

Belong Steering Group (BSG) Meeting Minutes

Date:	January 28, 2019	Location:	Conestoga Room, Kitchener City Hall
Time:	1:00-3:00 pm		
Present:	Dianne Boston-Nyp (Volunteer Action Centre), Ingrid Brand (Community member), Minkyung Kim (KW Multicultural Centre), Sue Weare (City of Cambridge), Kelly Steiss (City of Kitchener), Jessica Cave (Bridges to Belonging), Fabienne Prior (Community member), Marika Galadza (Reception House), Luke Moyer (YMCA), Jessica Thier (Carizon), Jonathan Moyer (House of Friendship), Gabrielle Laurin (Conseil Scolaire Viamonde), Kristen Bustamante (Region of Waterloo), Pamela Albrecht (City of Waterloo), Annabelle Girard (KWAG), Anna Barth (Community member), Shannon Markle (Idea Exchange)		
Absent/ Regrets:	Sarah Shafiq (Interfaith Grand River), Aleksandra Petrovic (Social Development Centre), Elba Martinez (Community member), Iman Arab (Muslim Social Services), Janet Howitt (Delton Glebe Counselling Centre), Jassy Narayan (Community member) and Melissa Strachan (Carizon) and Kelly Kipfer (Waterloo Libraries).		
Guests:	Rohan Thompson (Crime Prevention Council)		
Staff:	Diana Palmerin, Alejandra Amez and Sora Yun		

The Belong Steering Group defines belonging as “an essential human need to be accepted and valued by others in order to reach one’s full potential in connecting, participating, integrating and thriving in the community”

1. Welcome, Introductions (Dianne)

- Regrets shared.

2. Review Agenda and Approve Past Minutes (Dianne)

- Reviewed Agenda
- No conflict of interest declared
- Approved November 2018 BSG minutes

3. Conseil Scolaire Viamonde Presentation - Gabrielle Laurin, Agente de liaison communautaire / Community Liaison Officer Régions de London, Sarnia, Kitchener-Waterloo et Guelph

4. Community Action Plan (CAP) Updates

4.1. Action 2: Public Education Working Group

4.1.1. Global Migration Film Festival

The working group brought again the Global Migration Film Festival to Waterloo Region from Nov. 28 – Dec. 18. The festival was a success and 10 films were

screened in 10 different locations in Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo, close to 400 people were able to take part in the Festival.

Some suggestions for the film festival in 2019 offered by the group were: to target more Canadian born people rather than immigrants, to host a screening at a starter company and make the link through social responsibility, to screen a film at a school and to incorporate at least one film in French.

4.1.2. March 21 – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Campaign

Diana invited Rohan Thompson (Community Engagement & Communications Manager - Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council) to attend the BSG meeting and talk to the group about the community conversation being organized this year for March 21st.

Rohan provided some background on last year's community conversation and gave an overview of what is currently being organized for this year. On March 21st another community conversation will take place at KPL from 6:30 – 9pm. Diana has been representing IP and the BSG in the organizing committee of this event.

Action: Diana to circulate more information about the community conversation for the group to promote.

The Public Education Working Group will be meeting soon to plan this year's #belongtogetherWR campaign.

Action: Diana to send information to the broader group about this year's campaign for group to take part in it and promote.

4.2. Immigrant and Refugee Isolation Working Group (Fabienne)

The group hasn't met since the BSG meeting in November but it is meeting soon to continue working on the best ways to follow-up with the actions suggested at the Waterloo Region Multicultural Connections event.

Since November, two other community initiatives related to immigrant/refugee isolation and inclusion have taken place. The first one is the partnership between CCORIC and the KDCHC to do an assets/needs assessment with informal leaders of ethno-cultural communities. The second one is the Civic Hub summit organized by the Social Development Centre. Members of the working group are aware of these initiatives and have been connected to them.

Action: Diana to invite Gebre Berihun from the KDCHC to be a guest speaker at the March BSG meeting to talk about the findings of the research with informal leaders of ethno-cultural communities.

4.3 Welcoming and Inclusive Municipalities Working Group (Sue and Sora)

The group is working on potentially hosting a community citizenship ceremony in partnership with the Institute for Canadian Citizenship in Cambridge. Sue also mentioned that at some point the working group discussed the idea of organizing a newcomer day in our region. Sora explained to the group that there are already a few of these days successfully taking place in other communities (Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa).

