



Parent/Guardian Focus Groups

The Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership (WE LIP) worked with the Windsor-Essex Children and Youth Planning Committee (CYPC) on a research project to make services for children and their families in Windsor and Essex County easier to access.



The Windsor-Essex County Children and Youth Planning Committee is working to build an effective integrated system of services that supports children and youth ages prenatal to 12 years of age and their families. In late 2014, the committee accessed one-time funding from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to identify strategies to better connect with and support children and their families from the Aboriginal, Francophone and Immigrant communities.

The planning committee identified the importance of increasing parent/family engagement with each of these populations throughout the region with the goal of providing appropriate and responsive support. As a partner on this project, Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership staff helped to coordinate focus groups at the following WELIP member organizations:

- The YMCA of Windsor and Essex County - Central Windsor;
- Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County - East Windsor;
- and South Essex Community Council - Leamington.

These focus groups were held in the latter part of November and the first part of December 2014. Each focus group was 90 minutes in length and child minding was available on-site. Participants received assistance with transportation (bus tickets), if required, in addition to a \$25.00 grocery store gift card as a thank you for attending the session.

Based on the feedback received at the immigrant focus groups, the committee identified the following strategic actions:

1. Develop multilingual program information, including visual mapping of services and agencies
2. Connect with the Local Immigration Partnership re: their strategy and identify points of intersection in terms of where we could work together
3. Work with newcomer agencies to disseminate agency and community resources to where immigrant families congregate (schools, family health teams, religious organizations, etc.)
4. Provide cultural competency training to the CYPC and frontline staff
5. Create accessible pop up spaces and hubs (to help with transportation barriers)

This partnership exemplifies the importance of community collaboration in making Windsor-Essex more welcoming community for all!