

WE LIP Newsletter - Spring 2017



WE LIP Youth Focused Community Conversation

December 7, 2016



Every year, the WE LIP undertakes community conversations in order to delve more thoroughly into subjects that are impacting newcomers in Windsor Essex. The discussion from these circles is used to bring together stakeholders and to explore possible solutions. Over the past few years, circles have evolved into WE LIP ad hoc committees on topics such as healthcare, mental health care, public safety and education.

On December 7, 2016, 39 attendees representing 30 WE LIP Council member organizations attended the WE LIP Winter 2016 Council Meeting held at École secondaire de Lamothe-Cadillac. A portion of the meeting was dedicated to the presentation of a research synopsis by Erwin Selimos, PhD Candidate at the University of Windsor's Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology. His study is entitled *Young Immigrant Lives: A Study of the Migration and Settlement Experiences of Immigrant and Refugee Youth in Windsor, Ontario*.

During the presentation, Erwin discussed his findings about:

- Community provisions support social inclusion: Windsor possesses social and institutional characteristics that support young immigrants' and refugees' social inclusion
- Limited social participation and experiences of social exclusion
- Associated problems and pressures of being young



Erwin's research also provided recommendations that may assist in building a city that supports the full inclusion and participation of immigrant and refugee youth.

Following the presentation, attendees were divided into groups and asked to respond to 4 youth focused questions. Erwin then facilitated a discussion where council members shared their responses with the larger group. As a result of the Community Conversation, for the 2017-2018 contract year, WE LIP will be creating a committee that will focus on the challenges and opportunities for newcomer youth in the Windsor Essex region.



Funded by:

Financé par :



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

WindsorEssex Express Entry Events

December 8 and 9, 2016

WE LIP member organizations came together to organize Express Entry events on December 8th and 9th to raise awareness of the Express Entry System. This system was implemented by the Federal Government to manage how people with skilled work experience take the first step to immigrate to Canada permanently under the:

- Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP)
- Federal Skilled Trades Program (FSTP)
- Canadian Experience Class (CEC)
- A portion of the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)

Working with Steven Owen, an Employer Liaison Officer (Ontario) with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, planning committee members developed a two-day agenda.

December 8th - Employer Meetings:

Planning Committee members identified local employers who were interested in meeting with Steven Owen and required specific support in using the Express Entry system. Individual meetings were set up with five employers.

December 9th - WindsorEssex Express Entry Employer Breakfast:

Eighty plus attendees, including 42 employers, participated in the WindsorEssex Express Entry Employer Breakfast to learn more about the Express Entry system.

Steven Owen was the keynote speaker for the event. He explained his role with the Employer Liaison Network (ELN) which helps Canadian employers learn about the Express Entry system and connect with skilled workers overseas, including French-speaking or bilingual candidates. ELN officers provide employers with useful and up-to-date information on Express Entry and permanent economic immigration programs.

December 9th - International Student Express Entry Information Session:

New Canadians' Centre of Excellence Inc. hosted an information session facilitated by Steven Owen for 18 University of Windsor international students to learn more about the Express Entry System.



WE LIP Newsletter - Spring 2017

The following organizations participated in the planning of the Express Entry events:

- The Municipality of Leamington
- New Canadians' Centre of Excellence Inc.*
- Réseau de soutien à l'immigration francophone du Centre-Sud-Ouest de l'Ontario
- WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation*
- Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Workforce WindsorEssex

*Event sponsor

WINDSOR-ESSEX EXPRESS ENTRY EMPLOYER BREAKFAST

DECEMBER 9, 2016
REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST: 7:30 AM - 8:00 AM
PROGRAM: 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
FOGOLAR FURLAN
1800 N SERVICE RD, WINDSOR, ON N8W 1Y3

Express Entry is a new system to manage how people with skilled work experience apply to immigrate to Canada. Express Entry is now the first step to immigrate to Canada permanently as a skilled worker under the:

- Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP)
- Federal Skilled Trades Program (FSTP)
- Canadian Experience Class (CEC)
- A portion of the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)

The Employer Liaison Network (ELN) helps Canadian employers learn about the Express Entry system and connect with skilled workers overseas, including French-speaking or bilingual candidates. ELN officers provide employers with useful and up-to-date information on Express Entry and permanent economic immigration programs.


