

## CHAPTER 9

## CONCLUSION

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Local Immigration Partnership process in Waterloo Region proved to be a very dynamic process in which over 250 people played important roles. Many of them maintained their faith in the LIP process despite their having participated over decades in many other attempts to address the needs and gaps that hinder immigrants and refugees from becoming full participants in all aspects of our community.

The Interim LIP Council played a crucial role in supporting the process by sharing their insights, giving feedback and generally guiding the process over more than one year. A list of the members of the Interim Council follow:

#### List of Waterloo Region Local Immigration Partnership Committee Members

Organization	Representative	Alternate
Conestoga College	Laura Stoutenburg	Andrea Leis
Greater KW Chamber of Commerce	Art Sinclair	Joan Fisk
The Working Centre	Dave Thomas	Stephanie Mancini
Mennonite Coalition for Refugee Support	Eunice Valenzuela	
Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre and CCORIC	Fauzia Mazhar	
Waterloo Public Library	Gloria Van Eek-Meijers	
Cambridge YMCA	Javed Chaudhry	
Lutherwood	Leda Gonzalez	Louise Surnoskie
Social Planning Council Cambridge & North Dumfries	Linda Terry	
Region of Waterloo	David Dirks	Lorie Fioze
KW Multicultural Centre	Lucia Harrison	
KW Reception Centre	Mira Malidzanovic	Lynne Griffiths
KW YMCA	Maria Alvarez	Almira Hodzic
House of Friendship	Michael Hackbusch	
Focus for Ethnic Women	Olga George-Cosh	
City of Kitchener	Shelley Adams	
Kitchener Public Library	Sonia Lewis	
Cambridge Public Library	Betty Wilson	
WRIEN	Nora Whittington	

All of the participants in the Community Strategy Sessions and especially in the Task Groups contributed many hours to the development of the Settlement/Integration Strategy and Action Plan and the Partnership Council Structure. Lists of participants in each of these groups can be found in the summary reports on the CCBR website at:

<http://www.communitybasedresearch.ca/Page/View/LIP.html>.

The immigrants, refugees and employers who participated in the focus groups helped immensely in bringing a reality check to the needs and gaps and subsequent Strategic Directions and Action Strategies developed by the Task Groups. For reasons of confidentiality we have not tracked their names.

We also acknowledge the very helpful contribution by members of the WRIEN Steering Committee who met periodically with LIPC representatives in open and frank discussions about the LIP progress and the crucial relationship between WRIEN & LIPC. A number of them also participated in Task Groups, particularly those related to employment and LIP structure.

The representatives of the three lead partners contributed endless hours to ensuring that the LIP process was inclusive and transparent and achieved the deliverables promised in our contract with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). Those lead partners were: the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, with Mike Murray and Lorie Fioze as the lead representatives. Peter McFadden and Nora Whittington represented the Waterloo Region Immigrant Employment Network (WRIEN); Lucia Harrison, chair of WRIEN's Immigrant Support Working Group (ISWG) represented an expanded ISWG as the Interim Local Immigration Partnership Council. Facilitation of the process was led by the Centre for Community Based Research, represented by Yasir Dildar, Peggy Hastings-Weston, Rich Janzen and Theron Kramer.

Finally, a word of thanks to Gideon Prins from Citizenship & Immigration Canada who worked on our behalf to ensure our needs were met by his department. He participated in the Interim LIPC meetings and, when needed, the Planning Group meetings with representatives of the lead partners.

## NEXT STEPS

The next steps in moving into Phase 2 of the LIP process will begin immediately following the Community Forum in order not to lose the momentum built up over the past year. A work plan will need to be developed and a suggested format for that follows. While next steps have been identified, many other aspects of the work plan have yet to be determined.

The suggested work plan assumes that the Interim LIP Council will continue to function until a new Council is in place.

Operational funding for the new Partnership Council will be imperative for the success of full implementation of the Settlement/Integration Strategy and Action Plan and for development of a fully functioning structure.

<b>NEXT STEP</b>	<b>ACTIONING RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>OVERSITE RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>TIMING</b>
Review and submit Phase 1 Final Report to CIC	Interim LIPC	Region	April 15/10
Revise Final Report for community distribution			
Develop process for identifying and	Interim LIPC		April 12

<b>NEXT STEP</b>	<b>ACTIONING RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>TIMING</b>
soliciting membership for new Partnership Council			
Appoint new Partnership Council members	Interim LIPC		
Work with the Region of Waterloo regarding "hosting" of LIPC		Partnership Council	
Continue to work with WRIEN about the integration of LIPC and WRIEN		Partnership Council	
Develop a work plan and budget for the new Strategy and new Council			
Secure funding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and other funders			
Populate the working groups of "Settling," "Working" and "Belonging"		Partnership Council	
Prioritize strategies and actions			
Develop a plan to sustain the LIPC			
Develop an evaluation plan for the work of the LIPC			