



CIN Youth Services Meeting

Ideas for Youth Activities

Toronto, January 23, 2014

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BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF PEEL

Presenter: Zuhail Khoja, 905-457-7288 ex243, Zuhail.khoja@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca

Multicultural Event

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY: Multicultural Event hosted by Conversation Club youth and volunteer mentors.

The event was hosted by the youth and volunteer mentors of 5 different Conversation Club sites. The youth and mentors worked very hard brainstorming ideas, practicing their specific performances and inviting their family and friends to the event. It was an evening that allowed the youth to showcase their talents and their cultures in a non-judgmental environment where everyone was proud of their identity.

A few highlights were:

- Spoken word performance sharing the meaning of diversity and inclusion to the youth
- A performance of tabla (instrument from India) accompanied with acoustic guitar
- A fashion show from India and Afghanistan
- A PowerPoint presentation about Egypt
- Display boards featuring China and Nepal
- A fusion dance of classical Indian dance, Kathak, and tradition Punjabi dance, Bhangra
- A karate demonstration
- Musical performances by the youth and mentors, including an impersonation of Michael Jackson, which everyone loved.
- A very impactful presentation featured the Sussex Club youth as they introduced themselves with their name and home country on a paper held in front of them. The youth talked about coming to Canada and what the Conversation Club meant to them. After all the introductions, they called out togetherAND WE ARE ALL CANADIAN!.....as they turned their cards over to spell CANADIAN.

WHY IT IS SPECIAL:

Gaining leadership skills
Collaboration of ideas with other youth and mentors
Enhancing presentation skills
Taking pride in presenting their cultures
Showcasing their talents

BRAMPTON MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY CENTRE

Presenter: Andrea Tagalakis, 905-790-8482, andrea.tagalakis@bmccentre.org

March Break Civic Awareness Camp

Description of Activity: Be the Change – March Break Activity

The BMC SWIS team coordinated with BMC's youth program - Be the Change - to run a March Break Camp at a Secondary School in the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board. The camp's objective was to promote civic awareness and engagement amongst youth by providing them with training workshops to enhance their leadership capabilities and to empower them to participate in the decision-making processes in their community. The workshops focused on the following core competencies: Leadership, Advocacy, Communication Skills, Public Speaking, Negotiation Skills, Political Structures (municipal and regional in Peel) and Social Media; the competencies necessary to implement change. On the final day participants were taken to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario (Queen's Park) to observe the MPPs as they deliberated on provincial issues.

Outcomes:

- Participants are empowered as they have the skills to implement change.
- Participants can become mentors for future cohorts, thus utilizing their leadership skills.
- Participants are more knowledgeable about political processes and civic engagement.

CATHOLIC CENTRE FOR IMMIGRANTS

Presenter: Jody Beeching, 613-232-9634 ex348, jody@cic.ca

Community Connections Skating

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY: Skating program

I am a member of the Community Connections team at CCI in Ottawa. We have a few different regular activities for our youth clients, including a Saturday drop-in and a homework club, but I chose our skating program to talk about, for a few reasons:

Firstly we hold it in a public space, which is free to use, open from 7:00a.m. to 11:00p.m. and is up and running from November to March for anyone to enjoy. We don't need to pay, book rooms, or move colleagues out of meetings to do this. Clients use public transport and walk through city hall to get to the rink--- simple activities that also have a value. The activity is popular with the youth clients but is open to all ages, which I believe increases its value.

Secondly it's a great example of the power of volunteers and donations. We have a group of 20+ volunteers who have registered with us to share their love of skating by helping new Canadians learn to skate. We're not saying "To be a real Canadian you have to skate" (though we are saying, "If you can find something to enjoy in the winter, life in Canada will be easier for you!"), we're just saying that these people (that is, the volunteers), love skating, and they want to share that, and here is a free space for you to use. The skates we use are 100% donated, which gives us the chance to deliver spiels about the program and about our organization in general. Again, some volunteers are youthful and some are less youthful. I believe that having a mixture of peers and older people involved in the same activity is very valuable.

Thirdly, we like to think we've increased awareness of our work. Volunteers wear yellow vests to skate. We got a brief clip in CTV News, the mayor has joined us once for a chat and a photo, and every week people come and ask what we're doing. We have even recruited volunteers and participants at the rink.