workforce
WindsorEssex
YOUR LOCAL EMPLOYMENT PLANNING COUNCIL
WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL
Chamber of Commerce

Réseau de soutien
à l'immigration francophone
Bureau Centre Sud-Ouest de l'Ontario

Municipality of
Leamington
We do it right. We work.

partner local d'immigration
windsor essex
local immigration partnership

FEATURING:



Steven Owen, Employer Liaison Officer,
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

Born and raised in Ottawa, he studied international relations at the University of Toronto and the London School of Economics before joining IRCC as a foreign service officer in 2004. He has served in positions in Canada and overseas, including as a team lead at the Case Processing Centre in Ottawa, as a visa officer in Beijing, and on temporary assignments in New Delhi, Buffalo, and Cairo. Since summer 2016 he has been based in Toronto as part of IRCC's Employer Liaison Network, responsible for the Ontario region.

Please register for this FREE event at:
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/windsor-essex-express-entry-employer-breakfast-tickets-29081549698>

This event is sponsored by:

WindsorEssex
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Funded by: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Financé par: Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

NEW CANADIANS' CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE INC.
"Home to the World"



Funded by:

Financé par :



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

Holiday Sponsorship of Syrian Family

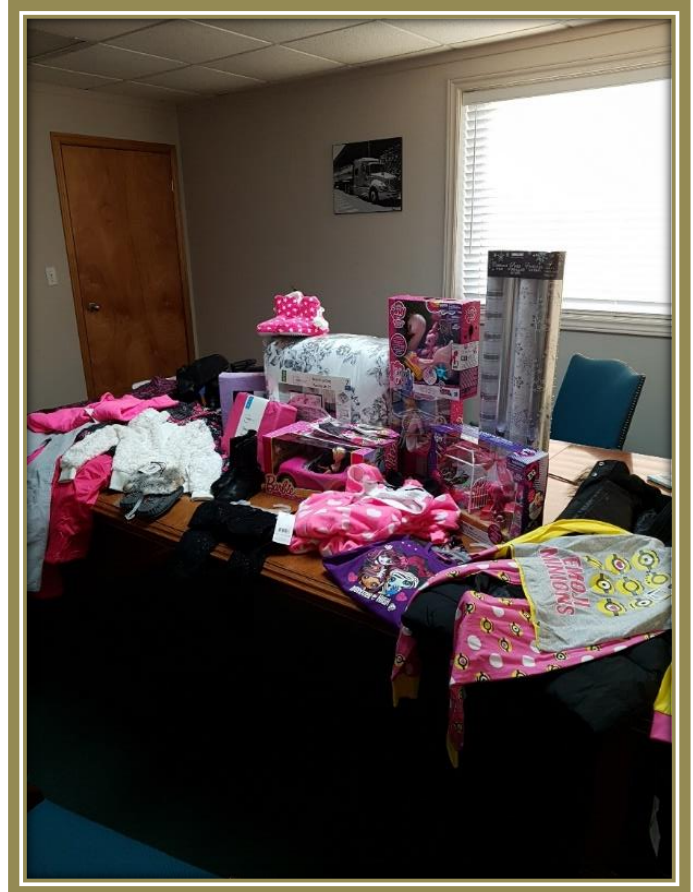
December 2016

In December, one local Syrian refugee family experienced the true meaning of Christmas and the giving spirit of the Windsor Essex community.

For the past 12 years, Gorski Bulk Transport Inc. has sponsored between 2 to 4 families per year through the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society Holiday Program and this past year, decided to also sponsor a refugee family. They contacted the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership staff for some guidance and were connected with WE LIP member, Unemployed Help Centre of Windsor Inc. (UHC), who organizes an annual Holiday Sponsorship Program. The UHC paired Gorski with a family consisting of a mother and her four-year-old and 6-year-old daughters. They also provided Gorski with a wish list of items for the family.