Sue, asked the group if they thought there would be interest in the community for this kind of initiative. Various members of the group responded positively to this idea.

Action: Sue to send an invite to members of the BSG interested in helping organize a Newcomer Day in Cambridge.

5. Community Updates (All)

Meeting Adjourned at 3.00 pm

Next Meeting: March 25, 1-3 pm, Location: Kitchener City Hall (Conestoga Room)

Belong Steering Group (BSG) Meeting Minutes

Date:	March 25, 2019	Location:	Conestoga Room, Kitchener City Hall
Time:	1:00-3:00 pm		
Present:	Dianne Boston-Nyp (Volunteer Action Centre), Sue Weare (City of Cambridge), Annabelle Girard (KWAG), Kelly Steiss (City of Kitchener), Shannon Markle (Idea Exchange), Melissa Strachan (Carizon), Gabrielle Laurin (Conseil Scolaire Viamonde), Marie-Pierre Daoust (CSC MonAvenir), Luke Moyer (YMCA), Fabienne Prior (Community member), Juan Castillo (KW Multicultural Centre), Minkyung Kim (KW Multicultural Centre), Aleksandra Petrovic (Social Development Centre), Anna Barth (Community member), Ingrid Brand (Community member), Kristen Bustamante (Region of Waterloo), Suzanne Dansereau (AFKW)		
Absent/ Regrets:	Sarah Shafiq (Interfaith Grand River), Elba Martinez (Community member), Iman Arab (Muslim Social Services), Janet Howitt (Community member), Jassy Narayan (Community member), Kelly Kipfer (Waterloo Libraries), Jessica Cave (Bridges to Belonging), Marika Galadza (Reception House), Jessica Thier (Carizon), Jonathan Moyer (House of Friendship), Pamela Albrecht (City of Waterloo), Diana Palmerin Velasco (Immigration Partnership)		
Guests:	Gebre Berihun (KDCHC)		
Staff:	Dan Vandebelt, Pauline Peng		

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1. Welcome, Introductions - Dianne

- Regrets shared. Diana is in Australia until April 1.
- Welcome Juan Castillo (KW Multicultural Centre), Suzanne Dansereau (Association des Francophones de Kitchener-Waterloo, AFKW) and Marie-Pierre Daoust (CSC MonAvenir).

2. Review Agenda and Approve Past Minutes - Dianne

- Reviewed Agenda
- No conflict of interest declared
- Approved January 2019 BSG minutes

3. Needs and Assets Assessment of Multicultural Community Leaders in Waterloo Region Presentation - Gebre Berihun (Health Promoter – KDCHC)

Documents attached - final report and letter to report (double-click to open):



For the past 10 years, KDCHC has been working with CCORIC on community leaders for mental health. Community leaders have been passing knowledge to community members. Newcomers depend on informal support and leaders who have knowledge of community resources. Main questions in the research include: What is available in the informal connection? What challenges exist? What kind of support can they provide? What kind of direction can the city pitch in? Activities include literature review, peer support, and social and civic participation.

There as been focus group and one-to-one interviews with 12 leaders (11 ethno-cultural, 5 women, 7 men, 2 under 30, 2 over 60, 10 have high education, 8 are well-employed) from ethno-cultural organizations, who have been in informal leadership positions for 3-20 years.

Informal leaders responded with the challenges they have been facing: bringing their own communities together, lack of recognition for their leadership, finding resources (even funding for small things like refreshments could bring a community to have meetings), hard to sustain due to the fact that the leaders are mostly volunteers. This is in line with the literature review.

Ways we can respond to the support: collaboration with other organizations and groups, preserving cultural identity, funding, finding common space, nurturing future leaders. The action plan was created based on these items. Next step in is having a discussion with IP on the action plan, using the document to develop a project.

4. Report on IP Partner Survey - Dan

IP does the Partner Survey every year and Community Survey every other year. This time we received in increase in participation and support from partners. Summary of results can be found in the document below:



2018 Partner Survey

Belong Steering Group
March 25, 2019



5. Action Plan (CAP) Updates

- **Public Education Working Group - Ingrid**
 - *Debrief of #belongtogetherWR campaign*

This was the third year of the campaign and it was a huge success. Many people sent in commitment statements and videos to show how they would help eliminate racial discrimination, including 11 videos and 19 pictures sent directly to Alejandra. Facebook: 11,683 reach; 652 engagements (likes/shares/comments) Twitter: 50,123 reach; 397 likes, 597 mentions, 187 retweets/tweets Instagram: 1,197 reach.

