



Immigrant Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday October 27, 2025

5:30pm-6:30pm

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

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

1. Meeting Called to Order by Aaron Smith Time: 5:36 PM

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 August 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Mover: Marlene Henry-Smith

Second: Nicole Rahaman

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

Resolved that the Meeting Minutes of the Immigrant Advisory Committee for August 14, 2025 be approved as presented.

3. Approval of Agenda

Mover: Nicole Rahaman

Second: Marlene Henry-Smith

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

Resolved that the Agenda of the Immigrant Advisory Committee for October 27, 2025 be approved as presented.

4. Old Business

a. **Social media member introductions**

- **Action item:** Nara will reach out to those who consent to sharing their info on LIP's social media, as well as those who haven't yet confirmed.
- Member bios and photos will also be shared on the LIP website. For those who did not consent to sharing a bio/photo will simply have their names listed on the LIP website to respect privacy requests.

b. **Storytelling project with The Borderline Radio Soo**

- So far 4 members have expressed interest in sharing their stories with Borderline Radio Soo (pre-recorded podcast).
- **Action item:** Nara will reach out to those who haven't yet decided/confirmed to gather final numbers for initial participants. Once we've confirmed initial participation, LIP will begin coordinating with The Borderline.
- As we are hoping to make this an ongoing project with The Borderline Radio, members do not have to decide right away and may opt to participate at a later time as well.

c. **Intercultural Competency Training**

- LIP is currently waiting on an overview of the intercultural competency training materials from one of the possible facilitators, which is expected by this Friday. Once received, it will be shared with IAC members to review and gather input on if/how we would like to proceed with the training.
- Aim to lock in a training session within the first quarter of 2026
- In-person training is preferred, although hybrid/online training may be possible depending on the facilitator's capacity and training materials.
- LIP has also reached out to the Indigenous Friendship Centre regarding Indigenous Cultural Competency training. Waiting on further information.

5. New Business

a. **IAC Workplan**

- Development of IAC's workplan will be contingent on LIP's workplan.
 - i. LIP will have its workplan finalized before December.
- A special meeting will be scheduled outside of the regular bi-monthly meetings, dedicated specifically to developing the IAC workplan and mapping out its activities for the rest of the term (until 2027).
 - i. This can be an ongoing working document that evolves over time.
 - ii. The meeting is also an opportunity to revisit IAC's purpose, goals, vision, etc.

b. **Newcomer mental health/Cultural organization outreach**

- Understanding that social isolation can impact newcomers' mental health, members discussed the idea of getting the cultural organizations more involved in newcomers' settlement journey
 - i. Bridging the gap for newcomers to create immediate community connections upon arrival to the Sault

- ii. Idea of establishing “Mental Wellness Ambassadors” within the various cultural communities
- iii. Members also discussed having flyers available at the Airport, Algoma University, and other targeted areas with contact information from the cultural communities
- This can be integrated into LIP’s workplan. Once LIP’s workplan is structured, IAC can work on an action plan for this project.

6. Next Meeting Date: TBD – During second week of December

- a) **Action item:** Nara will send out doodle poll. As winter approaches, Nara will also send out a poll to determine if members prefer the next meeting to be fully online.

7. Meeting Adjourned Time: 6:27 PM

Mover: Aaron Smith

Second: Masi Mozaffari

Vote: All in favor. **Carried.**

Resolved that this meeting is now adjourned.