



CITY OF HAMILTON
COMMUNITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Neighbourhood and Community Initiatives Division

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	August 16, 2017
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC) 2017-2020 Strategic Plan (CES16041(a)) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Nicole Longstaff 905-546-2424 ext. 7565 Layla Abdulrahim-Moore 905-546-2424 ext. 4359 John Ariyo 905-546-2424 ext. 1564
SUBMITTED BY:	Suzanne Brown Director, Neighbourhood and Community Initiatives Community & Emergency Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council 2017-2020 Strategic Plan attached as Appendix A to Report CES16041(a) be endorsed;
- (b) That the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council 2016 Annual Report attached as Appendix B to Report CES16041(a) be received.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Established in 2009, the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC) is one of 77 federally-funded Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) in Canada mandated to coordinate and enhance the delivery of local services to newcomers through the creation of local strategic partnerships. HIPC's operations are fully funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), with in-kind support received from various community organizations and the City of Hamilton.

Since its inception, HIPC has established over 85 community partners with representatives from housing, health, employment, education, language, training, research, settlement services, businesses, community organizations, media and other levels of government. In its role as catalyst and convenor, HIPC leads community-based planning with its partners to address the needs of newcomers in our community.

Between 2010 and 2014, HIPC created Hamilton's first Immigration Strategy with focus on building collaborative leadership, strengthening the delivery of settlement services,

creating safe and welcoming community and disseminating immigration knowledge and evidence-based research.

2017-2020 Strategic Plan:

In 2015, the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council embarked on a strategic planning and evaluation process in recognition of the need to engage partners and newcomers. The process also evaluated HIPC's strengths, challenges and opportunities for improvement in carrying out its mandate. The result of this engagement is the creation of a new 2017-2020 Strategic Plan (attached as Appendix A to Report CES16041(a)). The three key priorities of the new Strategic Plan include:

- Coordination of Settlement Services
- Communications and Community Engagement
- Research and Evaluation

HIPC's new Strategic Plan is a locally-defined roadmap for planning concrete actions that will build an inclusive culture of welcome, access and opportunity for newcomers in Hamilton. It is a blue-print for Hamilton as a global community that defines itself economically, socially and culturally as embracing diversity and celebrating the rich contributions that newcomers bring to the city.

The Strategic Plan also built upon key recent achievements of HIPC, as captured by the 2016 Annual Report (attached as Appendix B to Report CES16041(a)). The annual report underscored the efficacy of collective ownership and collaborative action taking, which HIPC stakeholders have demonstrated since the inception of the immigration partnership in Hamilton.

New Partnership Council Membership:

The Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council meets quarterly and has broadened its membership to include leadership from Wesley Urban Ministries, Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, Hamilton Police Services and several community leaders. A new requirement is that it must have at least three members with lived experience as an immigrant or refugee. HIPC's 2017-2020 membership list is attached as Appendix C to Report CES16041(a).

In other municipalities similar to Hamilton, there is usually a Councillor or two who sit on Local Immigration Partnerships to lend visible leadership support on behalf of Council. Staff will informally engage councillors to determine if there is an interest.

The new HIPC's 2017-2020 Strategic Plan is a positive immigration strategy for Hamilton that will continue to rally community partners, support newcomers and enhance tangible outcomes for settlement service providers. The plan will also continue

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to track strategic actions, evaluate pertinent issues, address key challenges and consistently report on progress to make Hamilton a more thriving city for newcomers.

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: There are no financial implications associated with Report CES16041(b).

Staffing: There are no staffing implications associated with Report CES16041(b).

Legal: There are no legal implications associated with Report CES16041(b).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In February of 2008, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) - formerly known as Citizenship & Immigration Canada (CIC) - issued a call for proposals to municipalities and community organizations to apply for a new funding program called the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP). The goal of the proposed partnership then was to establish a community-wide/multi-sectoral partnership to strengthen community capacity, welcome newcomers and improve integration outcomes.

In May 2008, the City of Hamilton submitted a LIP proposal to create the “Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council” (HIPC). The funding proposal was submitted in collaboration with six community partners: Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion, Immigration Strategy Advisory Group, Centre de Santé Communautaire, Jobs Prosperity Collective, Settlement and Integration Services Organization (SISO) and St. Joseph’s Immigrant Working Centre. The grant proposal was successful.

HIPC was formally launched in 2009 as one of the first Local Immigration Partnerships in Ontario. Since then, IRCC has provided regular funding to the City of Hamilton to administer and support Hamilton’s Local Immigration Partnership. Between July 2009 and March 2017, IRCC provided \$2.2 million to the City of Hamilton to operate the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC). HIPC partners, including the City of Hamilton, also reported over \$4.1 million in in-kind support over the same period.

The support which IRCC provides to HIPC has been steady and encouraging. For example, for the fiscal year 2016-2017, IRCC initially approved \$237,500 but later revised their contribution by 2.2% to \$242,600 through a project grant. Similarly, IRCC initially funded HIPC for \$241,474 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, but which has now been increased by 32.6% to \$320,245 to conduct two new projects.