Staff at Gorski Bulk Transport Inc. contributed monetary donations which the company then matched. Volunteer shoppers purchased winter jackets, boots, pyjamas, pants, sweaters, toys, bed sets and a grocery store gift card, ensuring to get everything on the list, as well as some extras. The UHC delivered the gifts to the family just before Christmas, and much to her surprise, Gorski also provided the mother with a gift card for a pair prescription eye glasses. The family, who arrived from Syria in December 2015, expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the generous gifts by sending a thank you card to the staff of Gorski Bulk Transport.

Gorski also donated additional grocery store gift cards that the UHC was able to distribute to additional families in the Holiday Sponsorship Program.



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. Catharines, 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

Funded by:

Financé par :



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

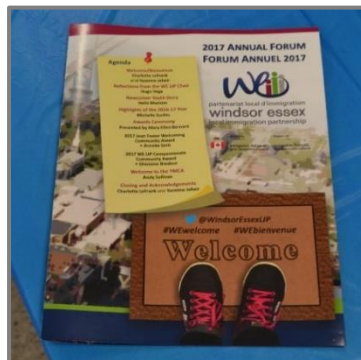
Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

WE LIP Newsletter - Spring 2017

2017 WE LIP Annual Community Forum

March 2, 2017

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

Funded by:

Financé par :



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

WE LIP Newsletter - Spring 2017

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

Funded by:

Financé par :



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

WE LIP Featured on CBC's Power & Politics

March 15, 2017

Power & Politics

CBC's Power and Politics filmed a live segment at the University of Windsor of March 15, 2017. Hugo Vega, Chair of the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership, participated as a member of a panel discussing Windsor's efforts to resettle Syrian Refugees. He was joined by Yousra Debduk and Obada Baghdadi, Syrian refugees, who spoke about their experiences in Canada thus far.



Rosemary Barton, host of the show, asked Hugo why Windsor is successful in integrating and welcoming so many refugees. Hugo cited the strength of WE LIP's 90 plus member organizations and its relationship with the City of Windsor municipal departments such as housing, child services and social services. Windsor Essex has been working on refugee issues for many years, resulting in a foundation and infrastructure that was already in place. When the Syrian crisis occurred, Windsor Essex responded by accelerating the work that was already being done.

When asked how refugees are handling the month 13 transition, Hugo stated that WE LIP has been



working alongside the municipality to ensure a smooth transition. "We need to contextualize the settlement process for a lot of newcomers. This is a two to three to five-year process for most of them to really land on their feet. I think we need to understand that that's where they're at; they're just one year in. Most families really thrive."

WE LIP Newsletter - Spring 2017



Hugo identified housing and mental health as issues that need attention. "The complexity of the resources that are needed go well beyond settlement. We have a great partnership locally with the Local Health Integration Network and we've been able to open up a Newcomer Health Clinic that serves newcomers specifically. It's a very unique model in the country and those are the sort of things we need to do; not just to

ask for dollars but to also figure out how to streamline, how to work with other sectors to really support this in the best way we can.

"I would love to say that it (Syrian refugee story) is a success already. I want to look to the future. We have to look at this as a long-term plan...this is our Vietnamese Boat People for this generation and I think in 10, 20 years we're going to look back and say we've done this well. Was it frustrating? Were there challenges? Absolutely, but I think in general we've done things relatively well."

Please click on the following links to either view or listen to the segment in its entirety:

Video: <http://www.cbc.ca/player/play/898959939610/>

Podcast (1:21:40 mark):

http://podcast.cbc.ca/mp3/podcasts/cbcpowerandpolitics_20170315_41431.mp3

Highlighting Collaboration at the 2017 National Metropolis Conference

March 16, 2017

The Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership was invited to participate as panelists at the 2017 National Metropolis Conference in Montreal, Quebec. WE LIP council members and staff, Sarah May Garcia, Jon Jewell and Marina George, participated in a workshop entitled, *Cross-Sectoral Partnerships: Charting a Way Forward*. The session highlighted examples of cross-sectoral partnerships with non-traditional organizations and how they address challenges with serving newcomers.

