can settle, work and belong.

Our Mission:

The Immigration Partnership helps facilitate successful settlement, integration and community involvement of immigrants and refugees in Waterloo Region.



Our Goals:

1. Facilitation of a multi-sectoral partnership to foster inclusive and responsive environments for immigrants
2. Communication to stakeholders and the broader public to strengthen awareness and capacity to successfully integrate immigrants
3. Improvements in coordination of and access to services that facilitates immigrant settlement
4. Improved labour market outcomes for immigrants
5. Strengthened local and regional awareness and capacity to successfully integrate immigrants in our communities

Who are we?

We are a community partnership of organizations and community representatives that believe by working together, we enhance our collective potential for positive impact to support the successful settlement and integration of immigrants locally. There are over 100 organizations and community members engaged in our partnership.

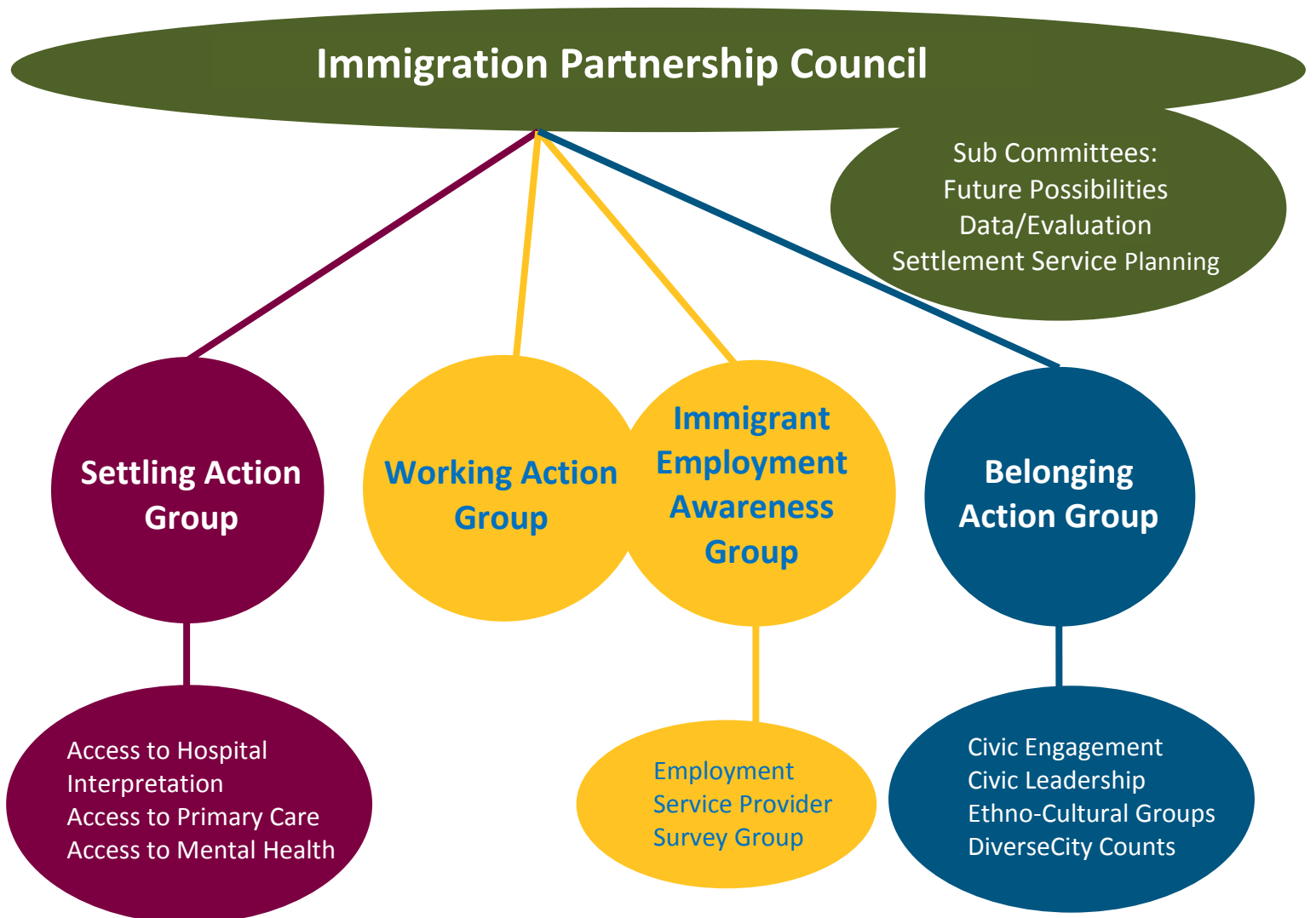
What does the Immigration Partnership Team do?

The role of the Immigration Partnership team is to support the system of partners to implement our key priorities for action. We do this by providing facilitation, education, informing, engaging, networking and communicating with everyone in the system. We aim to be your go-to hub of information, knowledge and planning support!

About the Immigration Partnership – The Power of Three!

Settle, Work and Belong represents essential elements for making newcomer's adjustment to life in Waterloo Region an easier process. The Settling Pillar partners focus on access to services and supports for newcomers as they arrive and settle in Waterloo Region. The Working Pillar partners focus on supporting the employment of all immigrants and the Belonging Pillar partners focus on strategies to ensure Waterloo Region is an inclusive community.

Here is a visual of our structure and our groups!



Your Immigration Partnership Team

The Immigration Partnership team facilitates and coordinates the partnership and supports implementation of the collective action plan.



Jo-Anne Gibson *Manager*

Works with the Council, team and other stakeholders to implement, monitor and evaluate the strategic directions and initiatives.

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519-575-4757 x 3171

Barbara Moore *Community Engagement Coordinator – Settling and Belonging Pillars*

Coordinates and facilitates initiatives of the Settling and Belonging Pillars and associated ad hoc groups.

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Coordinates with employers and service providers to implement initiatives that support the hiring of immigrants.

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Yasmina Montalti *Program Assistant*

Provides administrative assistance to the Manager and the team.

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Agnes Wang *Communications Coordinator*

Oversees communications and marketing activities as well as maintains the Waterloo Region Immigration Portal and Immigration Partnership website.

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Agnes will be leaving us at the end of March and embark on her journey exploring the west coast of Canada. We thank her for her work and wish her all the best. Bye Agnes!