Immigration and Settlement Strategy-Vernon, B.C.

Local Immigration Partnerships Council
Meeting Minutes: Septeber 30 2015

In Attendance: Pam Myers *Nexus BC*, Jane Lister *Okanagan College*, Scott Manjak *Family Resource Centre*, Kevin Poole, *Economic Development & Tourism City of Vernon*, Marlene Higgins *Kal Tire*, Marcel Korver *Community Futures*, Cheryl Bannoya *Club Filipino Okanagan,* Carol Wutzke *VDISS,* Dan Rogers *Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce*, Karine Posnanski, *Translator*, Annette Sharkey *SPCNO*, Wayne Robert *Urban Matters*, Ted Treller *Urban Matters*, Brigitt Johnson *Consultant*

Regrets: Lynn Belsher *Nexus BC,* Lisa Krushen *NOYFSS*, Alison Krick *Silver Star Ski Resort Ltd,* Juliette Cunningham *City of Vernon*, Tara Thompson *Vernon Branch Okanagan Regional Library*, Lara Konkin *DVA*, Dauna Grant *Vernon Public Art Gallery*, *Shuswap*Heather Press *Tolko Industries Ltd*., Narinder Bal *APNI Director,* Tannis Nelson *RDNO*, Julie Steffler *Interior Health*, Lisa deBoer *School District 22*

1. **Introductions**: Participants introduced themselves and the organization they represent.

2. **Vernon Refugee Committee**: Annette provided the Council with information about a newly formed refugee committee in the community, triggered in response to the Syrian refugee crisis. The committee focus is to create an information hub for groups that are interested in sponsoring refugees, and a hub for anyone in the general community who would like to support or provide resources. Terms of reference and a work plan have been developed. A number of churches who already have experience sponsoring refugees are members. There are also several LIPC members on the committee, including Jane, Annette, Carol and Karine.

3. Wayne provided a very short overview of the project progression to date.

4. Wayne reviewed the online feedback to the strategy principles, vision statement and strategic goals that have been developed. **Any LIPC member who has not yet completed the survey, which is available online and in hard copy, is asked to do so as soon as possible.**

   Respondents were asked to rank the degree to which the guiding relationship and plan principles, vision statement and strategic goals presented reflect and represent Council conversations and to provide comments.

Statements	Rank	Comments	Further Comments at LIPC Meeting
Guiding Relationship Principles	4.4/5.0	None	None
Guiding Action Item Principles	4.3/5.0	What do we mean by "regional"? Funding should not be just by the City of Vernon.	The strategy needs to look for regional collaboration and opportunities for partnerships wherever possible. Internationally, Vernon by itself is not necessarily recognized.
Vision Statement	4.4/5.0	The end of the statement seems awkward.	The statement needs to be revised slightly, perhaps: "to build and share in a future of meaningful opportunities." The statement was presented to the Refugee Committee, but they have opted to develop their own unique vision statement.
Strategic Goals	4.7/5.0	Well done!	The Council discussed whether to add a fifth goal focused on refugees, but agreed that refugees are included as newcomers.

5. The Council divided into groups for a café style series of brainstorming sessions to develop action items for each of the four strategic goals, with everyone ultimately contributing to each goal. Participants were asked to identify existing initiatives, planned initiatives and desired/needed activities. The results, summarized in the attached table, will be collated for the next meeting.

6. **Next Steps:** Based on all of the input and research to date, a draft strategy will be created to be discussed at the next LIPC meeting. An application for funding for the next (implementation) phase of the project was submitted in response to the federal government's call for proposals. A response is not expected until late in 2015 or early 2016.

7. **Next Meeting:**   **Review of Draft Strategy**

   Dec 2 2015 10-12 am
   3rd Floor Board Room
   Community Futures
   3105 33rd Street