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Community Achievement Report



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Co-led by:



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London & Middlesex Local Immigration
Partnership

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I. About the London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership (LMLIP)

The London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership (LMLIP) is one of 34 Local Immigration Partnerships in Ontario, funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The work of the Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) across Ontario is supported by the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration as well as the Association of Municipalities in Ontario (AMO). In the past year, the model of the LIPs has been implemented in other provinces such as Alberta, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador.

LMLIP continues to be guided by a Central Council and six issue specific Sub-councils and the support of the community. Our vision is a client centred approach that includes and works with immigrants to enhance their successful integration into Canadian society.

LMLIP continues its strategic plan to reach out to all sectors, consult with communities, organizations and ethnic associations to ensure that efforts are coordinated; and partnerships established to facilitate a comprehensive approach to the successful integration of the immigrants.

This report highlights the implementation of the first annual work plan to advance a number of strategies from the updated *LMLIP Strategic Plan 2013-2016*. Our work is sustained and supported through the work of more than 300 volunteers who are actively involved on the LMLIP Central Council, the six issue specific Sub-councils and the working groups. In the past year, close to five hundred hours (compared to close to 350 hours last year) were contributed by the groups. Individuals that participate in these various groups contribute approximately ten hours each per month.

We will continue to count on the support of community partners, ethnic associations, faith groups and interested citizens to develop capacity, establish partnerships and work strategically toward creating a more welcoming community.

II. Our Community Achievements: Strategic Priorities

Supports and Services for Immigrants

Intended Outcome: Immigrants have increased access to supports and services, to ensure that they can successfully participate in all aspects of the community
✓ Partnered with the Small Business Centre in London to share and promote information related to their services among immigrants
✓ Coordinated the delivery of one information session on the entrepreneurship program of the Small Business Centre to twenty immigrant job seekers
✓ Supported the newly launched website, www.worktrends.ca with feedback that will enhance the use of the site by jobseekers
✓ Supported the John Howard Society in their application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation to secure two years of funding to engage four cultural communities in learning about and interacting with the justice system and build capacity within the targeted communities
✓ Facilitated the collaboration of community partners to establish a homework Facebook page for students
✓ Engaged community partners at the Family Centres in the ongoing development of a pilot project to assist immigrant students with homework
✓ Collaborated with the community to further raise awareness on mental health issues and the availability of supports through the <i>Seeds of Change</i> project
✓ Facilitated, in partnership with the City of London, an assessment of community space available for immigrants to use across the city
✓ Coordinated the development of a survey that will analyze the value of professional interpretation services in the health field
✓ Coordinated an event, Connect with Your London, to provide a platform for immigrants to learn about services and get involved

Communication and Access to Information

Intended Outcome: Immigrants have increased access to information about available services, cultural expectations and how to access services and supports to successfully use the system in the community
✓ Supported the showcasing of a successful story from the London Middlesex Immigrant Employment Council Mentorship Program on the <i>Community Connection</i> Program on Rogers TV
✓ Coordinating the ongoing development of an online resource that will provide a road map to employment

✓ Connected partners to enhance awareness on legal rights and responsibilities among immigrants in Canada
✓ A Work Group was established to inform and educate immigrants on elections at the three levels of government
✓ Through the LMLIP Family Settlement Collaborative, delivered 35 workshops to newcomers at five <i>Language Instruction for New Canadians</i> sites
✓ Coordinated the development of a brochure on settlement services to inform immigrants on available services and eligibility of accessing services
✓ Coordinated the mapping of senior support services in partnership with the Centre for Migration and Ethnic Relations Program at Western University to raise awareness on resources available for seniors in London

