

The **Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership** is very proud to share the success of the **Workplace Wellness for Agri-Food Workers Task Force** regarding the education and vaccination of Temporary Foreign Workers in Windsor-Essex.

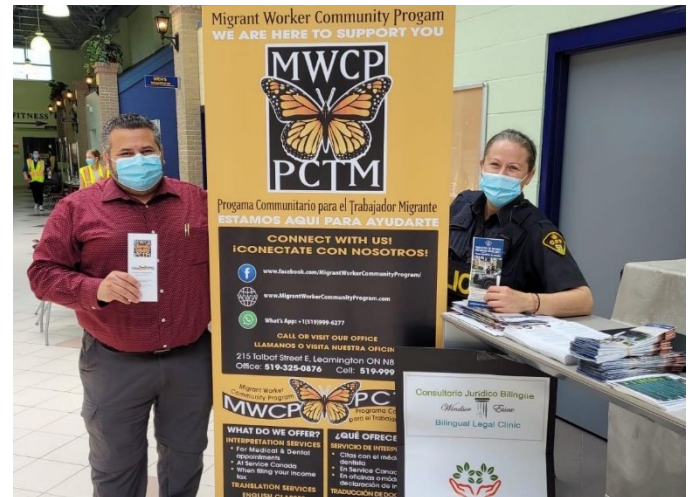
The Workplace Wellness for Agri-Food Workers Task Force (WWAW), is a collaboration of 16 community partners from across sectors committed to the health and wellness of Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW) in Windsor and Essex County.

Recognizing that Temporary Foreign Workers are a very important part of the Windsor-Essex community, the core of this collaboration was formed pre-pandemic as a community effort to improve health care supports for temporary foreign workers in the region. Through this collaboration, partners have worked on a number of health-related initiatives such as increasing access to primary care, mental health and language supports, COVID-19 information and safety resources, as well as vaccination education and promotion for Temporary Foreign Workers and employers.

Over 5000 temporary foreign workers were vaccinated with their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine at the Nature Fresh Recreation Centre Clinics (April 28th to May 6th, 2021) and at the 2-day outdoor pop-up clinics (May 20th and 21st, 2021). Over 130 farms scheduled vaccinations for their temporary foreign workers, while also coordinating transportation, providing educational materials, and addressing vaccine confidence. These efforts are in addition to existing COVID-19 procedures that have been implemented since the onset of the pandemic.



Temporary Foreign Worker pop-up clinic in Leamington



Migrant Worker Community Program Chair, Martin Varela, and Community Safety Officer, Constable Katherine Burt at the Nature Fresh Recreation Centre

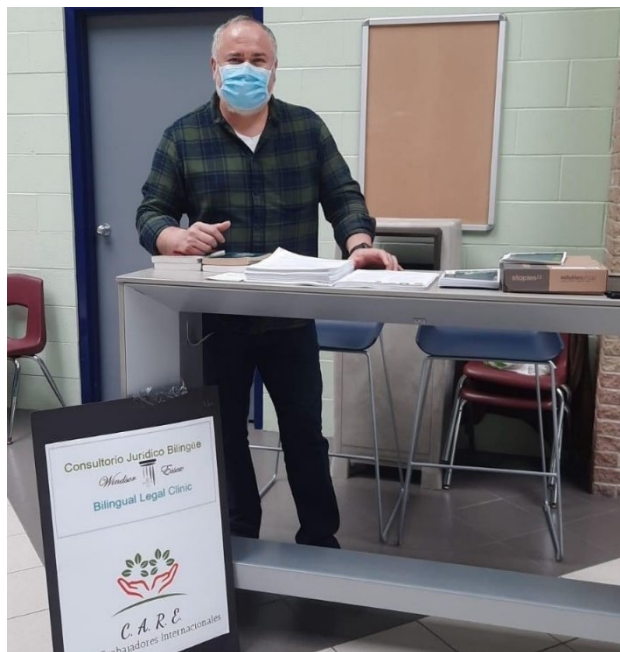
“This has been an incredibly collaborative effort. The WECHU is grateful for the cooperation and partnership of all stakeholders to ensure that temporary foreign workers in our community have access to credible information and resources, in their language and that barriers are removed to ensure vaccinations are truly accessible. They say it takes a village, this effort is a great example of what can be achieved when we come together toward one goal.”

~Dr. Ahmed, Medical Officer of Health, Windsor Essex County Health Unit

“The Migrant Worker Community Program is honoured to have been a partner in this important initiative. The MWCP is focused on supporting all visiting workers to be safe from the threat of Covid-19, from language assistance to culturally inclusive Covid-19 information to offering resources for collaborative initiatives such as this one hosted by WECHU. Only through collaborative and sustained efforts such as these will the Windsor Essex region be able to continue to offer a safe, productive and welcoming atmosphere for all of our visiting workers who are crucial to the continued success of our region. We would like to extend our thanks to WE LIP, OGVG, C.A.R.E. Organizations and the WECHU for offering us the opportunity to participate and our staff and volunteers for helping us to be part of this successful event.”

~Martin Varela, Chair, Migrant Worker Community Program

These collective efforts have helped workers and healthcare providers overcome language barriers during the vaccination process through on-site volunteers, as well as the use of **We Speak**, a language access initiative established in Windsor-Essex that gives providers access to on-demand professional interpretation by phone or video (WeSpeak.ca). The **Migrant Worker Community Program (MWCP)** also assisted by providing 20 volunteers at the **Windsor Essex County Health Unit (WECHU)** led COVID-19 vaccine pop-up clinics in Leamington on May 20 and 21, 2021. Their volunteers helped to promote the clinics and provide translation support during the vaccination process for participants. Additional translations and support were provided by **C.A.R.E for International Workers** and their community partners (**The Consulate of Mexico in Leamington, The Windsor-Essex Bilingual Legal Clinic, The Neighborhood Organization, Migrant Worker Community Program and the Temple la Buena Semilla**), who hosted an information table and also provided over 140 welcome bags at the Nature Fresh Mass Vaccination Clinic for two weeks.



LEFT: Saul Hernandez from Templo Cristiano La Buena Semilla volunteers at the information table.
RIGHT: Alejandro Noriega from the Consulate of Mexico in Leamington sharing information at the clinic

As of this writing, WECHU is re-establishing the TFW Vaccination Clinic to begin administering second doses to workers. Once again, members of the WWAW Task Force will be on-site to offer support. As well, workers continue to receive their first and second dose locally at any of the mass vaccination clinics in Windsor-Essex.

Engaging with stakeholders around Temporary Foreign Worker needs is a new mandate for the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership, and we feel very honored to work with such devoted partners on these initiatives.

See below for some of the media engagement this positive story has received:

- <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-80-afternoon-drive/clip/15849475-how-unique-task-force-helped-5000-temporary-foreign>
- <https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/task-force-heralds-migrant-worker-vaccination>
- <https://www.iheartradio.ca/am800/news/essex-county-migrant-worker-vaccination-rate-above-60-per-cent-health-unit-1.15387655>
- <https://windsor.ctvnews.ca/essex-county-migrant-worker-vaccination-rate-above-60-per-cent-health-unit-1.5463376>
- <https://windsorite.ca/2021/06/greenhouse-worker-vaccination-education-community-collaboration-celebrates-success/>

"This has been a great opportunity for all community partners to work collaboratively to meet public health goals and support documented and undocumented Temporary Foreign Workers in our region during the massive vaccination day. We express our sincere gratitude to WECHU and all community partners involved for their excellent participation. All community efforts contributed substantially to the success of this vaccination day."

~Francy Munoz, Community Legal Worker, C.A.R.E. for international Workers