The event on March 21 had a repeating message that students need the teachers to be supporting them.

Gabrielle would like to also see the commitment statements in French next year.

Dianne wondered about other translation options as well.

- **Welcoming & Inclusive Municipalities - Sue**

- *Upcoming Community Citizenship Ceremony and Newcomer Day in Cambridge*

The working group will be formalized and will be meeting bimonthly. Sue Weare, Rebecca Florence, and Pamela Albrecht are in the group. The Citizenship ceremony and newcomer day is being planned for September 17 or 18 with the ceremony in the afternoon. Others are invited to join to discuss what the day should look like.

6. Belonging and the Arts and Culture - all

- Kitchener Multicultural Festival is on June 22-23
- Annabelle reported on the artist from Sri Lanka is guiding 4 workshops (12 youths participating) based on their personal feelings of belonging, as part of the “Let’s Talk” project from KWMC and KWAG. This is an arts program aimed at newcomer youth aged 14-18, to explore career options in different areas of art. A lot of newcomers don’t consider art as a career, this program is to show potential career path options. Spring sessions start in April. Currently seeking participants through social media outreach and in-class presentations at schools. Everyone is encouraged to help promote this upcoming opportunity to newcomer youth.

7. Community Updates - all

- Ingrid: Volunteer Action Centre reminded members about the online modules on Cross-cultural Connections to bridge cultural differences and raise one’s own cultural awareness. Now those who complete the course will be able to access certificates for intercultural communication. The modules can be completed on the Volunteer Action Centre website, one for English learner, one for service provider.
- Shannon: on World Refugee Day, Idea Exchange in Cambridge, will have a speaker, Emmanuel Jal, a rescued Sudanese child soldier, and currently a hip-hop artist, recently featured in Time magazine. He will speak at Idea Exchange on June 17 evening about trauma. Also planning a panel session that afternoon about how to make the community more welcoming to refugees. More info to come.
- Dan: encourages the group to post events on immigration WR portal. Dan will put the events on the weekly update gladly as well.
- Marie Pierre: free francophone community event on March 26. There will be bilingual healthcare practitioners. Encourage francophone clientele to come.
- Aleksandra: Open meeting: renters’ education event “Being a Tenant in 2019” April 9 evening.

- Gabrielle: School board is opening a new high school opening in Kitchener. Building opening in February 2020.

Meeting Adjourned at 2.50 pm

Next Meeting: May 27, 1-3 pm, Location: Kitchener City Hall (Conestoga Room)

Belong Steering Group (BSG) Meeting Minutes

Date:	March 27, 2019	Location:	Conestoga Room, Kitchener City Hall
Time:	1:00-3:00 pm		
Present:	Dianne Boston-Nyp (Volunteer Action Centre), Sue Weare (City of Cambridge), Shannon Markle (Idea Exchange), Melissa Strachan (Carizon), Gabrielle Laurin (Conseil Scolaire Viamonde), Marie-Pierre Daoust (CSC MonAvenir), Luke Moyer (YMCA), Aleksandra Petrovic (Social Development Centre), Anna Barth (Community member), Marika Galadza (Reception House), Jessica Thier (Carizon), Jonathan Moyer (House of Friendship), Pamela Albrecht (City of Waterloo), Brittney Emslie (KW Multicultural Centre) and Sanjay Govindaraj (Region of Waterloo).		
Absent/ Regrets:	Annabelle Girard (KWAG), Kelly Steiss (City of Kitchener), Sarah Shafiq (Interfaith Grand River), Ingrid Brand (Community Member), Elba Martinez (Community member), Iman Arab (Muslim Social Services), Janet Howitt (Community member), Jassy Narayan (Community member), Fabienne Prior (Community member), Anna Barth (Community member), Minkyung Kim (Community member), Kristen Bustamante (Region of Waterloo), Kelly Kipfer (Waterloo Libraries), Muriel Vandepol (Region of Waterloo) and Jessica Cave (Bridges to Belonging)		
Guests:	Kate Pearce (WGSI - Waterloo Global Science Initiative) and Ali Jabr (Shamrose)		
Staff:	Tara Bedard, Diana Palmerin		

