



As a follow-up to the Connecting Communities Consultation held on March 28, 2019, the St. Thomas-Elgin Local Immigration Partnership (STELIP), in collaboration with the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership, invited local community partners to participate in the next phase of the Before You Sign project funded by The Law Foundation of Ontario. Based on feedback that was provided during various consultations, STELIP, in partnership with the Elgin-Oxford Legal Clinic and the Brantford Legal Clinic, created training materials that were shared during the Before You Sign Training event held on October 16, 2019.

### Workshop Goals:

Rural populations of immigrants, especially individuals who are not native English speakers, experience significant obstacles in obtaining accurate legal information due to factors of isolation, transportation, and language proficiency. Leaders of ethnic communities, and frontline workers in community and social service agencies may be the only contacts and sources of information that rural newcomers encounter. By helping newcomers and immigrants better understand legal systems and supports in Canada, there is an opportunity to avoid more costly and complicated legal interventions for them later. The intention of this workshop is to bring together these key players in our communities with existing legal information and resources to better support newcomers.

The interactive session provided thirty-two frontline staff information focused on:

- Immigrant context for providing legal support;
- Legal information vs. legal advice;
- Tips for detecting legal problems that immigrants may be facing;
- Tools to better support these clients.

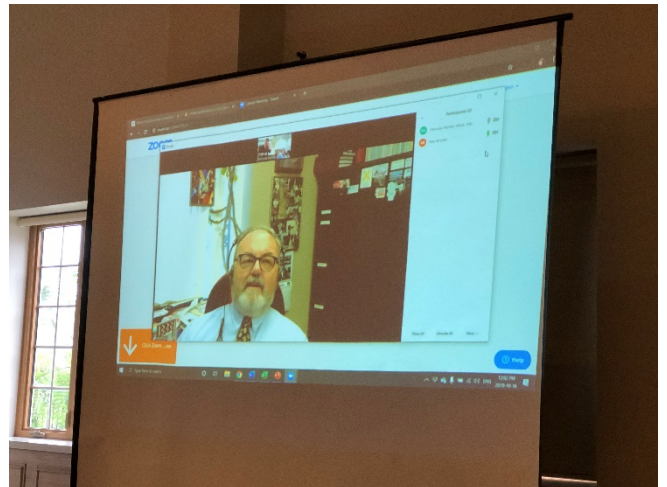
### Participating organizations:

Central Housing Registry - Windsor Essex County  
City of Windsor  
Community Legal Aid  
Legal Assistance of Windsor  
Matthew House Refugee Welcome Centre  
New Canadians' Centre of Excellence Inc.  
Nisa Homes

South Essex Community Council  
The Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County  
The Windsor Women Working With Immigrant Women  
Unemployed Help Centre of Windsor Inc.  
Women's Enterprise Skills Training of Windsor Inc.  
YMCA of Southwestern Ontario



*Petrusia Hontar, STELIP Project Coordinator, facilitated the workshop.*



*Ken Brooks, of the Elgin-Oxford Legal Clinic, provided responses during the Q & A session.*



partenariat local d'immigration  
**windsor essex**  
local immigration partnership

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Funded by:

Financé par :



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

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