Details: Clients sign a waiver, we rummage for a pair of skates for them, they get a volunteer, and they skate. We encourage people to wear helmets (we have helmets too!) and we have donated cupcakes and a big thermos of hot chocolate. The activity is for two hours every Thursday and it's our hope that clients will keep the skates and start skating on their own. Even better, we hope that they have made friends, become more comfortable with winter, exercised, seen a new part of the city and used a public space that is there for them and for us all.

Health and safety: Clients sign a waiver; volunteers have gone through our volunteer process which includes an interview, reference check and police check; we take a first aid kit; and the city also has its own staff patrolling the rinks and the canal during winter.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES OF YORK REGION (CCSYR)

Presenter: Eileen Wan, 416-627-7563, ewan@cicswis.ca

Voice Out! Newcomer Stories through Art

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

It is a youth initiated and led activity in which newcomer youth are given a platform not only to narrate their immigrant stories and struggles through art (e.g. drama) but also utilize their knowledge and skill (a strength-base program).

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES OF YORK REGION (CCSYR)

Presenters:

Esther Kang, 416-670-4778, ekang@cicswis.ca

Eman Hasan, 416-670-4778 ehasan@ccsy.org

Social Justice & Diversity Youth Conference

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

SEPYR (Settlement & Education Partnership in York Region), in partnership with the Canadian Red Cross, organizes the Annual Youth Conference on Social Justice and Diversity. It is a youth conference for the Catholic high school students and the public board. This year will be the 7th year that we are holding the conference for our schools in York Region.

Objectives: Day of activities, workshop and discussion and envisioning a better tomorrow for the youth of York Region.

Outcomes: Empowering youth to participate in all conference activities related to social justice issues, share their experience, build self-confidence, make friends, develop leadership skills and more.

Project Description:

- 1- Purpose: Youth will have the chance to be a part of the Engagement thru Education program.
 - Conference allows them to get involved in creating change, speaking up & sharing.
 - Brainstorming, discussions, and talking with other youth about which social justice issues matter most to them.
 - Groups will choose one issue (such as bullying, poverty, donation for Sick Kids, raising money for victims of typhoons, etc.). They will develop a campaign to make change.
 - Groups will do a presentation in front of others, which allows them to discuss and express their opinions and ideas about their campaign.
 - After the conference, students are required to participate in doing any kind of volunteer work in their school or community or any other organization to implement their learning experience. The work will be directed by School Settlement Workers (from SEPYR program).
- 2- Structures: The conference will be presented by student volunteers at Canadian Red Cross.
- 3- Date or Duration: It has been one day during March Break every year. This year will have two days: one day for Public School Board & one for Catholic School Board.
- 4- Target Participants and how many: for the last 6 years, we got around 80 students every year.
- 5- Schools: from YRDSB & YCDSB Students.

To see the poster, click here [Youth Justice Conf Poster](#).

CENTRE DE SANTÉ COMMUNAUTAIRE HAMILTON/NIAGARA

Presenter: Lynn Hadley, 905-734-1141 ex2320, lynn.hadley@cschn.ca

Awareness through Jeopardy Game

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

As Settlement Workers in Schools we offer awareness workshops to elementary and secondary students. In order to keep things interesting and engaging with the students we have converted a lot of our workshops in a Jeopardy game. We have purchased a game called Eggspert which helps us play the game in a controlled manner. We have found that the information is easier to deliver and creates an element of fun with the students.

Comme travailleur d'établissement dans les écoles nous offrons une variété d'ateliers de sensibilisation aux écoles élémentaires et secondaires. Dans le but de faire les choses de façon intéressantes et afin de garder l'intérêt chez les jeunes nous avons converti beaucoup de nos ateliers sous format de Jeopardy. Nous avons fait l'achat d'un jeu Eggspert afin de nous aider à gérer l'activité. On trouve que l'information est plus facile à transmettre et ceci crée un élément de plaisir chez les jeunes.

CENTRE FOR IMMIGRANT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES (CICS)

Presenters:

Faheze Hayes, 647-999-8623, fhayes@cicswis.ca

Natalie Perini, 647-999-6320, nperini@cicswis.ca

Homework Club for Newcomer Students

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

The club will give newcomer students a great opportunity to get academic help from experienced students. It also provides a great opportunity to make new friends with the same culture group. In addition helping each other in their own languages is highly effective. Also it provides a good environment for the students to facilitate discussion and we provide important settlement information in the classroom for them.