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1. Welcome, Introductions - Dianne

- Regrets shared.
- Welcome new members: Brittney Emslie (KW Multicultural Centre)
- Welcome Guests: Kate Pearce (WGSCI) and Ali Jabr (Shamrose)

2. Review Agenda and Approve Past Minutes - Dianne

- Reviewed Agenda
- No conflict of interest declared
- Approved March 2019 BSG minutes

3. Vote Pop-Ups in Waterloo Region – Kate Pearce (WGSCI)

Vote Pop-Ups

What is it? It is a toolkit to ignite interest in elections and demystify the voting process for first-time and infrequent voters. It was initially developed by the Samara Centre for Democracy in partnership with Elections Canada and launched in July 2015. In the last federal election 8 million Canadians eligible to vote chose not to. A disproportionate number of non-voters are

young, racialized, marginalized, or a combination of the three. Vote Pop-Up aims to change this. <https://www.ryerson.ca/arts/research-and-innovation/democratic-engagement-exchange/>

Kate is currently looking for sites to host Vote Pop-Ups this September leading up to (but separate from) the election. A training is being arranged over the summer for interested groups. They could be run anytime in September/early October, though they are aiming for a collection of them September 30-October 4 and are hoping for diverse sites across the region. Commitment could include hosting a pop-up for an hour, a few hours, or it could be connected to an existing event/program.

If you are interested in being part of this initiative and/or hosting a Vote Pop-Up, please contact: Kate Pearce - Community Relations Manager, Waterloo Global Science Initiative (519) 569 7600 ext 7524 | kpearce@wgsi.org

4. IP Updates – Tara

4.1. Municipal Engagement

Following on the BSG suggestion to broaden the IP’s municipal engagement, Council members will delegate at City and Regional Council Meetings on the following dates and times:

Cambridge	June 4	7:00pm
Regional Council	June 18 (Community Services committee)	1:00pm
Waterloo	June 24	6:30pm
Kitchener	August 26	7:00pm

Members of the steering group are invited to join these delegations and show your support.

4.2. IP Community Survey

The Immigration Partnership is launching its bi-annual immigrant survey next week! It is a multilingual survey (available in English, French, Spanish, Mandarin, Arabic, Persian/Farsi, Serbo-Croatian, Ahmaric and Tigrinya) which invites all immigrants and refugees in Waterloo Region to share their experiences of accessing services and living here. It will be open from next Monday - June 17 until July 9.

As an IP partner, the [Immigration Matters](#) survey is *your* survey – one that will gather information to help your organization, as well as the Immigration Partnership, other community stakeholders and Waterloo Region as a community better support and empower immigrants and refugees. The survey will gather feedback on how immigrants/refugees/international students/etc perceive your and other community services, why they might not be accessing services, what they see as making the biggest difference for newcomers, and many more things. Survey results will be shared with BSG and broader community in the fall.

We are inviting our partner network and beyond to widely promote the survey and encourage immigrants and refugees in your spaces and networks to respond. Our target is at least 1,000 responses. We hope you can promote the survey through staff and volunteers, social media, clients, common spaces, etc. Please talk with individual clients and maybe help them to fill it out, share it in your programs, or other settings.

See the survey site (www.immigrationwaterlooregion.ca/ImmigrationMatters) for more information, links to the survey (which will be live next Monday, June 17) and a [partner package](#) with [posters](#) and information/ideas for how you can promote the survey. Please check it out and help us gather great feedback from immigrants and refugees that will end up benefiting all of us.

Action: Diana to connect with the group and circulate more information about the survey. Please let us know if you have any ideas to promote the survey.

4.3. IP 10th Anniversary Forum

Immigration Partnership is currently planning the 10th Anniversary Fall Forum, an event to bring together our partners and the broader community to envision what we would like the next 10 years to look like in terms of immigration in Waterloo Region. The event will start with a breakfast and a key speaker, followed by a series of workshops (short and focused) that address problems that we continue to face in successfully settling and integrating immigrants and refugees in Waterloo Region. We are currently consulting with each of the steering groups (SSG, WSG and BSG) to come up with two problem statements that could be addressed through these workshops to explore potential solutions.

