English version
Completed September 16, 2026

NORTH EAST TORONTO
Local Immigration Partnership

IRCC NAARS CoP for North East Toronto - mtg 2

Minutes

Thursday February 26, 2026
2:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Hybrid - Fairview Library & Zoom

In attendance:
Sharon Neumann (**ACCES Employment**), Jamillah Mananghaya (**ACSA Community Services**), Ghatool Maiwand (**Afghan Women's Organization**), Cecil Jaladian (**Armenian Family Support Services**), Catherine McKibbin (**Bob Rumball Canadian Centre of Excellence for the Deaf**), Iryna Kalakaylo (**Canadian Ukrainian Immigrant Aid Society - CUIAS**), Holly Best (**CARE Centre for Internationally Educated Nurses**), Lisa Loong (**Catholic Crosscultural Services - CCS**), Tracy Wu (**Centre for Immigrant and Community Services - CICS**), Ferishta Azim (**Circle of Care**), Barbara Andrade (**City of Toronto - Employment and Social Services**), Maimou Wali (**Collège La Cité**), Amy Li (**Community Family Services of Ontario - CFSO**), Brandon De Barros (**COSTI**), Syed Shah (**First work**), Suyeon Jin (**For U Telecare Family Services**), Nicolas Arnaud-Goddet (**FrancoQueer**), Arnaud Baudry (**FrancoQueer**), Helen Nguyen (**HF Care**), Laura Gold (**JIAS Toronto**), Ana Bernstein (**JVS Toronto**), Marina Ayvazyan (**JVS Toronto**), Rizza Solis (**Kababayan Multicultural Centre**), Jackie Eunjoo Kim (**KCWA Family and Social Services**), Prescilla Magne (**La Maison/ Maison d'hébergement pour femmes francophones**), Kheda Denieva (**Learning Disabilities Association of Toronto District**), Chama Chongo (**Madison Community Services**), Zena Birhany (**Madison Community Services**), Brittany Gurr (**East Scarborough Storefront**), Cathy Mwanza (**Malvern Family Resource Centre**), Martha Granados (**Mennonite New Life Centre**), Sarah Dicks (**Neighbourlink North York**), Kimona Hudson (**New Circles Community Centre**), Dhurata Sinani (**Newcomer Women's Services**), Maxine McKoy (**North York Community House**), Elis Prokopets (**North York Harvest Food Bank**), Michelle Campbell (**NPower Canada**), Bassem Haydar (**Polycultural Immigrant and Community Services**), Stacey Van Vliet (**Polycultural Immigrant and Community Services**), Getahun Gebrekidan (**Progress Career Planning Institute - PCPI**), JeanClaude Nda (**Réseau en Immigration Francophone Centre-Sud-Ouest de l'Ontario - RIFCSO**), Connie Russell (**Silent Voice Canada Inc**.), Kelly MacKenize (**Silent Voice Canada Inc**.), Erica Groome (**Société écomique de l'Ontario**), Arujuhna Rajadurai (**Strides Toronto Support Services**), Sancika Gunasegaran (**TESOC Multicultural Settlement and Community Services**), Asvini Rajanandan (**TESOC Multicultural Settlement and Community Services**), Sahar Ghayasuddin (**The Arab Community Center of Toronto ACCT**), Peter Chiu (T**he Cross-Cultural Community Services Association**), Janice Tsoi (**The Cross-Cultural Community Services Association**), Ambi Sinna (**The Housing Help Centre**), Corine Hibbert-Samuels

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(**The Neighbourhood Organization**), Patricia Berney (**Toronto Catholic District School Board**), Pooja Chaudhary (**Toronto District School Board**), Cristina Graida (**Toronto District School Board**), Arunthathy Ratnasingham (**University Settlement**), Ryan Berg (**WCG International**), Diana Moran de Monges (**Working Women Community Centre**), Veronica Hercules (**YMCA of Greater Toronto**), Karine Vodopianova (**Yonge Eglinton Community Centre**), Monica Brennan (**York University**), Suhaila (Su) Ali (**Youth Assisting Youth**), Nicole Sutherland (**YWCA Toronto**)

Isobel Goddard, Srna Stambuk, Giovanni Rico, Sahar Sayedy, Farnoosh Saneei – **NET LIP;** Esther Tauhid, Dawn Baird-Spence, Rezvan Abdollahi Sichani, Haseeb Ahmad – **IRCC;** Paulina Wyrzykowski - **TSW LIP;** English/French Interpretation: **UN Language Services;** ASL Interpretation: **Asign Interpreting**

Minutes: Isobel Goddard **(NET LIP)**

Note: These minutes could be read in conjunction with the meeting's presentation deck.

