**MINUTES:** Advisory Committee on Immigrants & Refugees
Meeting Thursday, May 11, 2006 – 6:40 p.m.
City Hall, 71 Main St. West, Room 219

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**Present:** Roo Alvi, Chair, Allan Belga, Iman Rifai, Lisa Watt, Joe Zou, David Hosten, Alina Brotea, Lipika Saha, Betty Chou

**Also Present:** Aurelia Tokaci, Chamber of Commerce,
Maxine Carter – Customer Service, Access & Equity Division
Elfadil Elsharief - Customer Service, Access & Equity Division
Tim Owen – World Education Services, Kevin Beattie - Secretary

**Regrets:** Councilor Phil Bruckler, Rebecca Yanyan Xu, Ken Huang, Carolann Fernandes, Mel Madamba-Wakeham, Monique Hoeflaak, Rehana Khanam, Gurpreet Dipak, Carol Hill – PH & CS,

**Absent:** Chrisroy Garwood, Judy Lee-Wu – CIC

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**Welcome & Introductions:** Roo, acting as Chair, invited each member present to introduce themselves and their involvement with the Committee.

1. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**
   None.

2. **BUSINESS ITEMS 6.1**
   Tim Owen from World Education Services provided a power point presentation to the Committee. (Electronic copy sent under separate cover and a hard copy is available by contacting the Secretary.) WES provides credential recognition, whereby credentials earned outside of Canada are evaluated and recognized for use in Canada. A report is prepared with a fee in the range of $115.00 usually 75 – 80% of credentials earned overseas are equivalent to Canadian Credentials. Mr. Owen had indicated a wish that employers provide a link on their web sites to WES at [www.wes.org/ca](http://www.wes.org/ca). This service is not accreditation but credential evaluation. They are very strict on documents being sent directly to WES by the institution. Mr. Owen indicated that they are launching a new service of pre-screening –not a full report but would be an on-line equivalency program with a fee of approximately $20. More details are found on the Web site. Mr. Owen was thanked for his presentation by Roo on behalf of the Committee.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
   The agenda as presented was moved by Betty and seconded by Iman. Carried.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND NOTES**
As there was only one member present from February 9 and March 9 meetings these minutes/notes were deferred until there is a quorum from that group. Alina moved and was seconded by Iman, that the minutes from the April 27 meeting be approved as presented.

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
The Tri-level agreement between the Federal/Provincial/Municipal governments concerning funding and resource levels to those municipalities was handed out by Maxine. The committee was asked to review this document and discuss this at the next meeting.

Maxine provided a copy of the Community Forum on Immigrant and Refugee Issues from September 16, 2000.

6. **BUSINESS ITEMS 6.2 WORKPLAN – ACTIONS AND PRIORITES**
The workplan was reviewed and there was some general discussion. There was a concern raised about measuring the progress of the Committee. It was noted that a lot of information was provided and that this issue would be discussed at the next meeting.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE / CURRENT AFFAIRS**
CBC articles were presented for the Committee’s information on: Quebec bill would speed up Accreditation.; Quebec study: Most newcomers find work in their field; Attracting Skilled Immigrants: The struggle to lure trained foreign workers; (new Federal Immigration Minister) Solberg hints at lower immigration target.

SISO is holding a Job Fair May 26, 2006 for new immigrants to Canada.

Parking permits for the June 8, 2006 meeting were distributed.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**
Iman moved to adjourn and seconded by Allan. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.