Members of the group mentioned that some potential topics could be: empowerment of ethno-cultural groups, the importance of incorporating newcomer youth and the challenges they face, and the importance of putting equity at the centre to achieve inclusion and belonging. Other members expressed that it would be a good idea to wait for the IP Community survey results to see what are the most pressing issues immigrants and refugees are currently facing in Waterloo Region.

Action: Diana to continue consulting with the group to come up with the two problem statement for the BSG.

5. Action Plan (CAP) Updates

5.1. Social Inclusion Working Group

5.1.1. Empowerment of ethno-cultural groups: WR Multicultural Connections – Jess T

Following up on the first WR Multicultural Connections event in November, the action with the most votes was the empowerment of ethno-cultural groups. The social inclusion working group organized a second meeting in April with participants from different ethno-cultural communities to break down what the empowerment of ethno-cultural groups mean to them. Three elements were the most mentioned: access to space, knowledge of available resources for groups and communities to strengthen their capacity and advocacy. The working group is currently planning a second WR Multicultural Connections forum to take place during the summer and continue working with members and leaders of different of ethno-cultural groups around these issues.

5.1.2. Wellbeing Waterloo Region Update – Pam

Wellbeing Waterloo Region (WWR) is a community initiative composed of 70 organizations and community members. The Region of Waterloo is providing the backbone support and this initiative has three main priorities: affordable housing, healthy children and youth and social inclusion. Various members of the BSG are also members of the social inclusion catalyst group and there are some parallels with the work we have been doing. Recently, all members of WWR took training on challenging systemic barriers to equity delivered by Kike Ojo. The training was very useful to get people on the same page and provide us with a common language. Equity is central if we want to achieve inclusion and belonging.

5.2. Public Education Working Group

5.2.1. 2019 Waterloo Region Matters Survey Results: Perceptions on Immigration – Diana

At the end of last year, IP commissioned some questions on perceptions of immigration in Waterloo Region to be added to the annual Waterloo Region Matters survey conducted by the Survey Research Centre at the University of Waterloo. Diana presented the main findings and

explained that the public education working group will be discussing these results at their next meeting to plan a new campaign.

Marika mentioned that Reception House regularly offers a myth-busting public education workshop to schools and other organizations in the community. Diana suggested it might be a good idea to offer this workshop to members of the BSG.

Action: Public Education Working Group to explore this idea.

5.3. Welcoming & Inclusive Municipalities

5.3.1. Newcomer Day in Cambridge - Sue

The date for the Newcomer Day in Cambridge and the Community Citizenship Ceremony in Cambridge is September 17. Various members of the BSG are involved in this initiative and are participating in its organization. Please save the date and join us for the first ever Newcomer Day in Waterloo Region!

6. Community Updates – All

- L'Association des francophones de Kitchener-Waterloo (KW Francophone Association) is hosting its annual **Franco-fête on Saturday, June 22nd** to celebrate our community's francophonie. Entrance is free and I have also included a site map.
- **"KW Multicultural Festival" (Jun 22-23)** - The KW Multicultural Festival will be hosting its 52nd annual multicultural celebration of the diversity of our community with musicians, dancing, art, food vendors and international market. Volunteers are needed from Friday June 21 to Sunday June 23 to help with set up & take down, moving chairs, tables and changing tablecloths, assisting with stage management, cleaning, giving directions, parking enforcement. Volunteers will receive a t-shirt and a \$10 food voucher for every four hour shift worked. For more information: <https://www.kwmc.on.ca/festival-2019>
- **"Turning Up the Volume of Lived Experience Voices" AGM event (Jun 25, 6-7:30pm)** - The Social Development Centre Waterloo Region is having their AGM which will emphasize amplifying lived experience voices and those currently on the margins. For more information: <http://www.waterlooregion.org/52nd-annual-general-meeting>

Meeting Adjourned at 3 pm

Next Meeting: September 30, 1-3 pm, Location: Kitchener City Hall (Conestoga Room)