Host Community

Intended Outcome: London and Middlesex residents are exposed, educated and engaged in understanding and accepting diverse traditions, behaviours and experiences of all the cultures that make up the community
✓ Coordinated the delivery of workshops to the pre-service teachers at the Faculty of Education, Western University
✓ Coordinated the delivery of <i>Welcoming All Voices</i> workshops in the Thames Valley District School Board to engage parents in the school system
✓ Established a new partnership with the London Health Providers Alliance to further engage health providers in the conversation on the health issues of immigrants
✓ Explored opportunities to support the Youth Court in terms of understanding immigrant youth and relevant research material
✓ Raised awareness on ways to build inclusive parent groups in schools in a presentation to the Ontario Federation of Home and Schools
✓ Facilitated the exhibition of the <i>London: A Newcomer's Story</i> at the Trillium Art Gallery at Fanshawe Pioneer Village to further raise awareness and inspire the immigrant population to participate in their new community
✓ Coordinated <i>I am London 2013 Social Media Campaign</i> to showcase several proud and engaged new immigrants and to inspire immigrants to enhance their engagement and integration

✓ Established a partnership with a local TV station (Rogers TV) that resulted in six shows profiling individual immigrants and aimed to enhance awareness of services and access to services
✓ Collaborated with the London Public Library to display posters at one library featuring the journeys of several immigrants to further enhance the welcoming of immigrants in our community
✓ Coordinated the development of a DVD to accompany the <i>Welcoming All Voices</i> resource

Supports for Service Providers

Intended Outcome: Service providers and volunteers have increased access to sustainable funding, information on supports to collaboration, diversity training and resources to ensure timely, effective and responsive services for immigrants
✓ Facilitated the delivery of two information sessions in collaboration with Community Legal Education Ontario to frontline settlement workers from London and Woodstock
✓ Facilitated a forum for service providers to learn about pre-migration issues, identify risks and gaps in service delivery for the Karen and Vietnamese communities and recommendations on how to better support these two communities
✓ Presented to the Settlement Workers in Schools at South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre to inform and engage
✓ Presented to ACFO-London and Sarnia to further enhance mutual cooperation with the francophone services
✓ Partnered with the Francophone Network to organize and participate on the 2013 <i>Destination Canada</i> event in London
✓ Coordinated the delivery of a presentation on housing and the roles and responsibilities of landlords on both immigrants and landlords to improve the renting process
✓ Coordinated the delivery of six professional development workshops to the non-teaching staff from across London, Middlesex, Oxford and Elgin and from both elementary and secondary levels with the Thames Valley District School Board
✓ Facilitated the delivery of a workshop for the Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) to promote awareness of the <i>Welcoming All Voices</i> material in order to enhance linkages between newcomer parents, host community parents, and the school system

Advocacy/Systemic Change

Intended Outcome: Reduction of systemic barriers (i.e., local, provincial, federal and host community) that impede immigrants' ability to engage successfully in the community.
✓ Provided a submission to the Standing Committee on Social Policy with regard to their review of the Local Health System Integration Act, LHINs and our recommendations on working closely with Local Immigration Partnerships across the Province
✓ Reviewed and updated the LMLIP Terms of Reference
✓ Assessed community capacity in terms of meeting immigrants needs, and accordingly updated the Community Capacity Inventory and the Strategic Plan for London and Middlesex
✓ Developed a strategic partnership with Pathways to Prosperity and the Centre of Migration and Ethnic Relations, Western University
✓ Delivered a presentation on outcome measurement at the Pathways to Prosperity First Annual Conference
✓ Provided opportunities for members to be abreast of the changes in Citizenship and Immigration policies
✓ Met with new Chief Executive Officer of the Middlesex-London Health Unit to discuss our ongoing partnership
✓ Continued our partnership with South Western Ontario LIPs where ideas were shared in terms of strengthening settlement and other service provision, as well as evolving role of the LIPs in assisting with service delivery to create welcoming communities through the region
✓ Continued to engage service providers across the system by providing presentation, referrals and information from our Strategic Plan
✓ Partnered with <i>We Are London</i> TV Show and provided content for six shows on Education, Employment, Health & Wellbeing, Inclusion & Civic Engagement, Justice and Protection Services and Settlement services
✓ Coordinated the endorsement by 12 local immigration partners of a position paper submitted to the Ministry of Education titled, "Ontario Pre-service Teacher Education: The Case for Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Training"

