



Immigrant Advisory Committee (IAC) Meeting Minutes

Wednesday June 4, 2025

5:15pm-6:15pm

Zoom (online) | Plummer Room, Level 3, Civic Centre, 99 Foster Drive, Sault Ste. Marie

In Attendance	Regrets
Nicole Rahaman	Ngozi Ebele
Marlene Henry-Smith	Dr. Aaron Smith
Ani Ramos	Rina Cuison
Masi Mozaffari	
Aishwarya Jariwala	
Yiqi Wang	
Cynthia Ima-Osagie	
Syed Islam (ex-officio)	
Nara Dapilos (ex-officio)	

1. Call to Order Time: 5:25pm

Land Acknowledgement

I acknowledge, with respect, that we are in Robinson-Huron Treaty territory, that the land on which we are gathered is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and known as Bawating. Bawating is the home of Garden River First Nation, Batchewana First Nation, the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Metis Council.

2. Approval of April 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Mover: Nicole Rahaman

Second: Yiqi Wang

Vote: **All in favour. Carried.**

Resolved that the Meeting Minutes of the Immigrant Advisory Committee for April 3, 2025 be approved as presented.

3. Approval of Agenda

Mover: Yiqi Wang

Second: Marlene Henry-Smith

Vote: **All in favour. Carried.**

Resolved that the Agenda of the Immigrant Advisory Committee for June 4, 2025 be approved as presented.

4. Updates from LIP staff

a) LIP Council

- Formal LIP Council meetings are currently on hold as the governance model is being restructured and will likely be reconvened in the Fall. LIP continues to work closely with partners in the meantime.

b) Upcoming events

- World Refugee Day - June 20th
 - The Sault Community Career Centre and LIP are partnering to host a soccer match at the Northern Community Centre from 7-9pm in celebration
- Multiculturalism Day Festival - July 13th
 - LIP is partnering with the Sault Community Career Centre to host the festival at the Downtown Plaza from 11am to 4pm. Applications for cultural performers have been posted and will close on June 9th.

5. New Business

a) Newcomer mental health action plan

- Gathering data on newcomer and immigrant demographics in Sault Ste. Marie is key to understanding who we are serving, what languages they speak, and what barriers they are facing. This data will help in narrowing down the group's vision and goals to develop the action plan.
 - IAC can create a survey to collect this data
 - There is existing data through the City's RNIP program and through the Sault Community Career Centre that LIP can access if needed. The group can also extrapolate data points from Marlene's presentation about newcomers and mental health.
- Storytelling is one of the main ways to showcase our power, resilience, and joy as immigrants; how we continue to survive and thrive as human beings in a different country and context.
 - IAC can develop a series of talks or presentations about several topics (examples: newcomer mental health; presentation to newcomers about non-profits, navigating language barriers; sharing stories and experiences of this past winter's snowstorm, etc.)
 - Members discussed the idea of building online presence by starting with their own stories, which can be shared through LIP's social media channels and website.
- **Motion: IAC's presence at the Multiculturalism Day Festival**
 Mover: Ani Ramos
 Second: Cynthia Ima-Osagie
 Vote: **All in favour. Carried.**

Resolved that the Immigrant Advisory Committee will prepare a booth and brief stage presentation for the Multiculturalism Day Festival on July 13th.

o Motion: Meeting extension

Mover: Nicole Rahaman
 Second: Marlene Henry-Smith
 Vote: **All in favour. Carried**

Resolved that today's Immigrant Advisory Committee meeting shall be extended to 6:30pm.

- **Action items:**

- SSMLIP staff will reserve a table for the Immigrant Advisory Committee to run a booth at the Multiculturalism Day Festival on Sunday July 13th
- SSMLIP staff will reserve a 10 to 15-minute slot for IAC members to briefly introduce themselves and the Committee on stage in between the cultural performances
- SSMLIP staff will create an online workspace (such as Google Workspace) for the IAC to collaborate on the projects
- IAC members will prepare the following materials for the event:
 - Community Engagement
 - Lead: Ani Ramos
 - Examples discussed: Interactive world map; passport/bingo system for prizes; community art piece
 - Presentation(s)
 - Leads: Masi Mozaffari and Nicole Rahaman
 - Google Forms Survey for newcomers (accessed through QR code)
 - Leads: Marlene Henry-Smith, Aishwarya Jariwala, and Cynthia Ima-Osagie
 - Survey should consist of no more than 10 questions

b) Storytelling project with The Borderline Radio Soo

- Deferred to next meeting

c) IAC social media/online presence

- Deferred to next meeting

d) IAC leadership structure

- Deferred to next meeting

6. Next meeting date

- **Action item:** SSMLIP Staff will send out a doodle poll to IAC members to determine the next meeting date.

7. Meeting Adjournment Time: 6:40pm

Mover: Nicole Rahaman

Second: Marlene Henry-Smith

Vote: **All in favour. Carried.**

Resolved that this meeting is now adjourned.