

A brief review of Youth Settlement Program January 2012

In January, Newcomer Youth Program ran successfully with the services provided to youth clients through assistance & referrals on settlement issues including the weekly programs on language and tutoring. The highlight of the month was the launch of STOM-R project website and publication of their movie reviews written by team members of STOM R project.

Language Skills Development for Newcomer Youth - Wednesdays

There were two sessions held in January on Wednesdays. The first session on January 11th was a focus group discussion on the language topics for winter session. Participants, in groups of 3 or 4 talked about the top 3 topics they would like to cover over the winter session. Outcome topics included bullying, anger management, environment, culture, opportunities in life, health, leadership, sports and confidence.

The second session on January 18th was another focus group discussion with two guest researchers/facilitators from Ontario Tobacco Research Unit (OTRU). They were evaluating the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport's Youth Engagement (YE) Initiative to understand how the YE activities are planned and being rolled out within public health units in the province. Our program was contacted through our public health nurse to take part in this evaluation. Many programs all over Ontario are evaluated as part of this research. Since our youth program and youth leadership group members have received grants under the Youth Engagement Initiatives from Toronto Public Health (indirectly from Ministry of Health Promotion), our youth's experiences are important to this evaluation. 10 youth participated and contributed in informing how the Youth Engagement Initiative develops in the future. They each received \$25 gift card directly from OTRU for their contribution to the research. There was no Language session the last week of January due to the term end exams at schools.

Peer Tutoring Club - Fridays

Three sessions were held in January. The peer tutoring club provided peer support in helping with solving homework and school assignments.

Parkdale Newcomer Youth Committee (PNYC) – a youth leadership group initiated by the Youth Program of PIA and PCIC

The highlight of the month was the completion and launch of our STOM-R project site, <https://sites.google.com/site/stomreviews/home>. The team members completed their first round of movie reviews for December and now published on site, <https://sites.google.com/site/stomreviews/actions/reviews-by-youth/december-2011>. The project also completed shooting a 2 minute feature video the week of Jan 2 and 9th on the theme of smoking in movies which will be edited and released in April. STOM-R contest was held on January 27th attended by 15 youth to participate in contest designed by the team members. Through the games of snake & ladder and quizzes, team members engaged with and marked the contestants to choose 6 winners of free movie tickets from the project. The games were both fun and educational where the contestants got to learn about tobacco and smoking issues. The winners will write reviews identifying the effects of smoking in movies to be later published with the project team member's reviews in February. Five judges (Toronto Public Health, Toronto Community News, The Lung Association ON, Smoker's Help Line, Youth Leader) were finalized to mark the team movie reviews for a winner to be declared in June.

PNYC monthly meeting was held on January 20th to review our program activities and project's progress since December and to go over the winter program activities as well as project plans ahead.