

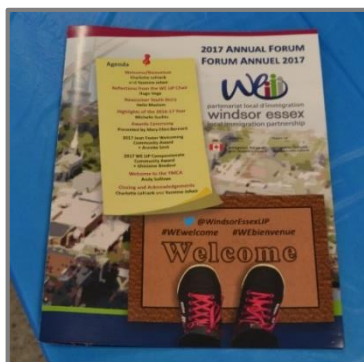
Sharing Best Practices at the Réseau de soutien à l'immigration francophone du Centre-Sud-Ouest de l'Ontario Annual Forum February 23, 2017

WE LIP staff was honoured to highlight Francophone partnerships at the Réseau de soutien à l'immigration francophone du Centre-Sud-Ouest de l'Ontario Annual Forum on February 23, 2017 in St. Catherine's, Ontario. Michelle Suchiu, WE LIP Community Connector, was one of 3 panelists in a workshop themed *Collaboration and partnership with Anglophone organizations in providing services to Francophone immigrants: Successes, challenges and opportunities*.



Photo Credit: Gerry P. Côté, CERF Niagara

The 2017 WE LIP Annual Community Forum was held on March 2, 2017 at the newly built YMCA at Central Park Athletics. With over 120 council members and community stakeholders in attendance, the forum was a celebration of the ongoing efforts of WE LIP Council members and the community at large to make Windsor-Essex a welcoming community.



Helin Muslim, a 16-year-old Syrian refugee youth, shared the story of her journey to Canada with her beloved shoes that were gifted to her by her mother.



2016-2017 Highlights

MEMBERSHIP

- 94 council member organizations
- Over 188 WE LIP Ambassadors

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Ways to improve Labour Market Outcomes for immigrants
- Ways to improve access to and coordination of immigrant integration services
- Ways to strengthen local awareness and capacity to integrate immigrants

GOVERNANCE

- 3 Council meetings
- 9 Executive meetings
- 30+ committee meetings

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- Supported 14 new partnerships

PRESENTATIONS

- Delivered 23 presentations

SHARING BEST PRACTICES

- 4 opportunities to share OUR work

INFORMATION SHARING

- 300+ email blasts

The Jean Foster Welcoming Community Award was awarded to Anneke Smit for her advocacy work with refugees. Ghislaine Brodeur was the recipient of the WE LIP Compassionate Community Award for her countless contributions to the WE LIP Council.



A *Tour of Welcoming Practices* offered attendees an opportunity to network and learn about unique initiatives by community organizations:

- A21 Academy
- AIDS Committee of Windsor
- Comité local en immigration francophone de Windsor Essex
- Measuring the Integration and Local Capacity (MILC) Survey – WE LIP SPICE Committee
- Leamington and Area Syrian Refugee Private Sponsorship Committee
- MyNewCity App – City of Windsor Geomatics Department
- Working Together to Welcome Syrian Refugees to Chatham-Kent
- Data and Employment: Workforce WindsorEssex
- WE LIP Newcomer Youth Committee
- YMCA Newcomer Women's Hockey League
- VON Immigrant Health Clinic



Photo Credit: Michelle Karr, Workforce WindsorEssex

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