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Black Creek Local Immigration Project (LIP) Settlement Strategy & Action Plan Executive Summary

The Black Creek Local Immigration Partnership – LIP is one of 17 partnerships in the City of Toronto, funded by Citizenship & Immigration Canada. The purpose of the LIP is to improve the successful settlement and integration of newcomers by:

1. Improving access to, and coordination of, effective services that make it easier for newcomers to settle and integrate.
2. Improving access to the labour market for immigrants.
3. Strengthening local and regional community understanding and ability to better integrate immigrants.
4. Creating or improving partnerships and participation of service organizations, education professionals, settlement workers and newcomers in planning, and coordinating the delivery of integration services (including settlement, language training, and labour market integration), especially current services supported by the federal government through Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) or through the provincial Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration.

The Black Creek LIP is lead by a Council, co-chaired by a representative of the project trustee, Delta Family Resource Centre, and a settlement sector representative. The Council membership has approximately 16 services and institutions as well as newcomers and grassroots groups in the Black Creek area.

For the purposes of the Black Creek LIP, the neighbourhood boundaries are defined as Steeles Ave to the north, the 401 to the south, and by the Humber River and Dufferin St. to the west and east respectively.

The Black Creek Local Immigration Partnership project is being applied in two phases: Phase I focused on the creation of a local partnership council, conduct of a literature review, various stakeholder meetings, and the development of a local settlement strategy and action plan. An interim evaluation of Phase 1 identified areas needing improvement in order to successfully achieve identified outcomes.

The Black Creek – LIP Settlement Strategy and Action Plan sets out four strategic directions and identifies objectives, strategic actions and general timeframes for each. Using this framework, Phase II (April 2011 – March 2012) of the project will further act on the strategy through the creation of a work plan

that will prioritize and outline detailed activities, time frames and assign responsibility in order to achieve the objectives for each Strategic Direction. The following table summarizes the Settlement Strategy's directions and actions.

Summary of Strategic Directions & Actions

| Strategic Direction | Strategic Actions |
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| <p>1. Establishment & Enhancement of Partnerships and Participation</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating partnership membership to ensure Council has the ability to support the implementation of the Settlement Strategy and Action Plan. • Monitoring the progress and status of the LIP work and ensure that adequate resources and supports are in place to effectively carry out the mandate of the Black Creek LIP. |
| <p>2. Service Integration</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing awareness and cooperation among services and supports required by newcomers. • Improving access to services and supports by newcomers. |
| <p>3. Welcoming Communities</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building capacity in organizations and groups that represent and serve newcomers in order to support newcomer settlement and participation by increasing awareness of the broad community. • Identifying and supporting initiatives which reduce and/or eliminate barriers that lead to different outcomes or treatment in the areas of employment, education, housing, neighbourhood planning, access to health, policing, recreation and other community services • Supporting initiatives that encourage civic, economic and social participation and adjustment of newcomers with particular attention paid to involvement and support of newcomer youth. • Cultivating and strengthening relationships between the formal and informal service sector in order to support newcomer connections to supports and services. |
| <p>4. Labour Market Participation,</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving labour market outcomes for newcomers. |

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| Language Training & Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improving access to relevant language training.• Improving academic success for newcomers. |
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