



LONDON & MIDDLESEX
LOCAL IMMIGRATION
PARTNERSHIP

London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership Community Achievement Report

September 2010 – February 2011

Funded by:



Citizenship and
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et
Immigration Canada

Co-led by:



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London
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Table of Contents

London and Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership (LMLIP)	4
Goals of LMLIP	4
Purpose of LMLIP	4
Key Phase One Activities	4
LMLIP Areas of Focus	4
Community Immigrant Strategic Plan	5
Philosophy	5
Overarching Themes	5
Our Community Achievements	6
Advocacy/Systemic Change	6
Supports and Services for Immigrant	6
Communication and Access to information	7
Host Community	7
Supports for Service Providers	7
In Progress	9
Moving forward	10

The London and Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership (LMLIP)

The London and Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership (LMLIP) is a collaborative community initiative designed to strengthen the role of local and regional communities in serving and integrating immigrants. It is funded solely by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Goals of the LMLIP

- Improved access to services
- Coordinated provision of services
- Improved labor market outcomes
- Strengthened strategic capacity of municipality on immigration issues
- Increased community capacity to respond to emerging needs
- Increased community awareness of immigrant integration needs

Purpose of the LMLIP

- Strengthen the role of local and regional communities in serving and integrating immigrants through a Local Immigration Partnership.
- Provide a collaborative framework for, and facilitate the development and implementation of, sustainable local and regional solutions for successful integration of immigrants to London and Middlesex.
- Enable our community to put immigration on their overall planning agenda and benefit from the successful social and economic integration of new immigrants.

Key Phase One Activities (September 2009-August 2010)

- ✓ In partnership with the Welcoming Communities Initiative (WCI)- The University of Western Ontario, developed the *Community Capacity & Needs Inventory* in January 2010
- ✓ In consultation with the community the *London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership Council* was established in February 2010
- ✓ LMLIP developed the *Community Immigrant Strategic Plan* in consultation with the community

LMLIP Areas of Focus

The LMLIP six Sub-councils were established to address the following areas of focus:

- Education
- Employment
- Health and Wellbeing
- Inclusion and Civic Engagement
- Justice and Protection Services
- Settlement

Community Immigrant Strategic Plan

In consultation with the community, the LMLIP Council along with the six Sub-councils developed the Strategic Plan for London and Middlesex and submitted to Citizenship and Immigration Canada in June 2010. The Plan was approved by CIC in August 2010 and endorsed by London City Council in October 2010.

Philosophy

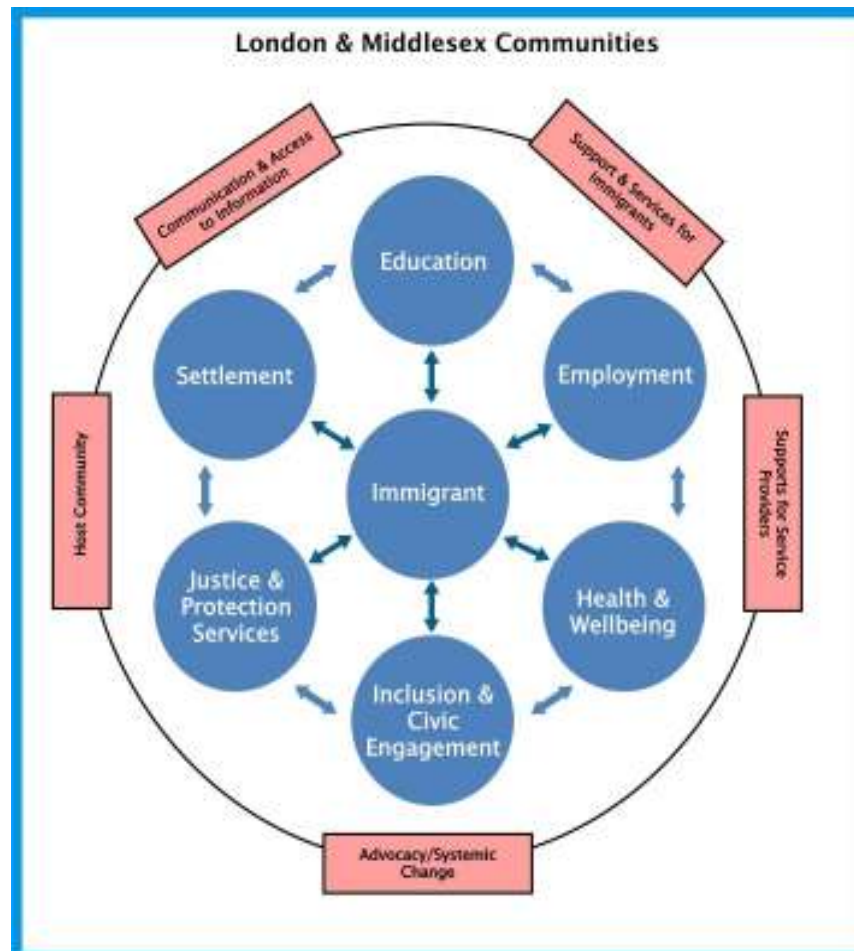
London and Middlesex has a rich and longstanding tradition of addressing needs of all cultures including immigrants.