Belong Steering Group (BSG) Meeting Minutes

Date:	September 30, 2019	Location:	Conestoga Room, Kitchener City Hall
Time:	1:00-3:00 pm		
Present:	Dianne Boston-Nyp (Volunteer Action Centre), Kelly Steiss (City of Kitchener), Sarah Shafiq (Interfaith Grand River), Shannon Markle (Idea Exchange), Gabrielle Laurin (Conseil Scolaire Viamonde), Marie-Pierre Daoust (CSC MonAvenir), Iman Arab (Muslim Social Services), Aleksandra Petrovic (Social Development Centre), Pamela Albrecht (City of Waterloo), Kelly Kipfer (Waterloo Libraries), Vanessa Lopak (City of Cambridge) and Asha Abubaker (Community Member).		
Absent/ Regrets:	Ingrid Brand (Community Member), Elba Martinez (Community member), Melissa Strachan (Carizon), Janet Howitt (Community member), Jassy Narayan (Community member), Fabienne Prior (Community member), Anna Barth (Community member), Jonathan Moyer (House of Friendship), Minkyung Kim (Community member), Kristen Bustamante (Region of Waterloo), Muriel Vandepol (Region of Waterloo), Brittney Emslie (KW Multicultural Centre), Sanjay Govindaraj (Region of Waterloo) and Jessica Cave (Bridges to Belonging)		
Guests:	N/A		
Staff:	Diana Palmerin		

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1. Welcome, Introductions (Dianne)

- Regrets shared.
- Welcome new members: Asha Abubaker (community member)

2. Review Agenda and Approve Past Minutes (Dianne)

- Reviewed Agenda
- No conflict of interest declared
- Approved May 2019 BSG minutes

3. Waterloo Region Immigration Profile and Immigration Matters WR (Diana)

Immigration Partnership and Public Health have released the Waterloo Region Immigration Profile 2019 with the purpose to increase understanding of immigrant populations in the region to ensure that appropriate services and strategies are planned to include the broader needs of this population. The profile is available at:

<https://www.immigrationwaterlooregion.ca/en/business-opportunities/resources-and-publications.aspx>

Dan Vandebelt has been analyzing the Immigration Matters WR survey and created a power point presentation with some preliminary results. Diana shared these results and some comments from members of the BSG were made in relation to the definitions of isolation and belonging, the need for more in-depth qualitative research and disaggregation of data.

4. Action Plan (CAP) Updates

4.1. Social Inclusion Working Group

4.1.1. Empowerment of ethno-cultural groups: WR Multicultural Connections (Aleks)

The group hosted the second Waterloo Region Multicultural Connections Forum on Saturday, August 17 at the Kitchener Market. The format of this event was different from the previous one, as it incorporated a panel with members from ethno-cultural groups and thematic round table discussions on access to space, knowledge and resources and advocacy tools). We were fortunate to have panelists from the Ontario Central Chinese Cultural Centre, Shamrose for Syrian Culture and Nigerians in the Region of Waterloo. Members of the Iranian and Sudanese communities also joined the panel. The event was attended by 35 members of various ethno-cultural groups. 94% of participants thought this event was excellent / very good. 99% were very satisfied / satisfied with the networking, panel with ethno-cultural groups and thematic round table discussions.

During this event, participants were reminded of all the community initiatives and efforts related to the empowerment of ethno-cultural groups that have taken place since November 2018. For example: Civic Hub (SDC), City of Kitchener Mayor's Task Force on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Placement component added to the KW Counselling's Leadership Development Program, City of Kitchener's informal consultation on access to community centres, Immigration Partnership's submissions to City of Kitchener and City of Waterloo strategic plan emphasizing the need for access to space for ethno-cultural groups, City of Cambridge hosting the first Newcomer Day in Waterloo Region , Immigration Matters Waterloo Region Survey (more than 1000 responses), Kitchener is currently developing an information toolkit and training to help residents make positive contributions to their neighbourhoods and Immigration Partnership's submission to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada on the need to offer more funding opportunities to ethno-cultural groups.

Currently, the working group is organizing the third WR Multicultural Connections forum that will be taking place in November. Feedback received from participants, indicates the desire to have this kind of events on a more regular basis and with a broader scope to encourage cultural and community knowledge exchange and relationship building among different groups. Taking this into consideration, the working group has come up with some ideas. For example, creating a 5 part series (once every two months) focused on different themes: food, dance/music, art, sports, telling stories, etc. and encouraging two or three groups to become the hosts with the support of our working group.

4.2. Public Education Working Group

4.2.1. Immigration Myths and Facts Presentation Debrief (Kelly S)

At the BSG May meeting, the group discussed the polarization in public support for immigration taking place in Canada and the idea of offering an immigration myths and facts presentation for members of the BSG was suggested. IP together with Reception House offered the presentation on August 8 at KPL; around 20 members of the group were there.

The evaluation of the presentation was very positive:

77% strongly agreed/agreed they have increased knowledge of immigration facts.

78% strongly agree/agree they feel more confident responding to immigration myths.
100% would recommend the presentation to others.
100% thought the quality of the information presented was excellent/good.
78% would bring the presentation to their workplaces and/or become a co-presenter.

Additional feedback included: More local examples, diversifying sources, allow for more discussion, combine “myths” with “Canadian values”, articulate goals of presentation, add the impact that race has on being subjected to myths, do more than present just facts and sharing more personal stories/experiences.

The group discussed some potential ideas that could be added to the presentation. For example: creating graphic novels, communicating facts through more personal stories, connecting with the Laurier Game Design program to see if it would be possible to do something with them.

4.2.2. Next Public Education Campaign (Diana)

In 2016, the BSG launched its first campaign called “I Am Waterloo Region”. Through a nomination process, twelve individuals that came to Canada as immigrants or refugees from across the region were selected to be the ambassadors of this campaign. For 12 months, a poster and the story of each of the ambassadors was released and promoted through social media.

The working group has been talking for a long time of the need to create a new campaign. This could be a follow-up to I am Waterloo Region or something completely different depending on what the BSG thinks the goal of the campaign should be. Some of the ideas discussed at our last working group meeting were:

1. Profiling what our community looks like today (promoting the diversity of Waterloo Region)
2. Showing that Canadian born people and Immigrants/Refugees are not so different (profiling common aspirations, dreams, concerns, etc)
3. Pairing immigrant/refugee youth with community leaders
4. Debunking immigration myths through personal stories of immigrants and refugees in our community
5. Deconstructing the idea that immigrants/refugees are changing Canadian values

Gabrielle and Asha expressed their interest in joining the group working on the next public education campaign.

Action: Diana to create a survey for the group to vote on their preferred option for the next BSG public education campaign.

4.2.3. 2019 Waterloo Region Global Migration Film Festival (Diana)

The IOM (International Organization for Migration) communicated with Diana in June to let her know they were going ahead this year with the Global Migration Film Festival. Diana confirmed we would partner again with them to bring the festival to Waterloo Region for the third time. Confirmed screening hosts are: Idea Exchange, KWAG, International Migration Research Centre, Commons Studio and BSG will be hosting a screening on December 18 to celebrate International Migrants Day.

Aleksandra (Social Development Centre) and Sarah (Coalition of Muslim Women) expressed interest in hosting a screening for the film festival.

Action: If you are interested in hosting a screening or helping with the organization of the Waterloo Region Global Migration Film Festival please let Diana know.

5.3. Welcoming & Inclusive Municipalities

5.3.1. IP Delegations to City and Township Councils (Pam)

The IP Council Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Director delegated to city and township councils. Presentations to the Councils introduced the IP and its history, its collaboration with municipal staff where applicable, basic data for the respective municipality from the WR Immigration profile, and provided an overview of why immigration is important to communities across Canada based on Statistics Canada and Conference Board of Canada reports. The presentations ended with a call for deeper collaboration and a stronger focus on immigration in municipal strategic and economic development planning. Each Council welcomed the information provided and had engaged discussion. Questions and conversation covered topics from lack of newcomer representation on municipal committees, ways of more effectively connecting municipal council, staff and programs to newcomer groups, how municipal staff engaged with IP, how the valuable data we have is shared with and used by municipal staff and others, and immigration in rural communities.

5.3.2. Newcomer Day in Cambridge (Vanessa)

The Newcomer Day in Cambridge was a success and the feedback has been very positive. Thanks to everyone who made this event possible.

