



OLIP Open House for Immigrant Leaders

Thursday, December 13, 2012, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Presenter Profiles

Theme I: Access to Civic Engagement Opportunities

Hindia Mohamoud

Presentation topic: *What is OLIP and How to Participate*

Hindia Mohamoud has close to twenty years of experience with building community solutions through research, partnership development, and program design. She is currently the director of the Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership, where she is responsible for facilitating the establishment and implementation of community-wide vision and strategy for improving the settlement and integration of immigrants in Ottawa. Previously, she worked as the director of research at the Social Planning Council and as a director of impact and investment at United Way/Centraide Ottawa.

Hindia's academic background is varied - she holds a Master's degree in economics from the University of Ottawa and various diplomas in business, management, technology, and communication. She is also fluent in four international languages, including both official languages.

Hindia is widely engaged with local social development process and activities. For example, she is a member of the City for all Women's Initiative (CAWI) and a regular volunteer at a local food bank.

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Leonore Evans

Presentation topic: *City Advisory Committees & How to Participate*

Leonore Evans is a Policy Research Analyst in the Strategic Community Initiatives Branch in the City of Ottawa's Community and Social Services Department. She works on Housing and Homelessness Initiatives, Food Security and was the staff liaison for two previous City Advisory Committees. Prior to working for the City, Leonore completed a Masters Degree in Human Geography at Carleton University.

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Caroline Andrew

Presentation topic: *Citizens Academy Ottawa (with Manjit Basi)*

Caroline Andrew is the Director of the Centre on Governance, School of Political Studies at the University of Ottawa. She studied political science at the University of British Columbia (BA), Laval University (MA) and the University of Toronto (PhD). Her research interests include urban development, municipal immigration and immigrant integration policies, gender and local governance, place-based policy and relations between community groups and municipal governments.

Recent publications include: «Federal Policies on Immigrant Settlement» (2011) with Rachida Abdourhamane Hima in E.Tolley and R.Young, *Immigrant Settlement Policies in Canadian Municipalities*, McGill-Queens, p.49-72; «Ottawa-Gatineau:Capital Formation » (2011) with Brian Ray and Guy Chiasson in Larry Bourne et al, *Canadian Urban Regions: Trajectories of Growth and Change* , Oxford University Press, p.202-235; «Federalism and Feminism: The Canadian Challenge for Women's Urban Safety» (2010) in Melissa Haussman et al. *Federalism, Feminism and Multilevel Governance* , Ashgate,p. 83-96.

Caroline Andrew is on the boards of the Lowertown Community Resource Centre and Women in Cities International and on the steering committees of the Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership and the City for All Women Initiative in Ottawa.

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Manjit Basi

Presentation topic: *Citizens Academy Ottawa (with Caroline Andrew)*

Manjit is a dynamic professional with diverse entrepreneurial, consulting and community building experience. She owned and operated 4 locations of The Body Shop which she grew to a multi-million dollar business. She believes in the power of business to create social change and has led many projects that build collaboration between sectors. She is a high-energy, motivational leader with a contagious passion for excellence. As a consultant, Manjit strategizes with, and coaches various organizations ranging from start-ups to retail ventures to not-for-profits. She drives growth through empowering people, building strategic relationships, engaging stakeholders and aligning values with purpose.

Manjit is active in the community and has served on several boards, including the Community Foundation of Ottawa, Elmwood School, and Leadership Ottawa. Currently, she is Board Chair of Immigrant Women Services Ottawa, Founding Member of Women for Mental Health, and member of the Selection Committee for the Ottawa Philanthropic Awards. Manjit hosts a show on Rogers TV Ottawa called Trailblazers, featuring conversations with local change agents. Her interest in building a more dynamic and engaged community has her spearheading a new initiative called the Citizens Academy, a start-up focusing on growing civic literacy and deepening democracy in Ottawa. She received the honour of being named Business Woman of the Year in 2007 by the Indian Canadian Chamber of Commerce Ottawa. Manjit was honoured to receive the award "Leading Women Building Communities" from the province of Ontario.

