

Mr. Craig Carter-Edwards
Coordinator
c/o Language Access Coalition of Canada
Toronto, ON

October 6th 2021,

Dear Mr. Carter-Edwards

RE: Toronto South Local Immigration Partnership Collaboration Award

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the *Mental Health First Aid for Language Instructors*, a project of the Health and Mental Health Working Group, in which you have diligently represented the **Language Access Coalition of Canada**, has been selected to receive this year's Toronto South Local Immigration Partnership (TSLIP) Collaboration Award.

The Collaboration Award has been awarded annually by the TSLIP since 2015 in an effort to recognize outstanding partnership and collaboration efforts on the part of member organizations. For the past several years, the Health and Mental Health Working Group, comprised of staff from Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services, Welcome Home TO, Language Access Coalition of Canada, Skills for Change, Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture, Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre, Culturelink, Cecil Community Centre and Madison Community Services, who have worked tirelessly to create a meaningful learning opportunity for frontline staff to support newcomers to eventually effect positive change in the wider community.

To develop this curriculum, the Toronto South LIP's Health and Mental Health Working Group conducted a city wide needs assessment with newcomer language instructors, both for LINC and ESL programs, in late 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. The results served as the catalyst for the creation and launch of the project with 25 participants, who to date, have provided excellent feedback on the project and reported having gained tangible skills to assist their most vulnerable newcomer students in their integration.

Your staff representatives will be recognized with a plaque and a short virtual awards ceremony which will take place during our scheduled working group meeting on **Monday October 18th at 10 am**. You are cordially invited to attend the awards ceremony; a zoom link will be attached

to this email. Thank you for your agency and staff's dedication to helping newcomers integrate and thrive in our communities.

Sincerely,



Paulina Wyrzykowski (she/her)

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