CENTRE FOR IMMIGRANT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES (CICS)

Presenter: Iris Iskander, 647-999-1679, iiskander@cicswis.ca

40 Hours and Beyond

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

40 Hours Beyond and Above the graduation requirements: This topic will help students to understand the purpose and the benefits of volunteering, as well as where to find a volunteer opportunity. Also, the importance of exploring a variety of volunteer opportunities rather than limiting themselves to one place.

WHY IT IS SPECIAL:

- First, because it is one of the high school graduation requirements.
- Second, it will help newcomer students to understand the purpose of volunteering and where to find volunteer jobs.
- Third, it will increase their awareness about the importance of volunteering and the importance of going beyond the 40 hours required.

COMMUNITY MICROSKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Presenters:

Berta Mancía, 416-247-7181 ex2618, bmancia@microskills.ca

Michelle Tinker, 416-247-7181 ex2606, mtinker@microskills.ca

Humber Homework

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY: Education Support, Humber Homework. A bus travels to 3 schools, takes students to Humber College. College students are tutors.

To see the PowerPoint presentation, click here [Microskills Youth Services Presentation](#).

CONSEIL SCOLAIRE DE DISTRICT CATHOLIQUE CENTRE-SUD

Presenters:

Marie-Pierre Daoust, 416-557-4958, mdaoust@csdccc.edu.on.ca;

Vitia Buaba Zam, 416-706-7907, vzam@csdccc.edu.on.ca;

Mélika Fontaine, 416-708-4573, mfontaine@csdccc.edu.on.ca;

Soirée Célébrons le Canada

DESCRIPTION DE L'ACTIVITÉ:

Soirée de remerciement des élèves alliés, avec remise de certificats de participation au programme Accueil des nouvelles arrivantes et des nouveaux arrivants dans les écoles (ANNA). Les parents de ces élèves nouvellement arrivés au pays étaient invités à y assister et à participer à un atelier portant sur les défis des parents nouveaux-arrivants.

Les élèves ont pu assister à une présentation d'un joueur de la Ligue Nationale de Football d'origine haïtienne. Un modèle positif qui montre aux élèves nouvellement arrivés toutes les opportunités qui s'offrent à eux et que le fait d'être nouvel arrivant n'est pas toujours une barrière à leur réussite.

Une soirée unique parce que les jeunes et leurs parents ont pu célébrer leurs réussites et participer à une activité avec leurs pairs sur un thème qui les intéresse. Les parents ont pu voir ce qu'ont accompli leurs enfants et tout le potentiel qu'ils ont pour réussir. Les élèves étaient fiers de montrer à leurs parents ce qu'ils ont réalisé pendant l'année.

Nous allons répéter cette activité en 2014, mais ce sont les élèves qui vont monter eux-mêmes la soirée pour la communauté. Grâce à leur participation à un plan de leadership (série de formations offertes

pendant l'année scolaire 2013-14), les élèves seront outillés pour monter cette activité et en faire la promotion au sein de la communauté.

DIXIE BLOOR NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

Presenters:

Adnan Grbesic, 905-629-1873 ex300, agrebesic@dixiebloor.org
Lindel Merraro 905-629-1873 ex303, LindelM@dixiebloor.org

Kitchen Connection Program

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

DBNC will be sharing our NYCE (Newcomer Youth Community Engagement) program as well as our Kitchen Connections program that operates in collaboration with NYCE.

DUFFERIN PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Presenter: Joanna Kubica, 905-361-2344 ex60679, joanna.kubica@dpcdsb.org

Writer's Showcase

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Every year they produce a book collecting stories by students. The books for elementary students are multilingual. They are given to all the authors, used in classes, and kept in the library. The school board pays some of the costs.

EAST METRO YOUTH SERVICES

Presenter: Sobika Sadacharam, 416-438-3697 ex257, ssadacharam@emys.on.ca

"My Digital Voice" film series

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

"My Digital Voice" was a one-time project created by East Metro Youth Services' Newcomer Youth Program, in partnership with The Psychology Foundation of Canada. This multi-media project consisted of a series of short films created by newcomer youth who shared their experiences of coming to Canada. Each of the ten films was based upon real experiences that are common to young people and their families when they immigrate to a new place.

This unique project provided newcomer youth with a platform to share their personal story of mental health and immigrating to Canada. Given the success of the project, The Psychology Foundation of Canada adopted this film series as a learning module for other frontline workers. Additionally, this project was featured on Canada AM, whereby one of the youth received the opportunity to share this project on national television.