III. In Progress

LMLIP Council endorsed the *LMLIP Strategic Plan 2013-2016* and submitted the Plan to Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Over 20 Work Groups will continue to engage the larger community and service providers in looking for innovative ways to engage, inform and integrate our immigrant communities. Through these Work Groups, parents, students and teachers engage in the process of maximizing resources and building on capacities to educate, learn from and interact with each other. Service Providers in the health sector will learn about the impact of using professional interpretation. The host community will further be engaged in the conversation through the exhibits and a TV Show. Immigrants will be informed and educated on civic engagement. Employers will enhance their opportunity to tap into some of the untapped skills of immigrants and provide the latter with meaningful volunteering opportunities. Partnerships and collaborations will be explored to maximize resources and to further enhance the environment of collaborative work in our community.

LMLIP Central Council and each of the six Sub-councils, namely: Education, Employment, Health and Wellbeing, Inclusion and Civic Engagement, Justice and Protection Services and Settlement will be working with the community to implement their first year action plan. Continued consultations with the community will further assist us in coordinating with services across sectors, to address gaps and create opportunities for responding to emerging needs.

IV. Conclusion

Our community is working differently and it is worth noting a few examples that reflect the cross-sector working together to enhance the immigrants' knowledge on resources. "Because of the cross-sector nature of the Sub-council workgroups, individuals learned more about services and programs of the other agencies, resulting in stronger sector connections and engagement. For example, through the connections of the LMLIP, a health agency was invited to be part of presentations to the clients of an employment organization; a health agency is engaged in supporting the planning of summer camps for kids and developing a new moms' group for a faith group. This is happening outside of the LMLIP but it is because of connections made through the workgroups".¹

"The LMLIP is the resource that spreads awareness among frontline professionals. Information spreads through members and taken across the sectors. When awareness is raised and information is shared, perspectives begin to change"².

In the past year, our webpage received 3,173 hits, compared to 707 last year. We are reaching out to stakeholders locally, nationally and internationally. We continue to pride ourselves in the commitment and the continued engagement of our community partners from across sectors

¹ Muriel Abbott, PHN, Middlesex-London Health Unit

² Lisette Ochoa, Settlement Worker in School

including the ethno-cultural associations and faith groups. We are very thankful to our new partner, Rogers TV who is providing us with the platform to educate and entertain the host and immigrant communities.

V. Acknowledgements: LMLIP and Work Groups Members and Supporting Organizations

We are grateful to Citizenship and Immigration Canada for their continued financial support for LMLIP. Many thanks go to our leadership from the City of London and United Way London & Middlesex. We continue to appreciate and value the commitment and contributions of Dr. Victoria Esses and her team from the Research Centre for Migration and Ethnic Relations (Western University).

We continue to acknowledge the hours, energy and contributions of our 100 + members (Appendix A); contributions of members who participated on Work Groups and or events coordinated by the LMLIP (Appendix B) and tremendous in-kind support of the organizations, and associations (Appendix C).