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Theme II: Access to Economic Opportunities

Michael Oster

Presentation topic: *Access to Microloans*

Michael Oster was appointed President of the Ottawa Community Loan Fund in December 2011, launching his encore career. With Cisco Systems Canada until December 2010, he was National Director, Public Sector Business Development, at the time of his planned early retirement. In this role he led Cisco Canada's vision, strategy and execution for the Education and Government vertical markets and related Community priorities, and contributed to Cisco's worldwide Corporate strategy. Michael's focus on the Education Vertical enabled Cisco Canada to achieve record market share, growth and customer success in Education.

A 27-year veteran of the Canadian Information and Communications Technology (ICT) industry, Michael joined Cisco in 2000 and spent eight years in Sales before moving into Business Development. Michael began his ICT career with IBM then joined Sun Microsystems, for each company holding multiple roles with progressive responsibilities in both Ottawa and Toronto. Michael's further credentials include a decade of international experience with

technology start-ups focused on Internet middleware and network management before joining Cisco.

Michael is a former Director of the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce, the Ottawa Community Loan Fund, and the High Performance Computing Virtual Laboratory (HPCVL), a consortium of Canadian Universities. He is a frequent speaker at conferences, an active Community volunteer (e.g. Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership, Sustainable Living Ottawa East) and Board member (e.g. Ontario Social Economy Roundtable), and is frequently asked to advise entrepreneurs.

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Jephtée Elysée

Presentation topic: *City of Ottawa Trades Manual and Videos*

After graduating with Honors in Commerce at the University of Ottawa, Jephtée Elysée decided to pursue a career in the non-profit sector.

She is currently employed as a Policy, Planning and Development Specialist in the Strategic Community Initiatives Branch of the City of Ottawa.

In this capacity, she leads the immigration portfolio and is responsible for managing the City Immigration Network and the Immigration Portal.

Prior to her current position, she has worked with several non-profit organizations in the community.

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Magdalene Cooman-Maxwell

Presentation topic: *Connecting Employers to Immigrant Talents* (together with Ying Xie)

Magdalene Cooman-Maxwell is the Director of Employer Engagement at LASI World Skills, Ottawa. She leads employer engagement initiatives and works strategically with employers in Ottawa in establishing partnerships and promoting newcomer talent as a valuable asset for businesses (Private Sector and Government) as well as labour market integration. Magdalene is internationally trained herself and has extensive experience working as an employment counsellor and coach with newcomers. She has developed several curriculums and training programs in Ottawa and Ontario, for both newcomers and staff/organizations that work with newcomers. She is a keen advocate on newcomer issues and presents at conferences and seminars.

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Ying Xie

Presentation topic: *Connecting Employers to Immigrant Talents* (together with Magdalene Cooman-Maxwell)

Ying Xie is the Senior Manager of the **International Talent Acquisition Centre** (In-TAC), an initiative of the Ottawa Chinese Community Service Centre that is funded by the Government of Canada. Ying is an avid advocate of equal employment opportunities for Internationally Educated Immigrants, and has initiated a number of bridge-to-work programs for immigrants in the Ottawa region.

Ying has a BA in Foreign Studies from Tianjin University in China, and an MBA from Exeter University, UK.

Prior to immigrating to Canada, Ying served in both the public and private sectors. He was a Senior Management Consultant for MTSI International, General Manager with Invest Inkina AB, and served as a Diplomat representing China in Nepal and Liberia, among others.

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Sarah Onyango - *Master of Ceremony*

Translator / Community & Media Personality / Organizer, Rogers Television and CHUO 89.1 FM, Ottawa, ON. **Born:** Kenya.

Trained as a translator, Kenyan-born Sarah Onyango has become a well-known fixture on Ottawa's community television and radio scene. Sarah hosts the monthly African cultural program *Fontonfrom*, on Rogers TV Cable 22 – Ottawa as well as the weekly radio programs, *Black on Black* and *Afrika Revisited* on CHUO 89.1FM (University of Ottawa community radio). She has also written articles for *The Spectrum*, Ottawa's English-language, Black monthly community newspaper.

A tireless promoter of African and Caribbean culture and activities, Sarah has for many years been actively involved in public relations work for various African and Caribbean diplomatic missions as well as community organizations such as, Black History Ottawa, Fête Caribe, the Association of Kenyans in Canada, the Jamaican (Ottawa) Community Association, and the Nigerian Association in Ottawa.