

PROMOTING WELCOMING CARING COMMUNITIES IN SMALLER COMMUNITIES

PETRUSIA HONTAR - ST. THOMAS ELGIN
LOCAL IMMIGRATION
PARTNERSHIP

BREAKOUT GROUP A

COMMUNITY PROFILES

Ontario



ST. THOMAS-ELGIN COMMUNITY PROFILE

Total population of County: 85,875

Area: 1880 km²

Population Density

1,067 people/km² in St. Thomas

1,149 people/km² in Aylmer

23 people/km² in remaining rural areas

Median Age: 40.9 years

Main Industries:

Manufacturing and Construction – 30%

Business services - 16%



Healthcare and Education – 15%



Statistics Canada 2011 Census

ST. THOMAS-ELGIN IMMIGRATION PROFILE

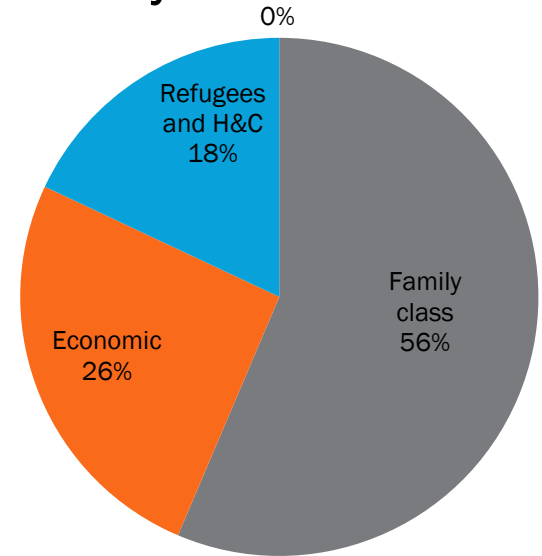


 or  1% of the population

- First Generation Immigrant
- Second Generation Immigrant
- Third or More Generation


Visible Minorities make up 2.7% of the population about 2,300 people

PRs by Class 2001-2010



Of the 970 IRCC reported Permanent Residents

PROFILES OF COMMUNITIES REPRESENTED

- Service Provider
 - Rural Communities
 - Population Density under 400 people/km²
 - Recent Immigration below 15% of population
 - Visible minorities under 10%
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LOCAL INITIATIVES

PROMOTING WCI COMMUNITIES

WHAT WOULD ATTRACT AND RETAIN?

