



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	September 12, 2016
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (CES16041) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

Not Applicable

Information:

Background:

In February 2008, Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada (formerly known as Citizenship and Immigration Canada) issued a call for proposals to municipalities and community organizations to apply for a new funding program called the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP). The key objective of LIP was to strengthen local settlement agencies and partners to become more capable, responsive and collaborative in supporting new immigrants in their communities.

In May 2008, the City of Hamilton submitted a LIP proposal for the "Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council" (HIPC). The proposal was submitted in collaboration with six key immigration partners at the time: Settlement and Integration Services Organizations (SISO), St. Joseph's Immigrant Women's Centre, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion, Centre de Santé Communautaire, Jobs Prosperity Collaborative and the Immigration Strategy Advisory Group. The grant proposal was successful.

HIPC was formally launched in 2009. Since then, IRCC has provided regular funding to the City of Hamilton to administer and support the local immigration partnership effort. An overview of funding received from IRCC to carry out the work of HIPC is as follows:

Fiscal Year	Funding Period	Amount Received
1	July 15, 2009 – March 31, 2011	\$ 285,195
2	April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011	\$ 393,145

OUR Vision: To be the best place in Canada to raise a child, promote innovation, engage citizens and provide diverse economic opportunities.

OUR Mission: WE provide quality public service that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Values: Accountability, Cost Consciousness, Equity, Excellence, Honesty, Innovation, Leadership, Respect and Teamwork.

3	April 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012	\$ 297,168
4	April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013	\$ 260,311
5	April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014	\$ 261,266
6	April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015	\$ 246,818
7	April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016	\$ 237,500
8	April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017	\$ 237,500

HIPC partners, including the City of Hamilton, have provided over \$4 million in in-kind partnership supports over the same period of time.

Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council: A brief overview

Since the collapse of SISO in 2011, the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council has stepped up to become a key partnership of settlement service agencies in Hamilton. Over 85 community partners and stakeholders currently make up the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (see Appendix A to Report CES16041). Sectoral representatives on HIPC include housing, health, employment, education, language training, research, settlement services, businesses, community organizations, media and other levels of government.

HIPC, like other Local Immigration Partnerships across the country, does not provide direct services to newcomers. Rather, it is a collaborative community partnership where organizations and agencies that support newcomers regularly come together to build relationships, discuss key challenges affecting the sector, advance common goals and implement joint strategic priorities that benefit all newcomers on a larger scale.

Key Achievements

Since consistent funding from IRCC began in 2009, HIPC has led key immigration partnership efforts that have supported the successful integration of newcomers to Hamilton. Some of the achievements included:

2010-2015 Strategic Plan

- In 2010, HIPC created Hamilton's first Immigration Strategy, which included four strategic priorities, 16 goals and 56 actions. The four priorities included:
 1. Building collective and collaborative leadership in pursuit of Hamilton's immigration vision.
 2. Strengthening the delivery of immigrant and refugee settlement services.
 3. Creating a safe and welcoming community and thereby the conditions that encourage immigrants to both settle and stay in Hamilton.
 4. Creating and disseminating foundational knowledge of immigration and immigrants in Hamilton.
- The Strategic Plan guided the work of HIPC over the years, bringing partners and stakeholders together regularly to discuss key immigration trends and information in

Hamilton. The impact report of HIPC collaboration is attached as Appendix B to Report CES16041.

Development of program guides

- Produced a wide range of materials including housing, employment, and settlement services resource guides to assist both service providers and newcomers.
- Developed and distributed over 1,000 copies of HIPC's Hamilton Newcomer Services Guide (English and Arabic) and over 1,500 copies of HIPC's Housing Guide (English, French, and Arabic).

Research and knowledge-exchange collaboration

- Collaborated with community partners to produce a vast array of research on such topics as the health needs of newcomers, the significance of the informal sector in settling and integrating newcomers, Hamilton's labour market, employers' readiness and experience in hiring immigrants, the state of the settlement service sector, and newcomer's housing needs.
- Hosted annual networking events and professional development workshops to provide opportunities for diverse community organizations to work together to better serve their newcomer clients.

Housing collaboration

- Collaborated with the Housing Services Division to ensure that the 10-year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan addresses the housing needs of newcomers which resulted in the development of additional multi-bedroom social housing units to meet the needs of larger newcomer families.

Economic development collaboration

- Partnered with Global Hamilton to support the development of the Immigrant Attraction Action Plan and implementation of a media series in the Hamilton Spectator to highlight successful immigrants in the area.

Public education and communications

- On April 21, 2016, HIPC launched a new, modern and interactive website (www.hamiltonimmigration.ca). The web platform is becoming popular with HIPC partners, new immigrants and residents. Within a three-month period, 2,956 active users had accessed the website.
- On June 9, 2016, a HIPC Twitter account was launched - @HipcHamilton. The social platform is also increasingly gaining traction with various settlement agencies and community stakeholders. Within a two-month period, @HipcHamilton had 189 followers and generated over 116,000 impressions (i.e., the number of times users saw HIPC Tweets on Twitter).

- Launched the Employers Embracing Diversity media series in the Hamilton Spectator to highlight employers that are taking active steps in diversifying their workforce

2016-2021 Strategic Plan

In 2015, the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council initiated a strategic planning and evaluation process. The aim of the initiative was to understand the strengths, challenges and opportunities associated with HIPC over the past five years, and subsequently determine key areas for improvement.

As part of the strategic planning process, 15 key-informant interviews, 73 newcomers/refugees engagement and focus group discussions with 85 HIPC member-organizations were conducted. Best practices of immigration collaboratives from other jurisdictions, research and online surveys were also completed.

Based on the work completed to date, the three key strategic priorities that HIPC will be focusing on in the next five years include:

1. Coordination of newcomers' services
2. Communications and community engagement
3. Immigration research and partnership evaluation

The new 2016-2021 Strategic Plan for HIPC is expected to be completed by Q1 of 2017.

Conclusion and Next Steps

Since its launch in 2009, the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC) continues to be a valuable collaboration of immigration agencies and partners in Hamilton. The partnership consistently has high-level of attendance, participation and in-kind support from members.

The new 2016-2021 Strategic Plan currently underway will further provide clear directions that will make the immigrant experience positive for newcomers to Hamilton as well as the settlement agencies that support them. HIPC has submitted a funding proposal to Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to sustain the partnership over the next five years. The result of the funding proposal is expected by the end of 2016.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix A to Report CES16041: Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council Members

Appendix B to Report CES16041: HIPC Summary Impact Report (2011-2014)