The WE LIP ambassadors spoke to the collaborative efforts of the Windsor-Essex community that led to the creation of VON Immigrant Health Clinic. The presentation included information about:

- Triggers leading to the partnership
- Developing best practices
- Challenges and solutions
- Indicators of success
- Lessons learned/Moving forward together



VON Immigrant Health Clinic – Case Study




"I am very thankful for the help of the people at the VON clinic. They have helped make it easier for our children to attend school, ensure that my family is healthy, and allow us to become a part of the community"

- Jamal Omais, VON Immigrant Health Clinic client



Indicators of Success



VON Immigrant Health Clinic (IHC) in numbers
Highlights - April 18, 2016 to February 28, 2017:

- 867 Total assessments conducted
- 171 Total outreach clinic assessments in Windsor and Essex county
- 712 Patients successfully connected to primary care

Funded by:

Financé par :



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

WE LIP Members Supporting the Tikkun Project

April 2017

The Tikkun Project is a research-action project exploring how young people living in various communities in Canada, South Africa, and Kosovo are actively contributing to social healing and change. The research team included WE LIP members, Dr. Karen Roland, Dr. Erwin Selimos and Lina Chaker.

"Tikkun Olam" is a powerful Hebrew phrase which means "repairing/healing the world". Dr. Yvette Daniel from the faculty of Education at the University of Windsor has devoted three years of research and collaboration to gather together young people from areas of conflict and growth in the world: South Africa, Kosovo, and, in Ontario, Thunder Bay, Toronto, and Windsor. The young people are from a wide array of cultural and religious backgrounds, including Indigenous Canadian, African, Eastern European, and Syrian. They joined together in the work of creating world healing and reconciliation through various forms of research and expression both within their communities and as a collective community. During the first week of April, in the culminating event of this three-year project, they came together in Windsor for a three-day program of face-to-face interaction, workshops, art performances, and engagement.

The final symposium on Wednesday, April 5th, opened with a Syrian drumming circle, followed by an "ArtNote". WE LIP members, Charlotte LeFrank, Nesreen Elkord, and Lina Chaker facilitated a drama performance by Syrian youth from Westview Freedom Academy. These young people have, since their arrival in Canada, persisted in finding opportunities to share their stories to familiarize and inspire local community members to help them achieve their goals. They were motivated by the deep desire to help Canadians understand the suffering of the Syrian people, to process the trauma and losses they have experienced, and ultimately, to heal and to forge a better future. Raneem, a performer in the production, stated, "Sharing these stories will ease the burden and make us open our arms to life."

To learn more about the Tikkun Project, visit www.tikkunproject.org.



WE LIP Newcomer Youth Committee

May 2017

The Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership (WE LIP) views the social inclusion of young immigrants and refugees in the community as a central piece of building a welcoming Windsor-Essex region. As such, WE LIP has committed itself to incorporating the issues and challenges of newcomer youth into their strategic priority. As part of this goal, WE LIP has formed a Newcomer Youth Committee which is being chaired by Dr. Erwin Selimos. The first meeting, held on May 13, 2017, began a four-meeting process in which the committee will develop action priorities.

As a collaborative process, the goal of these four meetings is to identify high impact "actionable" projects to be implemented beginning September 2017. There is great enthusiasm among stakeholders to build an inclusive Windsor-Essex for young people; this is the most essential ingredient needed to build community-wide actions that will support the social inclusion of newcomer youth in the region.

Based on the first meeting, there are several areas of emerging focus, interest and action:

1. **Youth participation:** Developing structures or opportunities in the community for newcomer youth to be involved in the development of programs and services to meet their needs, including youth representation on the Newcomer Youth Committee.
2. **Education/Employment:** Ensuring access to education and good employment in Windsor-Essex, especially after high school.
3. **Social participation:** Creating opportunities for youth of various social and cultural backgrounds to meet and interact, in order to break down the apparent silos among young people; increasing access for newcomer youth to leisure opportunities.
4. **Mental health and social well-being:** Increasing access to culturally responsive mental health services; creating opportunities for youth to develop positive self-esteem and self-concepts within the context of migration and settlement.



WE LIP Newsletter - Spring 2017

To learn more about the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership (WE LIP), please click on the following links:

[City of Windsor WE LIP Page](#)

[Workforce WindsorEssex WE LIP Page](#)

[Welcome to Windsor WE LIP Page](#)

Follow us on Twitter

[@WindsorEssexLIP](#)

