



MINUTES

Immigrant Advisory Table

Thursday, April 05 | 6-8pm | Boardroom, Abbotsford Community Services

Present	Regrets
Sharath Anaparthi	Adaly Molina
Adlin Babantaj	Elizabeth Jonas
Seydou Keita	Rajbir Virk
Arashdeep Sandhu	
Steve (Sang Don) Lee	
Nazreen Fathima Nawaz	
Sherry Wang	
Lilliana Harvard	
Eyerusalem Abebe	
Lia Bishop	
Guest	
Ranni Sangha-Tolman	

MEETING OPENING AND INTRODUCTIONS

Roundtable Introductions

APPROVAL

Agenda approved

February 27th Minutes approved

FOLLOW UP

Guest speaker Ranni Sangha-Tolman from *Job Connections for Immigrants (JCI) Project* (Program at Abbotsford Community Services) to discuss ACS's involvement in newcomer integration

- Employment is an integral part of the settlement process. There are three employment services at ACS: *Career Paths, Employment Mentoring and Job Connections for Immigrants (JCI)- pilot project.*
- *Employment Services* advertise their programs and services through various ways: hosting tables and info booths at different community events and public spaces like malls; posting ads on foreign languages website and on ACS official website; advertising on radio shows; talking about them in LINC (Language Instruction for



Newcomers) classes, distributing them across other programs at ACS; connecting with AbbyWorks; and spreading the information through word of mouth.

- *Newcomer services:* As newcomers arrive in Canada, there are different points where they get info related to newcomer services
Package at the airport: newcomers receive a package full of information including immigrant-serving agencies located in their new city.
Ranni suggests simplifying the information they receive so that they are not overwhelmed at the point of entrance.
First point of contact: ACS, and the Multicultural Division, hosts the vast majority of newcomer services and programs in Abbotsford. Newcomers who arrive in Vancouver, for example, would have to look up and contact multiple organizations.

JCI

- JCI is a program within the settlement department which helps newcomers who are collecting EI and are looking for jobs in customer service and retail. The program offers English proficiency, life skills and training (WHMS, food safe, First Aid, cashier training, etc.) related to how Canadian workplace operates.
- This program connects newcomers to employers through practicum placements where the program is responsible for the wage of the employee for the first few weeks. By the end of that “practicum” period, the employer has an opportunity to hire the employee.

NewToBC Event debrief

The event was very insightful. The presentation of demographic profile of newcomers in Abbotsford and the panel discussion with newcomers and service providers offered important information about the success of available newcomer services in Abbotsford as well as identifying some gaps where we need to work further.

Immigrant Advisory Table: Terms of Reference

IAT’s Terms of Reference document is updated and ready for viewing on the ALIP website. This is a “living” document and can be reviewed and revised at any time the Immigrant Advisory Table decides.

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