

Windsor Essex's 2017 Vital Signs Report and Community Conversation at WE LIP Council Meeting

December 2017

Windsor-Essex's 2017 Vital Signs report was released to the community on October 3, 2017 at the Windsor Star News Café. According to the WindsorEssex Community Foundation, our community responded that we are doing OK when it comes to the quality of life in Windsor-Essex and identified priorities to address moving forward.

"The Vital Signs report is an excellent resource that we use throughout the year to guide our grantmaking at the WECF," stated Lisa Kolody, Executive Director. "It outlines where the strengths and needs exist in Windsor-Essex, identifies local priorities, and it informs where our funding will provide the greatest impact locally. More and more local agencies are incorporating Vital Signs data in their program planning."

WE LIP Community Connector, Michelle Suchiu was invited to present examples of how the community is working together to make Windsor-Essex more welcoming.



On December 12, 2017 the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership invited its members to be a part of the *Windsor-Essex Vital Signs Getting Started Community Conversation* held during the WE LIP Winter 2017 Council meeting.

The conversation focused on employment, welcoming, youth and seniors as it relates to newcomers in Windsor-Essex. Over 50 council members were provided information from guest speakers:

Rev. Andrew Wilson, *St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church*

Lina Chaker, *Windsor Islamic Association & Syrian Canadian Council of Canada*

Jill Cadarette, *Life After Fifty*

Alicia Summerfield, *Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development*

A breakout session provided an opportunity for attendees to discuss a predetermined set of questions. The feedback will be compiled into a report by the WindsorEssex Community Foundation.



WindsorEssex Express Entry Employer Breakfast

January 24, 2018

For a second time, WE LIP member organizations, in partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, came together to plan a 2 day agenda to raise awareness of the Express Entry System; a process which is designed to manage applications for permanent residence under the:

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



January 23, 2018 - Express Entry International Student Presentations:

Express Entry information was presented to 128 students from St. Clair College and the University of Windsor.

January 24, 2018 - Express Entry Employer Breakfast:

A morning information session at the Institute for Border Logistics and Security was organized for employers and community stakeholders. The 59 attendees, including 24 various employers, were provided Express Entry information from Keynote speaker Steven Owen, Employer Liaison Officer (Ontario) with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

Additionally, partners shared details about the Select for Success Program (New Canadians' Centre of Excellence Inc.) and the Destination Canada Program (Réseau de soutien à l'immigration francophone du Centre-Sud-Ouest de l'Ontario).

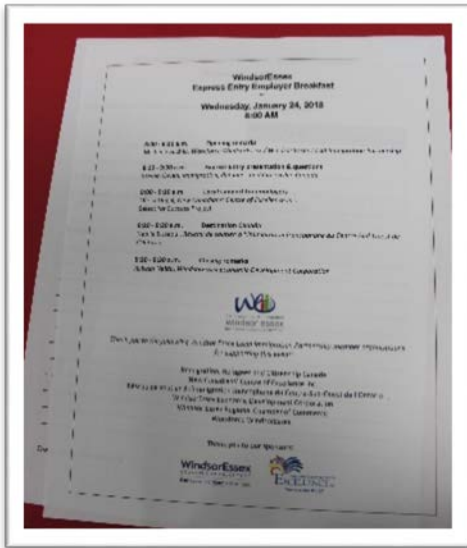
January 24, 2018 - Employer Meetings:

Individual meetings with Steven Owen were arranged for local employers who required specific support in using the Express Entry system.

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

- 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

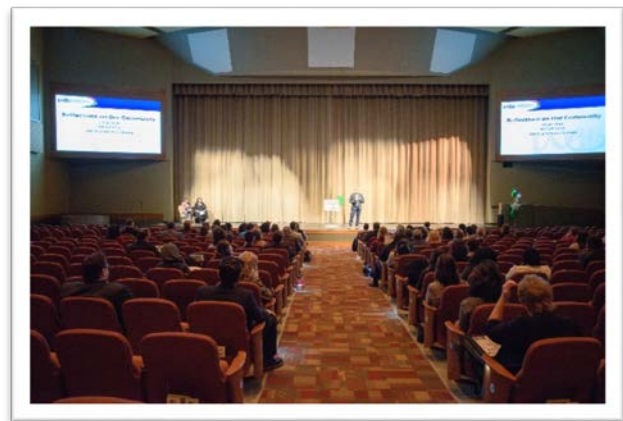
*Event sponsor



2018 WE LIP Annual Community Forum

February 23, 2018

On February 23, 2018, the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership (WE LIP) held its Annual Community Forum at Heritage Park Alliance Church. To start off the morning, the 80 plus attendees were treated to a traditional Tai Chi and Chinese dance performance, followed by a showcase of WE LIP Council member achievements.



Agenda items for the event included:

- Reflections on Our Community
- WE LIP Year in Review
- Regional Children's Centre Triple P Trillium Funding Announcement
- Newcomer Youth Planning Committee
- Express Entry Events
- Newcomers: Your Skilled Workforce
- Francophone Immigration Week
- The Municipal Lens
- SPICE Committee
- OPP Committed Officer Patrol Strategy (C.O.P.S.)
- Retrospective of the Jean Foster Award
- WE Belong & WE LIP 10 Year Anniversary



Photo Credit: Mike Kovaliv

Regional Children's Centre Trillium Funding Announcement

February 23, 2018



On Friday, February 23, Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare's (HDGH) Regional Children's Centre (RCC) officially announced their Triple P – Positive Parenting Program® has received a Trillium Grow Grant to gear the service to our newcomer community.

