

For Information

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DATE: August 13, 2013

REPORT TITLE: **PEEL NEWCOMER STRATEGY GROUP (PNSG)**

FROM: Janet Menard, Commissioner of Human Services

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## **OBJECTIVE**

To provide an update on the Peel Newcomer Strategy Group (PNSG) objectives, priorities and activities to complement the PNSG delegation.

### **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Peel Newcomer Strategy Group (PNSG) is a community collaborative designed to enhance the social and economic inclusion of immigrants to the Peel community.
- Its core functions are facilitation, coordination, research and community planning, and responsibility for the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) mandate in Peel.
- The Region of Peel is a co-founder of PNSG with Peel United Way and since its inception in 2006, has provided financial or in-kind support.
- In 2013, PNSG released its Collective Impact Report (2012-2013), which provides stakeholders with a broad planning and measurement framework that ensures accountability to the community as well as to the stakeholders and funders.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **1. Background**

The Peel Newcomer Strategy Group (PNSG) is a community collaborative designed to enhance the social and economic inclusion of immigrants to the Peel community. Established by the United Way and Region of Peel in 2006, PNSG is now guided by a Central Planning Table (CPT), comprised of key stakeholders representing all tiers of government as well as business, non-profit settlement and integration, health and education sectors.

Although the formation of PNSG precedes the establishment of Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) in Ontario, PNSG is responsible for the LIP mandate in Peel. LIPs were established in 2008 through the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement (COIA) in order to mobilize community-based planning tables, where all levels of government partner with community stakeholders to improve the social and economic integration of newcomers. Citizenship and Immigration Canada is the major funder of PNSG.

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## PEEL NEWCOMER STRATEGY GROUP (PNSG)

As a collaborative, PNSG is focused on influencing system change by: facilitating local efforts to integrate newcomers in Peel; strengthening the role of the Peel community in welcoming and serving newcomers; and providing a local planning framework that facilitates the development and implementation of sustainable solutions for successful newcomer settlement and integration.

### a) Settlement and Inclusion Strategy

In 2008, after two years of research, consultation and analysis, PNSG published the *"Newcomer Settlement and Inclusion in Peel: Building on Existing Assets"* report. The report identifies ways to expand on supports for settlement and integration for newcomers in Peel through the establishment of four principles to guide the development and implementation of a more responsive service system that will:

- i) Strengthen service coordination and planning across the region
- ii) Ensure accessible, client-centred services for all newcomers
- iii) Create a continuum of effective employment strategies
- iv) Enhance the receptivity of the host community

### b) Other Activities

PNSG continues to work to mobilize stakeholders and build capacity in the settlement sector through its facilitation, coordination, research and community planning functions. The collaborative has released community profiles, research reports and a community plan; held workshops, consultations, and conferences; and organized service delivery network pilots in five communities in Peel.

## 2. Collective Impact Report

In 2013, PNSG released its Collective Impact Report (2012-2013) which provides a broad framework of the collaborative's work and measurement indicators of success. PNSG positions this report as a starting point to implement the Peel community plan over the next five years.

### a) What is Collective Impact?

Collective impact refers to the commitment of individuals/organizations, from different sectors, to a common agenda for solving a complex social problem. It is based on the principle that no single organization can create large-scale, lasting change alone, but rather broad cross-sectoral coordination is necessary in order to make an impact. There are four conditions necessary to achieve collective impact:

- i) *Common Vision*: a common understanding of the problem and a joint approach to solving it through agreed upon actions;
- ii) *Mutually Reinforcing Activities*: Collecting data and measuring results consistently across all participants ensures efforts remain aligned and participants hold each other accountable.
- iii) *Continuous Communication*: Consistent and open communication is needed across the many players to build trust, assure mutual objectives, and appreciate common motivations
- iv) *Backbone Support*: Creating and managing collective impact requires a separate organization(s) with staff and a specific set of skills to serve as the backbone for the entire initiative and coordinate participating organizations and agencies.

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**CONCLUSION**

PNSG is a strong community partner with an excellent history of working to improve newcomer settlement and integration in Peel Region. The collaborative has established a community vision and shared measurements that ensure results-based accountability and collective impact. Through multi-funder support and diverse partnerships, PNSG continues to champion the successful social and economic inclusion of immigrants in Peel and seeks to implement their community plan over the next five years.



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Commissioner of Human Services

**Approved for Submission:**



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