



"Accepting the Challenge"

Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee Minutes

Thursday, January 19, 2012 – 11:30 a.m.
Conference Room, Admin Office

Present: P. Bowslaugh, Chairperson, J. Murray, K. Sumner,
Dr. D. Michaels, G. Malazdrewicz, K. Zabowski

Maple Leaf: Harley Grouette
City of Brandon: Sandy Trudel
BRHA: Sue Hunter

Regrets: Leslie Allan, Westman Immigration

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 a.m. by Chairperson, Trustee Bowslaugh. Mrs. Bowslaugh welcomed everyone to the meeting. She reviewed the Committee responsibilities; provided information on the growth of the Division; and reviewed who the Committee has met with in the past.

2. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

A) Equity and Sustainability in Education

A roundtable discussion was held regarding the increased diverse immigrant population; the impact and challenges placed on the various services throughout the City of Brandon, in particular the Brandon School Division; and the steps being taken to integrate this population into the life and culture of the City of Brandon, including the Brandon School Division.

Mr. Grouette, Human Resources, Maple Leaf, provided information regarding their revised recruiting process which included a language requirement and educational requirement. He noted the English training provided to family members; the turnover rate; and extra recruiting required to cover maternity leaves.

Ms. Trudel, Brandon Economic Development Board, noted several other areas of impact which should be monitored including: family sponsorship; higher birthrates; Westman Immigration Services cycles; movement from outlining areas into Brandon following completion of term placements; exploratory relocations of immigrants from elsewhere.

Ms. Hunter, Brandon Regional Health Authority, spoke about the challenges facing the medical services provided in the City, including the need for increased translation services and the need to explain the different levels of the medical system.

Discussions were held regarding the impact of the increased diversity due to immigration on the Brandon School Division, in particular with respect to space and the expansion of foundational services. Concerns were raised regarding immunization requirements.

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It was agreed orientation of Brandon's immigrant population is continuous. Canadian cultural attitudes and norms need to be consistently reinforced. All partners need to be providing the same message. Communications between services is important in order to collaborate on solutions which will benefit all. Language barriers continue to be the biggest issue faced in providing services to the immigrant population. All service providers need to include budget lines for interpreter services as they move forward.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Bowslaugh, Chair

J. Murray

K. Sumner

M. Snelling (Alternate)