Appendix A: LMLIP Council Members

- Muriel Abbott
- Susan Abdula
- Ayan Aden
- Faranak Aeeni
- Dania Ajami
- Muhammad Ajmal
- Guliz Akkayamak
- Dr. Mohamed Al-Adeimi
- Umera Ali
- Dr. Saad Aldin
- Ahmad Ali
- Pauline Andrew
- Rose Aquino
- Esra Ari
- Robin Armistead
- Alia Badri
- Shamara Baidoobonso
- Kelly Barnes
- Jean-Marc Boisvenue
- Katy Boychuk
- Andrea Brown
- Kristen Caschera
- Sheila Carson
- Michelle Cialacu
- Robert Collins
- Lynne Collins
- Lori Cunningham
- Tam Dam
- Kristibeth Kelly Delgado
- Sheila Densham
- Wilma de Rond
- Vera Derpienski
- Amanda DeVaul-Fetters
- Susan Dill
- Xiaoxiao Du
- Melanie Elms
- Dr. Vicki Esses
- Gord Fansher
- Dave Flemington
- Marel Fielding
- Sheila Foster
- Peter Fragiskatos
- Susannah Gergich
- Mahin Ghasemiyani
- Michael Goodmurphy
- Mark Gowing
- German Gutierrez-Sanin
- Gisele Hauser
- Heather Heathcote
- Doreen Hodgkinson
- Jennifer Hollis
- Rebecca Howse
- Sara Huayta
- Suzanne Huot
- Rifat Hussain
- Taghrid Hussain
- Jo-Ann Hutchison
- Rick Jefferson
- Mo Jeng
- Ana Enrique-Johnson
- Grace Johnson
- Dr. Asmaa Joudy
- Catherine Joyes
- Jessica Justrabo
- Kate Kennedy
- Dharshi Lacey
- Anne Langille
- Susan Latta
- Yvonne Lindsay
- Christina Lord
- Emily Low
- Ramona Lucan
- Marissa MacGregor
- Dr. Michele Manocchi
- Marcel Marcellin
- Dr. Valerian Marochko
- Arden McLean
- Patricia Mazariegos
- Dr. Gaston Mabaya
- Marisa McGregor
- Meredith McHugh
- Kelly McManus
- Nancy McQuillan
- Stelian Medianu
- Ermina Melkic
- Kathy Milczarek
- Dr. Beth Mitchell
- Phillipa Myers
- Mersija Nuric
- Lissette Ochoa
- Helen Patterson
- Ema Petrela
- Janet Pinder
- Naeem Qureshi
- Amani Radhaa
- Amy Ratcliffe
- Rose Ricci
- Adriana Diaz Rodriguez
- Nathan Ross
- Lisa Rusal
- Rebecca Ryan
- Dev Sainani
- Jayne Scarterfield
- Neena Sharma-Kendrick
- Nassisse Solomon
- Deborah Szelepski
- Trish Taft
- Jill Tansley
- Shelly Taylor
- Denise Taylor-Edwards
- Arlene Thompson
- Ria Urbi
- Maria Vasquez
- Corinne Walsh
- Janice Walter
- Elisabeth White
- Martin Withenshaw
- Gebre Woldemicael
- Ahmed Yahya Ali
- Gina Zhang

Appendix B: Other Participants

- Saleh Alathamena
- Osma Ali
- Subhi Al-Kutob
- Saba AL-Qubanchi
- Luis Ayala
- Gita Azad
- Michelle Baldwin
- Dharavi Balusani
- Nicole Buteau
- Flora Chong
- Sarah Copely
- Marilyn Cook
- Janet McAllister
- Dawn Baetons
- Constanza Burucua
- Juan Andres Bello
- Cristina Bruno
- Adriana Castellanos
- Joanne Colling
- Jeremy Cook
- Marilyn Cook
- Ed Corrigan
- Bernardine Crasto
- Emilie-Françoise Crakondji
- Thang Dam
- Shanna Dunlop
- Laura Downs
- Mayssa El-Sayegh
- Monica Escobar
- Tracy Fawdry
- Jenny Fitzgerald
- Dhira Ghosh
- Yam Gurung
- Hun-jong Ha
- Teqest (TG) Haile
- Dr. Saadia Hameed
- Fawzie Hamza
- Lingju Han
- Claudia Chon Him
- Catherine Hinstroza
- Louise Hollingsworth
- Hisham Hussein
- Brittany Hughson
- Siti Habibah Jazila
- Clare Jeng
- Joseph Jilitovich
- Jennifer Jones
- Martina Kaiser
- Aparna Kajenthira
- Hendricks Kerg
- Mozen Khan
- Nicolas Youmbi Kodji
- Cunju Lee
- Derek Leung
- Saira Lopez
- Bonnie Macklin
- Andrea McNaughton
- Jaime Martinez
- Amber Merucci
- Arlene Morell
- Speciose Mukamanzi
- Elena Mustusa
- Ioana Mustusa
- Peninah Mutinda
- Nancy Needham
- Melanie Neerhof
- Marcela Nieto
- Miriam Nixon
- Julian Ortiz
- Jennifer Patterson
- Eunju Pauley
- Caleb Peters
- Questyn Rodriguez
- Majida Shahatto
- Rowina Shum
- Bob Smith
- Beatriz de Souza
- Nicole St. John
- Caighlee Stiles
- Charlie Swartwout
- Jenn Tavera
- Sandhya Valtiknonda
- Sherry Wallis
- Mary Whitaker
- Johann Wong
- Ann Zhang

