

WE LIP Annual Community Forum

Each year, the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership hosts its Annual Community Forum. This year was no exception, with over 100 community members in attendance at the Ambassador Golf Club on February 13, 2020.

Hugo Vega, WE LIP Executive Chair, welcomed the attendees by reflecting on the work of the WE LIP Council, "It is a community where burdens are shared, but also addressed. Where challenges too large for any one of us, become conquerable when enough of us step up to help. It is a place where what we collectively advocate for, is what is practiced through and through with each other, and in the work that emerges. It is a place where progressive thinkers and disruptors, are not the odd ones out. It is a place where next level change, can and does happen."

Keynote speaker, Irek Kusmierczyk, MP and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, shared his family's experience of immigrating to Canada, demonstrating how newcomers contribute to and strengthen our communities.

The morning also included a host of WE LIP Council members sharing their achievements and best practices.

Welcome/Bienvenue | Land Acknowledgement



*Hugo Vega, WE LIP Chair
YMCA of Southwestern Ontario*



*Hussein Kawas, Conseil scolaire catholique
Providence*



*Jelena Payne, Community Development and Health
Services Commissioner, City of Windsor*

Keynote Speaker



*Irek Kusmierczyk, MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of
Employment, Workforce Development and
Disability Inclusion*

Multilingualism in the Workforce – Sharing Best Practices



Michelle Suchiu, Workforce WindsorEssex & Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership



Justine Taylor, Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers



Arms Bumanlag, Erie Shores HealthCare

We Speak Project



Sarah May Garcia, Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network



Kathryn Edmunds, University of Windsor Faculty of Nursing



Jaime Nantais | University of Windsor Faculty of Nursing

Mental Health Promotion in Windsor-Essex



Nicole Dupuis, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit & Claudia den Boer, Canadian Mental Health Association Windsor-Essex County

Connecting Community Through Language Partnership



Charlotte LeFrank, Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society & Didier Marotte, Centre communautaire francophone de Windsor-Essex-Kent

