

WE LIP Newsletter - Summer 2017



Benefits of Hiring Immigrants Highlighted at Workforce Summit

May 12, 2017



On May 12, 2017, WE LIP member, Workforce WindsorEssex, held a Workforce Summit. The objective of the one-day event was to tackle the issue of people without jobs and jobs without people by providing insight on innovative training initiatives from other communities and by discussing the existing and missing training pathways for in-demand occupations in Windsor-Essex community. Approximately 180 representatives from industry, government, employment services, and education and training organizations were in attendance. One theme which was explored was the benefits of hiring immigrants to create a diverse workforce.

Keynoter speaker, Jim Estill, CEO of Danby Appliances, spoke about how his Guelph company has sponsored 58 Syrian Refugee families. Each family is matched with an Arabic speaking mentor family and 4 or 5 English speaking families. The mentors offer support with everyday tasks such as banking, riding the bus, acquiring library cards and medical appointments.

For those newcomers who are interested, Danby offers 90 days of employment at its facility; the ultimate goal being full time employment with either Danby or another local employer. The company has created the Ease into Canada Program, providing its newcomer employees with valuable Canadian work experience, as well as opportunities to learn English through a "Word of the Day", lunch buddies and one on one tutoring. Jim credits much of the success of the program to his employee/community volunteers. He encourages other employers to offer similar opportunities for newcomers, stating that the unintended consequences include a more engaged workforce, employee and customer attraction, infusion of new and different ways of thinking and new connections with global markets.

Michelle Suchiu, WE LIP Community Connector, addressed the Workforce Summit participants to reinforce the message of hiring newcomers and the benefits of a diverse workforce.



Photo credit: Mike Kovaliv

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City of Windsor and WE LIP Receive OMSSA Award

May 2017



The Ontario Municipal Social Service Association (OMSSA) celebrated the progress made by investing in people during their annual conference on May 29th and 30th 2017. The OMSSA Awards celebrate individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to both OMSSA and their communities, recognizing their commitment to plan, manage and deliver quality human services in Ontario. The City of Windsor and the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership (WE LIP) were the recipients of the Municipal Champion Award for their efforts over the past year to help resettle over 1300 Syrian refugees into the Windsor community. From the outset, the City of Windsor's Community Development and Health Services worked in concert with the WE LIP to enhance the management of the service system. Through constant communication and collaboration, the system became better equipped to better meet the needs of our newcomers.



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Canadian Citizenship Ceremony

July 1, 2017

Across Canada, July 1st had special meaning this year as we celebrated Canada's 150th birthday, but for 40 Windsorites, it will also signify the day they officially became Canadian Citizens. For the third year, the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership, in collaboration with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and the City of Windsor hosted a Canadian Citizenship Ceremony at the Windsor International Aquatic and Training Centre. The candidates, who represented 13 different countries, were sworn in by Presiding Official, Rob Bruce, Manager of Windsor IRCC.

Dignitaries in attendance included: Mayor Drew Dilkens; Brian Masse, MP (Windsor-West); Tracy Ramsey, MP (Essex); Lisa Gretzky, MPP (Windsor-West); City of Windsor Councillors Ed Sleiman and Fred Francis; Warden Tom Bain; and Constable Neil McEachrane, Windsor Police Diversity Officer. To help mark the event, 20 delegates from 4 of Windsor's Twin Cities (Las Vuelas, El Salvador; Gunsan, South Korea; Changchun, China; and Mannheim, Germany) were also in attendance.

Once again, WE LIP council members hosted information booths to showcase their services and acted as volunteers in support of the event.



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The following organizations participated in the Citizenship Ceremony event:

Unemployed Help Centre
Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County
YMCA of Windsor-Essex
New Canadians' Centre of Excellence Inc.
Women's Enterprise Skills Training of Windsor Inc.
City of Windsor - Healthy Kids Community Challenge Project

Conseil scolaire catholique Providence
Conseil scolaire Viamonde
Windsor Islamic Council
Windsor Police Service
VON Immigrant Health Clinic



Photo credit: Walter Manzig

WIN Program Reveals Art Project

July 8, 2017



The 'Wellness Initiative for Newcomers (W.I.N.)' youth program, organized by WE LIP members, Windsor Women Working with Immigrant Women (W5) and The Initiative: Glengarry-Marentette Neighborhood Renewal, revealed a series of mosaic art sculptures at Adventure Bay on July 8th, 2017. The public was invited to mingle with the program participants and learn more about the project's next steps of installing the functional art structures across the Glengarry – Marentette neighbourhood.

The artwork was produced through an 8-week collaborative program created to develop newcomer youth skills and awareness of individual and community mental wellness, while providing them with the tangible opportunity of giving back to the community through a neighborhood beautification project. Youth participated in discussion-based activities led by W5 and corresponding thematic mosaic art workshops organized by The Initiative and artist Julie Butler surrounding topics of social support, anger and stress coping skills, healthy thinking, etc.

In co-operation with the City of Windsor, The Initiative is working on publicly installing the structures, which include a free little library, friendship bench, and murals expressing messages from youth. They are also accepting requests from private property owners and businesses interested in installing some of the artwork on their property.

Several funding bodies and organizations that have contributed to the success and feasibility of this project, including the Ministry of Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada, United Way/Centraide Windsor-Essex County, Ontario Arts Council, Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County, and Canadian Red Cross.



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Mosaic sculptures created by new Canadian youth participating in the Wellness Initiative for Newcomers program.

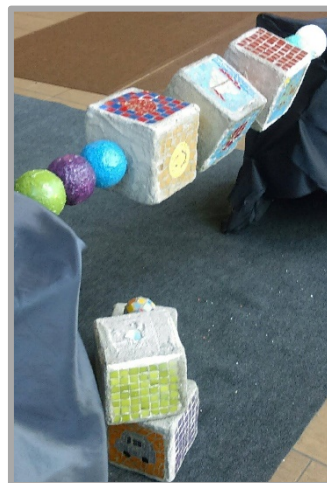


Photo credit: Leo Gil

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Upcoming Events



WE LIP HENI (Health Equity for Newcomers & Immigrants) Committee Meeting

September 12, 2017

SPICE (Settlement Providers Information Communication Exchange) Professional Learning Circle

September 15, 2017

Southwestern Ontario LIP/RIF Meeting (hosted by WE LIP)

September 29, 2017

WE LIP Fall Council Meeting

October 12, 2017

2016 Census Data Release - Immigration & ethnocultural diversity, housing and Aboriginal peoples

October 25, 2017

Pathways to Prosperity Conference, Toronto

November 15-17, 2017

WE LIP Winter Council Meeting

December 12, 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](#)

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