

London

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2005 Creative City Task Force

- “Bluntly speaking, London has been perceived as not having an exemplary reputation for welcoming newcomers. While most Londoners and the CCTF believe this reputation is in the past, the perception remains amongst some people that London has not done as good a job as it could have in telling new Canadians about London, and in making sure they are welcomed.”
- “While in the past many immigrants needed Canada, today Canada and London need immigrants.”
- “London must begin a series of strategies to much more aggressively reach out and attract immigrants, skilled foreign workers, and international entrepreneurs, investors, creative entrepreneurs, and students.”

Local Initiatives in Response: Foundation for Local Engagement Plan

- Welcoming Cultural Diversity in London Steering Committee: founded 2005, led by United Way of London and Middlesex and City of London
- Western Centre for Research on Migration and Ethnic Relations: founded 2006
- London Local Immigration Partnership Council: 2009
- Presentations on the WCI to all of these groups

Local Engagement Plan

- Building on prior relationships and trust
- Meeting held October 3, 2009
- 14 participants, with representation from Western, Huron, Brescia, LIP
- Goal = develop full partnership between the university members of the WCI and the LIP
- Discussion centred around how to work together most efficiently: what type of committee structure(s) will meet our mutual needs

Strategies for Local Collaboration

- 1) University representative on the LIP advisory committee
- 2) Proposal for WCI local representatives to serve as the research arm of the LIP
- 3) Establishment of local advisory committee to coordinate between university and community players: 4 representatives from City of London/ community organizations, 4 representatives from university (Western, Huron, Brescia)

First Collaboration

- Collaboration on the community capacity and needs study
 - LIP and WCI: development of database of local organizations and initiatives, questionnaire
 - LIP: Data collection
 - WCI: Data analysis
 - LIP and WCI: Preparation of report
- Benefits
 - efficient use of resources
 - takes advantage of areas of expertise: building on strengths
 - sharing knowledge: learn from each other
 - motivation and engagement through collaboration
 - final product that reflects the needs, expertise, and commitment of the LIP and the WCI