The new grant increases from IRCC to HIPC in the past couple of years are due to the recognition of what the partnership is doing in Hamilton. In essence, the HIPC partnership is increasingly becoming a role model for other LIPs in Canada. This was also evident recently when IRCC invited and funded HIPC staff to share best practices

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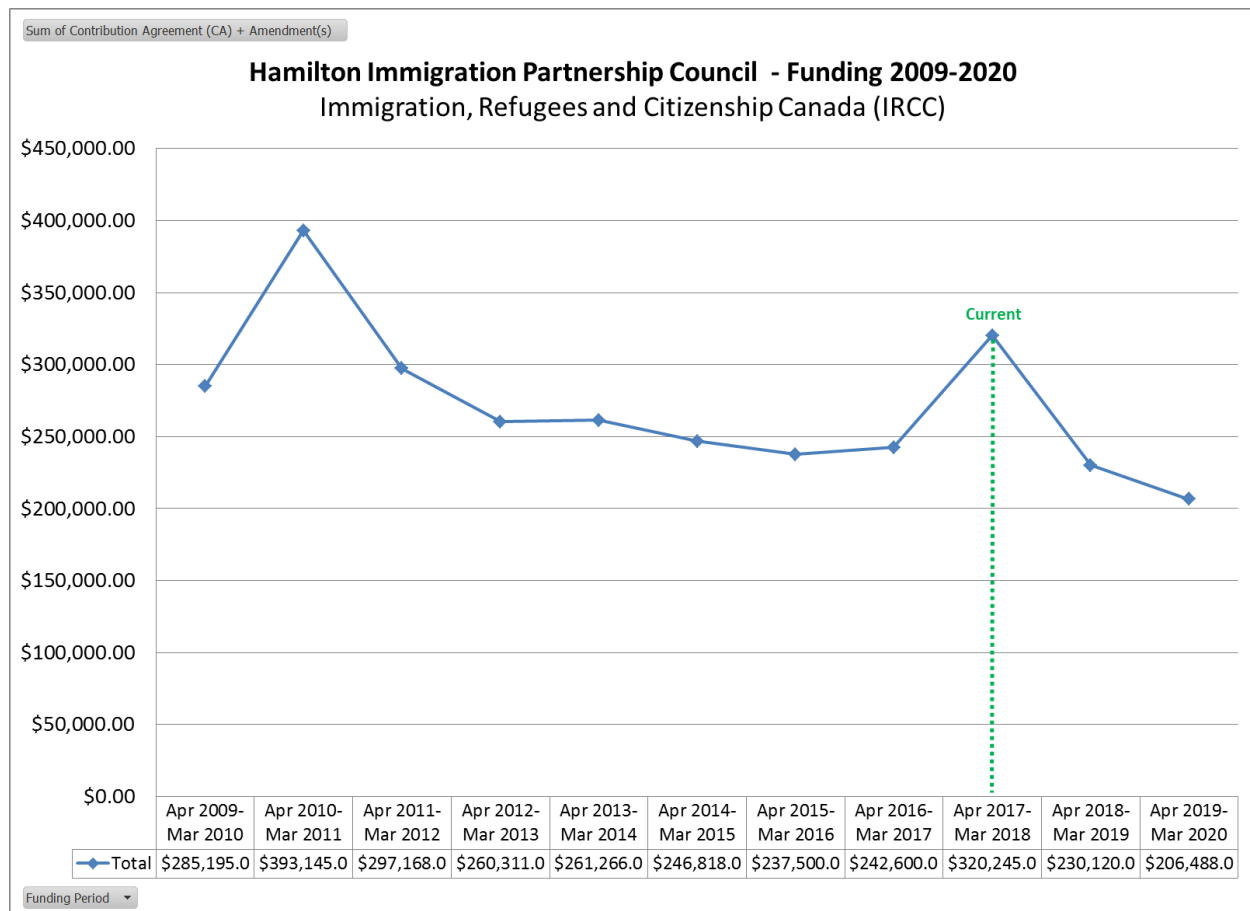
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from Hamilton with other LIPs in Canada at the June 2017 Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) Conference in Regina, Saskatchewan.

The figure below provides a 2009-2020 funding overview of HIPC:



Footnotes

A: The 2016-2017 IRCC funding included a one-time project grant of \$5,100 to support the evaluation of Syrian newcomers' resettlement in Hamilton.

B: The 2017-2018 IRCC funding included one-time project grants of \$25,023 and \$52,128 respectively, to support a sectoral mapping project and a community engagement initiative with newcomers.

The Immigration Context

Between November 2015 and April 30, 2017, the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) of Hamilton received the third largest number of landed immigrants (permanent residents) to Ontario, behind Toronto and Ottawa. According to the latest data from IRCC, Hamilton's newest residents include:

- 8,255 landed immigrants (From November 2015 to April 30, 2017)
 - Of the 8,255 landed immigrants, 31% (2,550) are refugee newcomers

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- Of the 2,550 that are refugee newcomers, 67% (1,715) are Syrian newcomers
- 240 temporary foreign workers (2015)
- 5,350 international students (2015)
- Data on individuals claiming refugee status in Ontario showed a 68% (8,960) increase of refugee claimants in Q1 of 2017 compared to Q1 (5,325) of 2016. (Data specific to Hamilton is not readily available).