With the establishment of the LMLIP, our community is further mobilized towards a common goal of ensuring that immigration is on everyone's agendas. Through this process, our goal is to build on existing resources and relationships; to continue the best practices that already exist and continue to strengthen capacities, facilitate, coordinate, and partner to provide integrative services and leverage existing funding and resources.

Overarching Themes

The overarching themes across Sub-councils form the vision of the LMLIP:

- Advocacy/Systemic Change
- Supports and Services for Immigrants
- Communication and Access to Information
- Host Community
- Supports for Service Providers



Our Community's Achievements

Our community's plan is ambitious and requires long term partnership and effort. We are proud of the work accomplished between September 2010 and February 2011.

Advocacy/ Systemic Change

Intended Outcome: Reduction of systemic barriers (i.e., local, provincial, federal and host community) that impede immigrants' ability to successfully engage in the community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Connected to existing initiatives: Child and Youth Network (CYN), Strengthening Neighbourhood Strategy (SNS), London Middlesex Immigrant Employment Council (LMIEC), Employment Sector Council London-Middlesex (ESCLM)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Engaged system partners on the impact of immigration on our community (i.e., Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB), London District Catholic School Board (LDCSB), London Public Library, London Police, Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU), City of London and United Way of London & Middlesex)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Engaged City Council in the process and in endorsing the Community Immigrant Strategic Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strategic partnership with Welcoming Communities Initiative and the University of Western Ontario
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Raised awareness of immigrant integration needs through presentations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ London Diversity & Race Relations Advisory Committee ➤ London Police Services Board ➤ Social & Community Support Services, City of London ➤ Child and Youth Network ➤ Migration and Ethnic Relations, The University of Western Ontario ➤ WCI/LIPs conferences ➤ Ethno cultural groups & service providers

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.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Adapted Newcomer Outreach materials through the coordination of the London Police and the Thames Valley District School Board
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Offered a number of learning opportunities to immigrants by partnering with Ontario Early Years Centres (OEYC), MLHU, Revenue Canada Agency, Children Aid Society (CAS), business sector and housing providers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Engaged immigrants by coordinating efforts in the community to provide neighbourhood events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Connected partners to address a strategic need of increasing awareness on mental health issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Connected partners to address a strategic need of enhancing awareness on legal rights and responsibilities among immigrants in Canada

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

- ✓ Utilized the Immigration Portal, www.immigration.london.ca
- ✓ Developed the *LMLIP Welcome to London- A Guide to Settlement Services in London*
- ✓ Developed *Guide to Your Health & Wellbeing Services in London and Middlesex* brochure
- ✓ Compiled and delivered settlement information packages about our community to Pearson International Airport

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

- ✓ Initiated the development of the Strategic Multimedia Communication Plan with the aim to changing perceptions, attitudes, and engage communities in the discussion about the value of immigration and diversity in London and Middlesex

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

Activities by community partners advancing the LMLIP Community Immigrant Strategic Plan:

- ✓ Mapping resources in language training
- ✓ The Coordinated Language Assessment Referral System (CLARS) is currently being piloted in London
- ✓ Employment Sector Council London-Middlesex (ESCLM) Common Assessment Process respects diversity in assisting clients in meeting their employment goals and training will be offered to settlement workers
- ✓ Reciprocal resource guides for settlement and employment workers
- ✓ Framework for enhanced information sharing between settlement and employment sectors
- ✓ A review of Service Providers' and immigrants' rights and responsibilities under Privacy legislation and agency codes of contact has been completed to maximize support of immigrants in achieving their employment goals

Working across sectors:

- ✓ Enhanced collaboration between Employment and Education Sub-councils to ensure that all resources are used effectively
- ✓ Engaged the London Police and the TVDSB in adapting materials to be used in the language programs
- ