

Immigrant Integration
2012 LOS Conference Notes
Workshop began at 10:13

Presentation by: Hindia Mohamed

Sharing the experience of the Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership (OLIP)

Package was provided: by Hindia

Rational for OLIP:

Importance of immigration for the future of Ontario Cities

Poor/deteriorating outcomes in immigrants' integration process

The necessities to leverage local knowledge, this is, the accumulated experience

2010: 13000 immigrants came to Ottawa

Immigration accounts for 79% of the population growth in Ottawa

100% of net labour growth comes of immigration

Ottawa Immigration Strategy

OLIP website: Olip-pilio.ca (google Olip)

Dynamic process, collaborative and based on shared values.

The OLIP is NOT for immigrants but rather for Ottawa (the City of Ottawa).

OLIP conference happening October 1st, 2012

Presentation ended at 11:07... This power point presentation is saved on the desktop of this computer for further reading and review

The conversation:

Question # 1

Do have a share vision locally around immigrant immigration:

There is shared understanding/recognition that we need to be doing more to integrate immigrants

At the City Ottawa, we don't have a shared vision. But, there are many within doing great work on integration. It is not reflected in everyday activities. There is no systemic change.

Some of groups came with questions that were not discussed:

How do immigrants like to integrate into their new community/City?

When does integration begin and assimilation begin?

What makes integration important and assimilation less important?

Informed Choices:

Most of the decisions are not made by immigrants about some of our initiatives. They are not consulted on decisions that affect them. How do you like to be reflected and supported?

Having space to choose your identity and you are not penalized/stereotyped for your

There is a generational process: maybe the 3rd generation is more integrated

We need a national integration policy/strategy; this will allow thinking local but also reflecting nationally. We need a civic culture, use of park space, people gathering and working together.

Bringing people together

We don't have a vision?

We need vision that enables everyone?

It is necessary to have a shared vision.

People are not succeeding in education, employment etc...

What is the identity we want?

Some of the professions (e.g. Medical Association), is not proactive about recognizing foreign credentials. Good thing for Canadians, we are not a nationalistic society like France.

What would that vision be?

People belong. Have a voice about decision being made for them or about them.

We are starting to shift that is more accepting of immigrants among younger generations as they have greater contact in school and social settings.

Question # 2

What are your thoughts on a shared vision agenda?

What is a successful integration?

Economic opportunities and contributing

Health and social determinants of Health (health deteriorates over time)

School integration: school – a positive path. We need better education outcomes better-Engaging trades/school board etc...

Languages: The way we communicate does not follow too well. E.g. The Chinese community, OPS and fire had to do a special outreach to address fires safety issues.

Social inclusion (after the basics are met),

Access to recreation is important, to keep the children busy. Accessible and affordable space

Youth are being left out and make sure we add youth into share vision

First Job:

Easier opportunities are in small/medium enterprises. Identifying successful placement for new Canadians. Educating the business community about hiring immigrants. A record/profile of successes can be share. Employers can play a role in promoting successful stories of immigrants.

Statistics:

Number of immigrant youth in jails, how do we provide re-habilitation services.

There is also large second generation population in jails.

Equal access to opportunities:

Systemic change, ways institution operate (governments, schools, access to employment)
Cultural how we view immigrants and changing the systemic barriers

Pre-immigration Education &

Being clear about people immigrating to Canada, let them know what to expect.

What do we want to work?

There is a need for a framework and a hub in a physical space that bring together resources/services
Mobilizing people and bringing immigrants together

What needs to be in place?

We need practical solution on common issues.

Shared vision: Ottawa, a place we all belong

- Successful social and economic integration of immigrants
- We are all working together

OR

Ottawa believes the successful integration and belonging of immigrants is vital
Maybe we are a catalyst for OLIP and United Way to improve local strategies targeting immigrants.

Focusing particular issues is also important (e.g. Youth issues)

End 2:10 pm