



REPORT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, October 15, 2008

Session:	Public Session
Subject:	Library Settlement Partnership (LSP)
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Presented By:	Susanna Hubbard Krimmer
Purpose of Report:	For Receipt and Information Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Library Board receive this report.

Opportunity /Issue

The London Public Library community engagement strategy is about building synergistic relationships with our community in order to:

- Develop and build a vibrant community made up of active neighbourhoods and strong social networks using the layers of resources already present in the community; and
- Provide relevant library services that are integral to the fabric of this vibrant community.

The community improves as the library becomes an active, contributing player and the library improves because it is more relevant to the community. The **London Public Library Strategic Plan** articulates the need for library community engagement in order to fulfill its promise to the community of being inclusive, essential and accessible.

This report is to provide an overview of the Library Settlement Partnership (LSP), a community engagement initiative designed to support the needs of new immigrants, in which London Public Library is participating.

Background

The Library Settlement Partnership is a program offered in partnership between Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), libraries and local immigrant settlement service providers. The focus of the LSP program is to provide settlement services to newcomers by connecting them to the resources in the community that support their settlement needs and to facilitate the introduction of newcomers to library services. The Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants states: "Libraries are among the first places newcomers go after arrival in Canada

to get information on their new country, to use public computers to contact friends and family at home, and to get information about their new communities. It makes sense to connect libraries with settlement service providers, who can provide the in-depth and appropriate services and information to help newcomers in their settlement process.” (Source: <http://www.settlement.org/index.asp>).

CIC recently piloted the Library Settlement Partnerships (LSP) in Hamilton, Ottawa and Toronto libraries. CIC is in process of expanding the program across Ontario and London Public Library was invited to participate.

The London LSP program will be offered by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), London Public Library, and the following settlement providers: The South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre, London Cross Cultural Learner Centre, and LUSO Community Services, in partnership with Centre for Lifelong Learning. The LSP program will be offered at Central Library, Beacock, Jalna and Sherwood Branch libraries. Five full time Library Settlement Worker positions have been approved by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (2 for Central Library and 1 for Sherwood in partnership with London Cross Cultural Learner Centre; 1 for Beacock in partnership with LUSO and Centre for Lifelong Learning; 1 for Jalna in partnership with South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre).

Specific goals of the London LSP program include:

- Newcomers will have convenient access to community settlement resources at the library and successful referral to the full range of services in the wider community.
- Recent immigrants and their families will benefit from access to library resources and services meeting their literacy, learning, information, culture, leisure and recreation, technology, and community meeting needs and will become active library members.
- Settlement specialists will have an additional venue in the community to extend their services to newcomers.
- Library staff and settlement service providers will be more informed about each other’s missions, roles, strengths and resources and the needs of the newcomer population.
- LSP settlement service providers and LPL will develop a coordinated approach to the planning, development and implementation of information and referral service delivery to facilitate access of newcomers to settlement, library and other services.

Next Steps

A London LSP Steering Committee has been formed and *Terms of Reference* have been developed. The development of an implementation action plan is underway.