An additional \$139,000 over 24 months will allow the cultural adaptation of the program for the Arab newcomer community recognizing the need to support their mental health and wellbeing. It has also allowed the program to welcome Dr. Nesreen Elkord, who will aid with the adaptation and help test this Triple P specialty program in Windsor/Essex.

"Transitioning to a new country can be very challenging, we hope by providing this support we can aid newcomer families as they adjust to their life in Canada. Triple P programs promote positive parenting strategies, which lead to well-adjusted children who have the skills and confidence they need to be successful," explained Tammy Drazilov, Community Practice Coordinator with RCC. "This Trillium Grow Grant will not only allow for the program to be translated into their native language but will also meet the cultural needs of this specific population."

The announcement was delivered during the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership's (WE LIP) Annual General meeting, where partners and stakeholders discussed initiatives and plans to make Windsor-Essex a more welcoming and inclusive community.



Photo Credit: Mike Kovaliv

The Regional Children's Centre was grateful for the efforts made by WE LIP staff in promoting the project and connecting RCC with local newcomer service organizations, resulting in collaborations that provided Triple P facilitator training to newcomer agency staff members. The following WE LIP member organizations are certified to offer Triple P sessions in Arabic:

- Collège Boréal
- Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County
- South Essex Community Council
- The Windsor Women Working with Immigrant Women
- Unemployed Help Centre of Windsor Inc.
- Women's Enterprise Skills Training of Windsor Inc.
- YMCA of Western Ontario

An agency of the Government of Ontario, the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is one of Canada's largest granting foundations. With a budget of over \$136 million, OTF awards grants to some 1,000 projects every year to build healthy and vibrant Ontario communities.



Launch of WE LIP's WE Belong Campaign

March 2018

Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership is proud to announce the launch of the #WEbelong | #noussoyonsWE campaign.

WE Belong is a public awareness campaign designed to encourage citizens to take a proactive step towards making Windsor and Essex County truly welcoming for all.

WE Belong works to promote a unified community, standing together in collective action against prejudice, racism and discrimination.

WE Belong is a simple way that each of us can help make Windsor-Essex a more welcoming place.

How to Get Involved:

When: The Campaign Runs Between March and November 2018

Who: Everyone! The campaign is open to anyone living, working or visiting in Essex County. Individuals, groups, organizations, workplaces and businesses are welcome!

How: You can participate in a few different ways:

1. Pick up your pledge card at any WE LIP Council Meeting during the year, or find them on line at: www.workforcewindsor.ca/welip
2. Fill out your pledge card and take a picture of yourself or your group. Share on Social Media!

Hashtags: #WEbelong #noussoyonsWE

Twitter: @WindsorEssexLIP

Web: www.workforcewindsor.ca/welip

On the blank portion of the card, fill in your commitment. What action will you take? Acceptance, Inclusivity, Equity, Understanding, Learning, etc. How can you make a difference? Afterwards you can display the cards and make them visible!

3. Take a short video (maximum 30 seconds). Describe the action you are taking to challenge racism and promote welcoming. You can also discuss the value of diversity and how diversity makes our community stronger!
4. Get Educated! Learn more about how to build and community and ways you can take safe and purposeful action against all forms of discrimination.
5. Some characteristics of a welcoming municipality can be found on our website: www.workforcewindsor.ca/welip

6. Encourage friends, family members, colleagues and community leaders to join movement. There is strength in numbers! Together we can create a more welcoming and inclusive community.
7. Follow the conversation on Twitter at: [@WindsorEssexLIP](https://twitter.com/WindsorEssexLIP)

Together we can ensure that #WEbelong | #noussoyonsWE applies to everyone!

Thank you for taking part in the #WEbelong | #noussoyonsWE Campaign. As the campaign continues to grow and evolve, please note that shared photos and videos may be used for the purposes of promotion or documentation. For information or inquiries please contact: Michelle Suchiu, WE LIP Community Connector: msuchiu@workforcewindsor.ca



Photo Credit: Mike Kovaliv



Upcoming Events



May 15, 2018	Understanding the LMIA Process Information Sessions for Employers
May 24, 2018	ESINC (Emergency Services Introduction to New Canadians) Open Air Display
May 28, 2018	SPICE Workshop at OMSSA Leadership Symposium

WE LIP Council Meetings

May 14, 2018	Spring Council Meeting
September 26, 2018	Fall Council Meeting
December 11, 2018	Winter Council Meeting
February 27, 2019	Annual Community Forum

WE LIP Committee Meetings

May 7, 2018	WE LIP Newcomer Youth Planning Committee
May 8, 2018	WE LIP 10 Year Anniversary Working Group
May 8, 2018	SPICE Committee
May 31, 2018	HENI Leadership Table
June 4, 2018	HENI Committee

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](#)