FAMILY SERVICES TORONTO

Presenter: Rabila Attai, 416-586-9780 ex427, RabilaAt@familyservicetoronto.org

Anti-violence Program

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Healthy Families, Healthy Communities (HFHC) is an anti-violence program which aims to strengthen the capacity of newcomers, their families and their communities to recognize, address and support initiatives which will prevent abuse and violence within the family and the community.

Our model of service includes culturally sensitive educational workshops, extensive peer leader training and peer support groups for both parents and youth, who come from one of four newcomer communities: Tamil, Iranian, Afghan and Somali.

Through the educational workshops conducted by a Community Facilitator, information, support and resources are provided to youth and parents in the above four newcomer communities. Topics are issues related to family and community violence, Canadian rights, laws, parental responsibilities, role of Children's Aid Societies, the education system, privacy practices, cultural awareness, anti-racism practices and available resources to assist them as parents, and address inter-generational issues and family violence, and most importantly, to build an understanding and trust of the Canadian systems.

The peer support groups led by the trained peer leaders help to connect newcomer youth with peers in a healthy, safe and culturally situated way that is free from discrimination. Youth have an opportunity to discuss their problems, tell their story and provide support to other youth. The dual role of giver and receiver of support, integral to the peer-support model, serves to increase the self-esteem, self-efficacy and resiliency of each participant.

HALTON MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL

Presenter: Martina Prpa, 905-842-2486 ex239, mprpa@haltonmc.com

Youth Mentor Program

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

The Youth Mentor Program that we run is done in partnership with the Halton District School Board and other community partner collaborations. The program is a lunch time program that we run in the ESL classroom and that is open to all newcomer youth in that school. While the program has a social aspect to it, we try to incorporate 3 aspects into the program – social action, school action, community action.

To see the full description, click here [Halton MC Youth Mentor Program](#).

JEWISH VOCATIONAL SERVICE TORONTO

Presenters:

Nicole Salmon, 416-649-1749, nsalmon@jvstoornto.org
Jaime Carrington, 416-649-1768, jcarrington@jvstoronto.org

Youth who have Experienced Conflict with the Law

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY: Counselling and referrals for youth who have experienced conflict with the law

This program serves youth who have experienced conflict with the law and are in need of one-on-one employment counselling or referrals to appropriate community resources. Participants are provided with a variety of resources and services designed to help them overcome barriers to employment success.

- Assistance with identifying skills, interests and barriers to employment
- Referrals to appropriate programs and services
- Resume writing and job search assistance
- Guidance to access employment supports through the Ontario Disability Support Program if eligible
- Employment Counsellors are available to provide community and agency presentations on helping youth in conflict with the law to find employment

WHY IT IS SPECIAL:

- Prevention, intervention, supports
- Includes components of legal literacy as it pertains to employment, training, and career goals
- Mobile services offered at itinerant locations to meet youth safety planning needs
- Inclusive Case Management that incorporates all the positive adults and interventions that are currently in the young person's life

LONDON CROSS CULTURAL LEARNER CENTRE

Presenter Names:

Firas Sefian, 519-432-1133 ex230, fsefian@LCCLC.org
Heather Seddon, 519-432-1133 ex353, hseddon@LCCLC.org

We Don't Follow We Lead

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

The program will focus on leadership training. As part of the training series, workshops will be offered in public speaking, team building exercises, language improvement, conflict resolution, peer pressure, Food Handling certificates, first-aid and CPR, and a variety of other training that will give youth who have no prior job experience a bit of an advantage when applying for jobs.

The program offers conventional leadership training to connect with youth and builds the relationship with them to offer the certifications that require anywhere between 8 – 16 hours to complete. These are certificates that newcomers usually won't get exposure to in their first year in Canada. We make them

aware that obtaining the certificates at such an early stage of their settlement allows them to develop the knowledge of job requirements. A big draw to the program is that the various certificates are offered at no cost to the participants, or at a very subsidized rate, making money the last thing participants have to worry about if they would like to receive the training. The program is supported by the London Community Foundation. This allows us to cover items that are not covered under CIC funding; giving us access to funding that doesn't have many restrictions on it.

The program is run in partnership with the SWIS program, and their support has been very beneficial with outreach and connecting with students directly.

NEW CANADIANS' CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE INC.