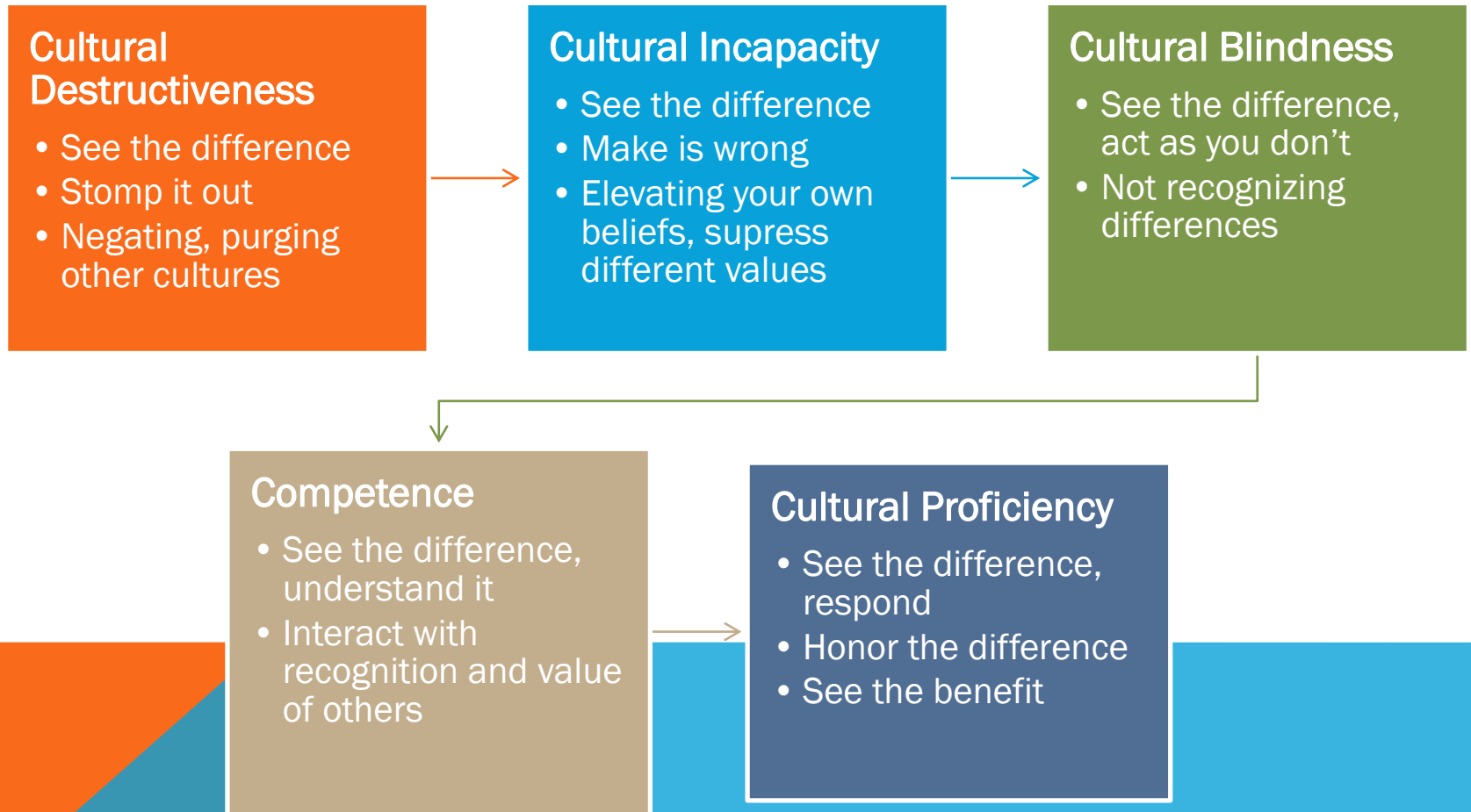
ATTRACT

- A welcoming community
- Affordable housing
- Employment Opportunities
- Easy access to ESL classes, assistance with day to day activities
- Schools
- Small town values
- Dedicated Services
- Proximity to a big city
- Organization to welcome and support immigrants coming into the community

RETAIN


- Integration of newcomers to all aspects of community life
- Appropriate Employment
- Safety
- Opportunity to easily develop friends and networks
- Affordable housing
- Sense of community
- Support from the local community
- Organization to assist newcomers with their integration
- Celebrate diversity

STELIP - CULTURAL COMPETENCY CONTINUUM



STELIP WELCOMING INITIATIVES

Forming STELIP Council

- No conversation about immigration existed outside of Settlement Agencies
 - Developed priority areas
 - Based on community consultations
 - Connected with citizens, politicians, and service providers
 - Constantly engaging and including new community partners
 - Challenge with overlap in nearby LIP catchment area
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STELIP WELCOMING INITIATIVES

Forming Cultural Diversity Committee

- Tell your Story
- Living library
- Childcare Activity Program
- Community Events - Taste of Syria



STELIP WELCOMING INITIATIVES

Working with Media

- Bygone Days
 - Historical archive pictures
- TJ Smiles
 - Community member profile
- Rogers TV Show We Are St. Thomas Elgin
 - Newcomer stories, local services, cultural exchange



STELIP WELCOMING INITIATIVES

Strengthening Community Networks

- Walk with Me
- Open opportunities for collaboration




STELIP WELCOMING INITIATIVES

Public Acknowledgement

- WCI Signs
- Newcomer Champion Awards



STELIP WELCOMING INITIATIVES - ATTRACTION

- Different side of the same coin
 - Audience of attraction strategy
 - Using Welcoming Initiatives to Attract
 - Focused on Newcomers
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QUESTIONS
ABOUT STELIP



**GROUP DISCUSSION AND
SHARING**

LOCAL CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS


1. What challenges have you faced in your communities?
2. How did you mitigate these challenges?



LOCAL CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

3. Do you have any ongoing challenges that you continue to struggle with?
4. Do you have any Promising Practices to share with the group?





CLOSING REMARKS

SUMMARY OF PROMISING PRACTICES

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!

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