Appendix C: Participating Organizations & Associations

- 94.9FM CHRW
- 3M
- Access Centre for Regulated Employment
- ACFO de London-Sarnia
- Across Languages
- African Canadian Federation of London & Area
- Boardwalk Rental Communities
- Boys and Girls Club of London
- Canadian Cancer Society
- Canadian Iraqi Turkmen Culture Association
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Carrefour des Femmes du Sud-Ouest de l'Ontario
- Centre for Addiction & Mental Health
- Centre for Lifelong Learning
- Childreach Centre
- Children's Aid Society of London & Middlesex
- Child and Youth Network
- Chinese Canadian National Council (London Chapter)
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- City of London
- Collège Boréal
- Conseil scolaire de district des écoles catholiques du Sud-Ouest
- Conseil scolaire Viamonde
- Community Living London
- Community Legal Services, Faculty of Law, Western University
- Cross Cultural Learner Centre
- County of Middlesex
- Culture Office, City of London
- Ed Corrigan Law Office
- Elgin Middlesex Oxford Workforce Planning and Development Board
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- Ethno-cultural Council of London
- Fanshawe College
- Hutton House
- Investing in Children
- IG Investors Group
- Islamic Centre of Southwest Ontario
- John Howard Society of London & District
- Johasen-Larsen Foundation
- Joulewatt Innovating Whole Capital
- Kala Manjari
- Landlord & Tenant Board
- Latino Canadian Community Corporation
- Learning Disabilities Association - London Region
- Life Resource Centre, North Park Community Church
- London District Catholic School Board
- London Economic Development Corporation
- London Employment Help Centre
- London Fire Department
- London Health Sciences Centre
- London Intercommunity Health Centre
- London Interfaith Refugee Sponsorship Alliance
- London Middlesex Immigrant Employment Council
- London Police Service
- London Public Library
- LUSO Community Services
- Medical Solutions Consulting
- Merrymount Children's Centre
- Middlesex-London Health Unit
- Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Probation and Parole
- Muslim Association of Canada
- Networking for an Inclusive Community
- Ontario Early Years Centres
- Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration
- Over 55 Inc.
- Pakistani Canadian Association
- Pillar Non-Profit Network
- Platinum Leadership Inc.
- ReForest London
- Réseau de soutien à l'immigration francophone
- Rite Careers

- Roger TV
- Salvation Army Centre of Hope
- St. Joseph's Health Centre
- St. Leonard's Community Services London & Region
- Somali Association of London
- South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre
- South West Community Care Access Centre
- South West Regional Cancer Program
- Thames Valley Council of Home and School Associations
- Thames Valley District School Board
- Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee
- thehealthline.ca and Information London
- United Way London & Middlesex
- Pathways to Prosperity, Western University
- Western University Canada
- WIL Employment Connections
- Women's Community House
- YMCA of Western Ontario
- Youth Opportunities Unlimited