Hamilton's labour force is aging and population growth is slowing (3.2% growth in five years leading up to 2016). Like many mid-sized cities across Ontario, Hamilton's population growth will almost entirely continue to depend on immigration, making a collaborative table for settlement service providers and newcomers like HIPC continues to be relevant.

Key Achievements: 2010-2015

Since funding from IRCC began in 2009, HIPC has led immigration partnership efforts supporting the successful settlement and integration of newcomers to Hamilton. Some of the key achievements of HIPC between 2010 and 2015 include:

- Produced a variety of research on health needs of newcomers, the significance of the informal sector in settling and integrating newcomers, Hamilton's labour market, and employers' readiness and experience in hiring immigrants.
- Developed a variety of resource guides to assist both service providers and newcomers.
- Partnered with Global Hamilton to support the development of the Immigrant Attraction Action Plan and implementation of media series in the Hamilton Spectator to highlight successful immigrants in area.
- Collaborated with Housing Services Division to ensure that the 10 year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan addresses housing needs of newcomers resulting in development of additional multi-bedroom social housing units to meet needs of larger newcomer families.

New Strategic Planning Process: 2015-2017

In 2015, HIPC initiated a new strategic planning and evaluation process. The focus of the process was on reconnecting with HIPC partners and newcomers in Hamilton to understand the partnership's strengths, challenges and opportunities for improvement in carrying out its mandate.

As part of the strategic planning process, consultations with newcomers and key community partners from across Hamilton were conducted. Research was also undertaken based on best practices, ranging from program innovation to effective governance models for Local Immigration Partnerships across the country. HIPC also

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revised its governance model, recruited new membership and provided critical support to the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Syrian newcomers. HIPC's key achievements in fiscal year 2016-2017 are attached as Appendix B to Report CES16041(a).

2017-2020 Strategic Plan

The new 2017-2020 Strategic Plan was formally launched in March 2017. The Plan is directly informed by the results of the research and consultations with the community stakeholders and newcomers. The Strategic Plan presents broad goals and actions to be achieved over the next three years by the HIPC partners, in collaboration with the City of Hamilton. HIPC's new 2017-2020 Strategic Plan is attached as Appendix A to Report CES16041(a).

HIPC's new Vision is "*Hamilton welcomes newcomers, celebrates diversity and is a place for everyone to call home*". The three key objectives and priorities of the new Strategic Plan include:

1. Newcomers are supported through strong community partnerships
Strategic Priority: Coordination of Services
2. Hamilton is a responsive, welcoming and inclusive community
Strategic Priority: Communications and Community Engagement
3. HIPC is a leader in immigration research and knowledge sharing
Strategic Priority: Research and Evaluation

For each strategic objective and priority, several initiatives are being defined and prioritized by working groups, partners and staff over the next three years to realize the new HIPC vision. HIPC's partnership has also been expanded to include the Hamilton Police, the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, Wesley Urban Ministries, Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre and other community leaders.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

Not applicable

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

The development of the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan and the recommendations of this report were informed by extensive public consultation and research. The stakeholders consulted include:

External Stakeholders

- Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council – partners and members

- 15 community leaders from the Boards of education, post-secondary institutions and other educational-based organizations
- Three focus group sessions with newcomers from Riverdale, Beasley and Rolston neighbourhoods (facilitated by the Social Planning Research Council)
- Students from Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) and Enhanced Language Training (ELT) students
- Research on Local Immigration Partnership best practices, in partnership with the University of Western Ontario and Pathways to Prosperity
- A full-day strategic planning session with HIPC partners

Internal Stakeholders

- Mayor's Office
- Hamilton Police Services
- Neighbourhood & Community Initiatives Division
- Ontario Works Division
- Public Health Services
- Global Hamilton, Economic Development Division

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Through a formal endorsement of the 2017-2020 HIPC's Strategic Plan, the City of Hamilton will serve as a key partner in recognizing the importance of newcomers to Hamilton. The endorsement will also send a strong leadership message to residents, stakeholders and community partners about the importance of HIPC's work in mobilizing systems, building relationships and advocating for the general wellbeing of newcomers. As key partners, the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council will continue to work together and help to remove economic and social integration barriers faced by newcomers in our community.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

None

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Engagement & Participation

Hamilton has an open, transparent and accessible approach to City government that engages with and empowers all citizens to be involved in their community.

Economic Prosperity and Growth

Hamilton has a prosperous and diverse local economy where people have opportunities to grow and develop.

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Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive city where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

Culture and Diversity

Hamilton is a thriving, vibrant place for arts, culture, and heritage where diversity and inclusivity are embraced and celebrated.

Our People and Performance

Hamiltonians have a high level of trust and confidence in their City government.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix A to Report CES16041(a): HIPC 2017-2020 Strategic Plan

Appendix B to Report CES16041(a): HIPC 2016 Annual Report

Appendix C to Report CES16041(a): 2017-2020 Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council Membership List