Presenter: Paul Lin, 518-890-3680, plin@cicswis.ca

NOW Program Overview & Skits by Participants

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

During the peer leader training of the NOW Program, one component is for the peer leaders to work together and come up with skits for performance. The idea of the skits is to showcase different hardships that newcomers might encounter when they enter the new school system and how they might find a solution. The skits then are performed to the NOW program participants/school staff during program delivery. This year the skits received overwhelming feedback and the SWIS Program in Windsor was asked to conduct the skits and have them made into official DVDs from the local school board.

NEW CANADIANS' CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE INC.

Presenter: Darcy Perry, 519-258-4076, dperry@ncce1.org

Youth Art Show

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

The project was done in partnership with the Windsor Art Gallery. The purpose of the art exhibition was to feature art submissions by local newcomer youth to create a positive perspective through the expression of art. Many youth have difficulty presenting orally, so it was a great opportunity to express themselves through art. The show also included musical performances, dance performances and singing performances, all reflecting the many talents of newcomer youth in our community.

NEW CANADIANS CENTRE PETERBOROUGH

Presenters:

Jessica Devlin, 705-743-0882, jessica@nccpeterborough.ca

Steve Ross, 705-743-0882, steve@nccpeterborough.ca

International School Ambassadors Club

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY: International School Ambassadors Club

Once a month students get together for one hour at lunch or after school to engage in fun activities geared towards learning about each other and about different cultures. SWIS will lead these activities. The goal is to foster a more welcoming community in the school and the club is open to any student. 140 schools are involved.

To see the full description, click here [NCC Peterborough International School Ambassadors](#).

NEW CANADIANS CENTRE PETERBOROUGH

Presenter: Dawn Franklin, 705-743-0883 ex228, dawn@nccpeterborough.ca

Make It Write - a Creative Writing Group

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Make It Write is a creative writing group for newcomer youth which runs from April until mid-August. We gather at the local library in the computer room. The library donates the space and the use of the computers. A group leader, usually our Canada Summer Jobs student, devises various creative writing exercises to get the youth thinking, talking and writing. These can involve group or individual writing. There are usually a few icebreakers and word games to start things off. Students are asked to share their work with the group but do not have to if they do not feel comfortable. Guest speakers are invited for presentations and have included: published authors, spoken word artists, newspaper editors and journalists.

To see the full description, click here [NCC Peterborough Make It Write](#).

NEWCOMER CENTRE OF PEEL

Presenters:

Jesus Aguas, 906-609-4117, jaguas@ncpeel.ca

Srivany Kanagalingam, 905-609-4120, skanagalingam@ncpeel.ca

Newcomer Volunteer/Leadership Club

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Designed and dedicated to help newcomer youth adapt and fit in by fostering friendship, positive experiences and success in school, through variety of activities and events tailored to their local school community needs. "Tea & Talk" allows for facilitated open dialogue between youth and their parents.

OTTAWA COMMUNITY IMMIGRANT SERVICES ORGANIZATION (OCISO)

Presenter: Jesse Ranauta, 613-725-5671 ex399, jesse.ranauta@ociso.org

Youth Leadership Program

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Components of program include:

- After school homework club
- Lunch time programs, recreational and discussion of issues
- Focus on Me --- for young girls

OCISO's Youth Leadership program encourages youth to get involved in community development initiatives and become engaged and active contributors to society. This program offers an opportunity for immigrant and refugee youth to learn teamwork and build leadership skills. We run this program in various elementary and secondary schools across Ottawa every three months. The last one was held at Alta Vista Public School in Ottawa where students, with the help of a facilitator, chose to hold a food drive. The students were responsible for organizing the program over a two month period and it was held through their school and community. It was a huge success as they were able to collect over 1,100 pounds of food goods for the Heron Emergency Food Centre in Ottawa by the Christmas break.

PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Presenter: Nalayini Moorthy, 905-890-1010 ext2173, nalayini.moorthy@peelsb.com

Secondary School Orientation Program

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

All 34 secondary schools have access to funding to support Secondary School Orientation activities for new students to Peel schools and/or in their transition from grade 8 to grade 9. There is flexibility in offering different orientation activities at different times of the school year.

PEEL MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL

Presenter: Atif Mahmood, 905 819 1144 ex242, atif@peelmc.com

Youth Forum

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

WHY IT IS SPECIAL: Due to the collaboration of this event with multiple other youth programs we have over 100 youth participate. Our last forum was on mental health but more importantly on one aspect of it which was, "DEBUNKING THE MYTH THAT PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS ARE CRAZY!" A new topic is chosen every year. It is a great way to educate youth and increase their awareness about social issues in the community and how to be leaders to take that message back to their peers. Not only do

youth meet other youth from the region and make new friends, but everyone participates in the interactive workshops with their assigned groups and presents it to the larger group as well.