Item	Discussion	Follow Ups
Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, Introductions, Consent for Recording	- The meeting was opened with information sharing on accessibility supports for the meeting, including interpretation for English/French and ASL. - A land acknowledgement was shared. - Housekeeping for participants joining on zoom and in the room was explained, including meeting recording for which participants had no questions or objections. - The agenda and meeting purpose was shared: **Meeting purpose:** Primarily to receive the information needed for the Community of Practice to vote in the lead for future CoP work.	
Follow Ups from Meeting 1: Zones, FAQs & Best Practices	Updates were shared for the following items for meeting 1: - CoP Zones: IRCC have confirmed the zones are still being drafted and will be brought to the CoP when ready. - Best Practices: In a meeting held with CoP members for Toronto South West, IRCC were asked if they could share best practices from CoPs elsewhere in Canada, where the model has already been implemented. IRCC updated NET	IRCC to provide draft zones for review and validation at a future CoP meeting. IRCC to provide a best practices document once ready.

	LIP before this meeting to confirm this is in progress and will be shared once ready. - FAQs: IRCC were provided with all questions from the previous meeting and provided answers to 21 questions, in English, for this meeting. For efficiency of time in the meeting, the questions and answers of 7 questions relevant to the current meeting's purpose were read aloud for participants to hear them in English or French. The full document will be professionally translated and shared with all CoP members shortly.	NET LIP to have the full question list translated and shared with all CoP members by Mar 4.
Presentation from Nominated Organisation for Community of Practice Lead with Q&A	One organization had a confirmed self-nomination for the role of CoP lead at this meeting – NET LIP. Prior to the deadline for nominations, The Neighbourhood Organization (TNO) had self-nominated. This information was shared to CoP participants as part of the agenda shared prior to this meeting. TNO decided to withdraw their self-nomination, and shared their rationale to the CoP that ultimately, they decided to use their role as a consortium member of NET LIP and a direct service provider within the CoP to collaborate and support the development and progress of the CoP. NET LIP presented their case for why they would be an appropriate choice for the role of Community of Practice lead, including their understanding of: 1. the CoP's requirements 2. the CoP lead's roles and responsibilities 3. how NET LIP would assume points 1 and 2. 4. their plan for supporting the CoP to achieve its goals.	NET LIP to share the presentation to all members for their reference. NET LIP to share this presentation along with all other relevant information to IRCC funded agencies for their consideration during the voting process.

	NET LIP emphasized the requirement of the lead to propose the above, and to build a space for the CoP to discuss, adjust as needed, endorse, and work on the plan effectively. Some background was offered following a question about which organisations are in each of the current CoPs in Toronto - any organization who serves in both CoPs is eligible to be in both. Any organization who feels they should be attending both CoPs and is not so contact the organizer (Isobel, NET LIP) to be put in touch with TSW LIP who are organizing the parallel CoP in Toronto for the South West.	
Break	The CoP took a 5-minute break.	
Information on the Process for Voting on the Community of Practice Lead	NET LIP proposed that a vote could still take place with one nomination as it could be used as a way to gauge endorsement of those eligible. It also maintains the request from the 1st meeting to keep the process anonymous. NET LIP proposed the CoP should agree on the following: 1. Minimum percentage of the eligible organizations required to vote (quorum) to confirm the outcome as valid. 2. Minimum percentage of votes made that are in favour of NET LIP as CoP lead for them to assume the role. The following points were raised: Point 1 - - CoP participants agreed that because the vote will be anonymous, NET LIP is not able to chase eligible votes to complete the vote by the deadline of March 6, so the percentage for this should not be too high, especially as it is a very busy time of year for people and organizations. -	NET LIP will issue voting information to eligible voters, along with information from the meeting, by 3:00pm Fri Feb 27. Voting will be open until March 6, 5pm. Vote results will be announced on Mon March 9 to all CoP members. Eligible voters will receive voting information to the designated CoP representatives who should consult and submit one vote for their organization.

	Point 2: - There were mixed responses about this percentage but many of them leaned towards NET LIP's proposal of 80% of those who vote, should vote to endorse. A question was raised on whether the vote could take place during this meeting. It was clarified that because not everyone present is eligible to vote, the vote would take place after the meeting for those people. It was asked and clarified that any IRCC funded organization who serves in both CoPs is eligible to be in both, and therefore vote in both CoPs. It was discussed and generally agreed that whoever takes on the lead for CoP should hold that position until the end of the current contract agreement period. There was consensus on the following: 1. Minimum percentage of the eligible organizations required to vote (quorum) to confirm the outcome as valid – **50% + 1** 2. Minimum percentage of votes made that are in favour of NET LIP as CoP lead for them to assume the role – **80%**	
Facilitated discussion on the initial plan for a Community of Practice	A lot of feedback was shared during the meeting, specifically on what the CoP will need to consider for a successful shift to a new DNS model. It was proposed and agreed that this discussion could wait until a future meeting.	Questions raised by the CoP will be compiled and shared to CoP members, as well as IRCC for official responses.

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		The confirmed CoP lead will pick this conversation back up at a future time.

Next Steps, Closing	The next steps were described:
	- IRCC funded agencies will receive the following by 3pm Fri Feb 27:
	  - Presentations from this meeting
	  - Instructions and timeline for voting
	- Non-IRCC funded members will receive the presentations by Fri Feb 27, EOD.
		Any questions raised by members after the meeting should be shared to NET LIP via isobel@torontonorthlip.ca for compiling for the CoP lead.