Meeting Adjourned at 3 pm

Next Meeting: November 25, 1-3 pm, Location: Kitchener City Hall (Conestoga Room)



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Present:	Dianne Boston-Nyp (Volunteer Action Centre), Kelly Steiss (City of Kitchener), Shannon Markle (Idea Exchange), Aleksandra Petrovic (Social Development Centre), Pamela Albrecht (City of Waterloo), Kelly Kipfer (Waterloo Libraries), Brittney Emslie (KW Multicultural Centre), Kristen Bustamante (Region of Waterloo), Jonathan Moyer (House of Friendship), Sanjay Govindaraj (Region of Waterloo), Jess Thier (Carizon), Faith Hussin (Community member) and Chris Hussey (Reception House)		
Absent/ Regrets:	Janet Howitt (Community member), Anna Barth (Community member), Muriel Vandepol (Region of Waterloo), Sarah Shafiq (Interfaith Grand River), Gabrielle Laurin (Conseil Scolaire Viamonde), Marie-Pierre Daoust (CSC MonAvenir), Vanessa Lopak (City of Cambridge) and Asha Abubaker (Community Member).		
Guests:	N/A		
Staff:	Diana Palmerin		

The Belong Steering Group defines belonging as “an essential human need to be accepted and valued by others in order to reach one’s full potential in connecting, participating, integrating and thriving in the community”

1. Welcome, Introductions (Dianne)

- Regrets shared.
- Welcome new members: Chris Hussey (Reception House)

2. Review Agenda and Approve Past Minutes (Dianne)

- Reviewed Agenda
- No conflict of interest declared
- Approved September 2019 BSG minutes

3. Region of Waterloo Pilot Home Childcare program (Kristen B)

The Region of Waterloo is launching a pilot home childcare program to make it more accessible for childcare providers from diverse backgrounds. The program will be launching in January. If you require more information, please contact: kbustamante@regionofwaterloo.ca

4. BSG Vice-Chair nominations (Diana)

The term of Dianne Boston-Nyp as Chair of the BSG is coming to an end in May 2020. According to our governance documents the Vice-Chair will become the new Chair of the group. The Vice-Chair position has been vacant for more than a year and we need to elect a new Vice-

Chair at the end of January. Pam Albrecht nominated Brittney Emslie for this role and Brittney accepted the nomination.

Action: If someone else is interested in being nominated for the Vice-Chair role, please let Diana know.

5. IP Updates – Community Action Plan (Diana)

Our current CAP is coming to an end this year. All members of the BSG should have received an invitation to attend the upcoming IP CAP retreat on Friday, Nov. 29. The objective of this meeting is to start working towards the new community action plan 2020 – 2025.

6. Community Action Plan (CAP) Updates

6.1. Social Inclusion Working Group (Aleks)

Currently, the working group is organizing the third WR Multicultural Connections forum that will be taking place in November 30 at the Civic Hub. Feedback received from participants, indicates the desire to have this kind of events on a more regular basis and with a broader scope to encourage cultural and community knowledge exchange and relationship building among different groups. Taking this into consideration, the working group has come up with some ideas. For example, creating a 5-part series (once every two months) focused on different themes: food, dance/music, art, sports, telling stories, etc. and encouraging two or three groups to become the hosts with the support of our working group. We will continue to develop this idea to present it to the different groups for feedback.

6.2. Public Education Working Group

6.2.1. 2019 WR Global Migration Film Festival (Kelly S)

This year, we will be screening 9 films in Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo, as part of the WR Global Migration Film Festival.

Dec. 5 – This Is Home (International Migration Research Centre)

Dec. 6 – The Climate Limbo (KW Art Gallery)

Dec. 9 – Aneni (In Her Shoes YW)

Dec. 10 – One Way Ticket (Idea Exchange)

Dec. 11 – Stranger in Paradise (Civic Hub)

Dec. 12 – Hayati, my life (City of Waterloo)

Dec. 13 – Morabeza (Commons Studio)

Dec. 18 – Libertai and Haru's New Year (BSG + City of Kitchener)

As in the past two years, the last two screenings will also be our celebration of International Migrants Day.

4.2.2. Next Public Education Campaign (Brittney)

After our September meeting, BSG members voted on their preferred idea for our next public education campaign. The voting was very divided and the working group decided to open the voting to the rest of IP. We obtained a total of 20 votes from the other steering groups and the preference is towards doing something around addressing immigration myths through personal stories + fact checking. We also have three people from other steering groups interested in joining the planning group for this.

Some ideas that were suggested during the meeting were: to have a campaign that is thought-provoking (reference that is a different time but same story of immigration to WR), have unlikely

conversations in unlikely places and create a series of podcasts sharing different experiences of immigration.

Meeting Adjourned at 3 pm

Next Meeting: January 27, 1-3 pm, Location: Kitchener City Hall (Conestoga Room)