Spelling Bee

ANOTHER SPECIAL PROGRAM: An annual spelling bee competition for newcomer youth from grades 7 to 12 in collaboration with the Peel District School Board.

POLYCULTURAL IMMIGRANT & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Presenters:

**Rochelle Mairs, 905-403-8860 ex227, rmairs@polycultural.org
Andrea Basic, 905-403-8860 ex229, abasic@polycultural.org**

Job-Readiness and Leadership Skills

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Youth Achievers is a 6-week program focused on developing job-readiness and leadership skills in youth ages 16 to 25.

This program is special because it offers a space for youth to participate in discussions, activities and workshops regarding the importance of being job-ready as well as the tools necessary to thrive in the job search.

POLYCULTURAL IMMIGRANT & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Presenter: Lisa Patrick, 416-829-4891, lpatrick@polycultural.org

Jobs for Youth after School

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

For youth in the Jamestown Community. We find employment for at-risk youth between the ages of 15-18; youth are paid \$10.25/hr. and work a maximum of 20 hours every two weeks. It is special because it matches their career interests to a placement where they'll gain experience in the field they choose. Involves kids from high risk communities, drawn from 4 high schools, across 2 school boards.

REXDALE WOMEN'S CENTRE

Presenter: Roohi Butt 416-745-0062 ex287, rbutt@rexdalewomen.org

Welcoming Communities Youth Program

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

The Rexdale Women's Centre Welcoming Communities youth program assists newcomer youth in the settlement process through group programming such as cooking clubs, movie nights, English Conversation Circles and field trips. Youth receive one-on-one support through matching, which pairs newcomer youth with a Canadian citizen who acts as a mentor to the youth.

The program is special in that it recognizes the dual challenges of being both a newcomer to Canada and being at a pivotal age of transition. The English Conversation Circle provides a safe space which allows youth not only the ability to improve their English language skills, but gives them the opportunity to voice their thoughts, feelings and perspectives as it relates to youth subculture, as well as the settlement process. Facilitators use a collaborative approach, taking direction from the participants.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE FOR CANADA

Presenter: Robyn Wisken, 289-841-3035, robyn.wisken@welcomecentre.ca

Programming for Newcomer Youth in Rural Communities

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

The program we are designing focuses on newcomer youth in rural communities. Social Enterprise for Canada delivers services to newcomers in rural Simcoe County and the northern part of York Region. Traditionally, these areas have had few newcomer families; however, in the past few years more newcomers are settling into the community on a secondary or tertiary pathway. Programming for newcomer youth in is limited.

The program would:

- Be hosted by older newcomer youth
- Provide newcomer youth with a sense of belonging
- Help newcomer youth settle into their community
- Encourage youth to maintain their cultural roots
- Increase involvement of youth to local community
- Empower youth to reach their goals
- Build social connections in the community
- Encourage self-expression

The program would take place weekly ("Youth Nights") in a community central to youth in the area. We are also exploring the feasibility of the program having an online component. Because of the geographic distance between rural communities and no formal transportation routes, newcomer youth can experience isolation and feel disconnected from each other. In order to continue fostering relationships between the youth during the week and build on the objectives of the program, online programming would take place. For example, youth could participate in an online PhotoVoice activity with the theme of "Newcomer Youth in Rural Ontario".

This program is special because it needs to keep in mind both newcomer needs, as well as the constraints that exist by delivering services in rural communities. The geographic make-up of the community creates barriers to social connections.

The Simcoe County Local Immigration Partnership has 4 themes, the last of which is Inspire, “empower newcomers to contribute to local leadership capacity”. The program contributes to the overall goals and direction that the community has laid out, as the program will help to build the confidence and help establish pathways for newcomer youth to take a leadership role in the community.

We plan to encourage participation of other local community partners, as it would provide the participants with rounded connections and resources in the community.

ST. CHRISTOPHER’S HOUSE

Presenters:

Gillis Aning, 416-536-1234 ex402, gillisan@stchrishouse.org

Tenzin Norsang, 416-536-1234 ex405, tenzinno@stchrishouse.org

Zalan Kemenczy, 416-536-1234 ex403, zalanke@stchrishouse.org

Silk-screening Design and Entrepreneurship Group

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Leadership programming in the Newcomer Youth Program has taken on a variety of forms over the past several years. The current iteration is a silk-screening design and entrepreneurship group that meets weekly. The goals of the group are to develop important skills, promote youth engagement with their peers and the wider community, and provide a tangible benefit to the community they live in. They do this through selling shirts that they design, offering workshops to their peers and other community members, and by raising money and awareness around issues important to youth.

WHY IT IS SPECIAL:

- **Ambitious scope:** The project focuses on very high level skills and experiences. It also has long-term goals that are carried out by successive cohorts of participants.
- **Youth driven:** The project is incredibly youth driven. All the major decisions are made by the youth, which in turn fosters a real sense of ownership of the project.
- **Community advocacy:** The project aims to offer enriching experiences to community members through silk-screening, as well as raise awareness about issues that are important to youth. They are considering allowing other community groups to use the space for their own workshops. They also give back by fundraising for the surrounding community.

THE LEARNING ENRICHMENT FOUNDATION

Presenters:

Jean-Marie Boutot, 416-662-7976, jmboutot@lefca.org

Juan Alvarez, 647-203-0664, jalvarez@lefca.org

Leadership through Physical Activity

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY: Leadership through Physical Activity, & Resource List

Two of our programs concentrate on leadership through physical activity --- stressing the importance of outdoor programming with relation to youth engagement and development.

They are special because youth get to move out of their comfort zone, be challenged in a positive way and at the same time learn more about nature, camping skills, teamwork and leadership, while meeting other youth and practicing the language (for newcomers).

Interesting outdoor programs in which youth agencies can sign up to participate:

- Partnering with the Y. Potential partnership with Ontario Nature - they want to engage more newcomer youth to get them acquainted with Ontario's wilderness through summer camps, retreats and educational outings. <http://www.ontarionature.org>
- The City of Toronto runs an inner city out-tripping centre which in partnership with the Toronto Police funds a one-week program (a canoe trip on Georgian Bay). Through this program, youth are offered the opportunity to go on a camping trip in which they learn about leadership, team-building and general camping skills. <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=2832>
- Duke of Edinburgh program, which focuses on four pillars (community service, skill training, physical fitness and an adventurous journey), in other words taking youth out of their comfort zones. <http://www.dukeofed.org>
- "Reconnect" is a leadership training program which takes place mostly outdoors and emphasizes the newcomer adaptation experience. (Summer program at LEF) <https://www.facebook.com/LEFYouth>
- CHILL is a program offered during the winter. Provides youth the opportunity to learn how to snowboard. It's a six-session program that takes place once a week in Barrie, Ontario. The program covers transportation costs, rental equipment from head-to-toe and training. In addition, the program has a leadership component which is delivered on the bus while travelling to Barrie and back to Toronto. Check their website to apply as an agency for 2015. chill.org

TR LEGER IMMIGRANT SERVICES

Presenter: Rabia Zeeshan, 613-933-9626 ex4231, Rabia.zeeshan@ucdsb.on.ca

Multicultural Cookbook for Youth

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

1: Multicultural Cookbook for Youth: Valuable blend of multicultural recipes (own recipes not from the internet). Our cookbook will contain short history narratives along with recipes from each country.

Word Circle for Youth Group

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

2: Word Circle for Youth Group: this activity is an icebreaker for immigrant and Canadian-born youth. They learn words in different languages and make new friends from other cultures.

WOODGREEN COMMUNITY SERVICES

Presenter: Janet Riddell, 416-645-600 ex2315, jriddell@woodgreen.org

Strategic Partnerships

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY: Strategic Partnerships - other CIC organizations and the community
This means working with other organizations by organizing services and events that complement each other. CIC has seen this working relationship and supported us.

- Working with Library workers to run a Newcomer Youth Group
- Working with another agency in a sports program utilizing gym space in Priority Schools Initiative
- Providing specialty training for newcomer youth with agencies who don't have newcomer youth settlement counsellors

WHY IT IS SPECIAL: Finding ways to work together to provide exceptional services, great use of time and resources.

YMCA OF GREATER TORONTO

Presenters:

Evelyn Amponsah, 416-846-6300, evelyn.amponsah@ymcagta.org
Candy Chow, 416-630-0330 ex154, candy.chow@ymcagta.org
Willa Tam, 905-276-9322 ex208, willa.tam@ymcagta.org

NYLD Learn and Lead Workshops for Newcomers

1. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

We come to schools, libraries, community organizations, in Toronto and Peel to deliver our Learn and Lead Workshops for newcomers. Our workshops address youth who might not be able to access our program and we built collaboration with workers in schools. Our workshops are very interactive and are suitable for newcomer youth ages 13 – 24 years old. Our special events engage a large number of youth. Youth are encouraged to facilitate parts of the events, usually through the arts. These events help youth to take leadership roles, meet new people and enjoy something out of the ordinary.

Family Engagement Events

2. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

These activities connect newcomer families across the GTA, providing opportunities for youth to make friends outside of the program, and it recognizes the importance of a support network. Furthermore, it is an opportunity to hold intergenerational activities for newcomer families. We host these family days 4 times a year. It addresses barriers (i.e. transportation and entrance fee) for newcomer families to have access to recreational activities. Examples include Rouge Park, Maple Syrup Festival, skating, apple picking, and Royal Ontario Museum.

Special Events

3. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

- Integration Conference: One day of fun and issues.
- NYLD sports day: Learn about different sports.
- International youth day: Planned by youth.
- Peace by Piece Forum: How we can build peaceful communities.

YMCA WESTERN ONTARIO

Presenters:

Edith Obeng, 519-256-7330 ex230, eobeng@ymcawo.ca (Windsor)
Marcella Nieto, 519-860-0907, mnieto@ymcawo.ca (London)

University Students Offer Career Mentoring to Youth

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Mentorship program offered to our newcomer youth. We have university students, who are enrolled in diverse programs at University of Western and University of Windsor, volunteering for this program in each location. Our program participants are connected with the volunteers for a two month period and navigated through the university programs that they and their mentor are enrolled in. Many immigrant youth already face many difficulties integrating into the Canadian system, including education. Many do not have the finances for private tutors and having a free program that provides mentors in the field of the newcomer youth's interest is very rewarding. It is another and special way of integration.

To see the full description, click here [YMCA Western Ont Mentorship Programs](#)

YMCAs OF CAMBRIDGE & KITCHENER-WATERLOO

Presenter: Janice Tuling, 519-502-1525, jtuling@ckwymca.ca

Newcomer Youth Theatre Program

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Professional actors support/guide newcomer youth through the process of sharing and telling their stories, weaving the stories into a dramatic performance and showcasing this performance for their peers, teachers and communities. The process takes place over ten weeks. We deliver this program at 3 magnet high schools per year in Waterloo Region. At the performance, there are support workers who are trained to help youth deal with strong emotions.

WHY IT IS SPECIAL: Youth establish strong social networks and sense of belonging and acceptance. Youth are engaged within the school environment but also as community members when they share their newcomer stories with their peers, teachers and community. They are empowered to share their struggles/triumphs with each other and their communities using both verbal and non-verbal means of communication. This process helps to decrease their sense of isolation and increase their confidence and connection to their new lives in Canada.

YOUTH ASSISTING YOUTH

Presenter: John van Rhee, 416-932-1919 ex228, jvanrhee@yay.org

GO Girls – Girls Only Program

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

The GO Girls - Girls Only Program was specifically designed for girls within the ages of 12-15 with the goals of enhancing the overall health and wellness of each participant, building relevant knowledge and communication skills, while increasing their confidence and self-esteem. The program was designed to provide activities and workshops that inform, engage, educate and empower girls as well as to help enhance their skills and contribute to their personal development. Critical and reflective activities were developed that asked important questions in an engaging and constructive way.

WHY IT IS SPECIAL:

The program focused on several topics that were identified as being most crucial to girls today such as: body image and the role of relationships; team work and leadership; healthy living and nutrition. The program encouraged participants to take risks and master physical, intellectual and emotional challenges. Workshops addressed issues such as Peer Pressure & Bullying; Healthy Living, Fitness & Nutrition; Sexual Behavior & Teen Pregnancy; Substance Abuse; Self-Image & Media Literacy; and Violence & Abuse. The program also addressed the challenges that Newcomer girls in Canada have and gave them the tools to transition successfully into Canadian culture.

To see the full description, click here [GO Girls Summary for Community Connections Presentation 2014](#).

Peer Mentoring

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Peer mentoring for ages 6 to 15. Volunteers are ages 16 to 29, and they commit for one year.

To see the full description, click here [The Peer Project - Youth Assisting Youth – Mentoring](#).

Cyber Bullying Pilot Workshop

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Will be held at TDSB schools, for grades 4 to 8. They are looking for partners.

To see the full description, click here [The Peer Project - Cyberbullying Awareness Program](#).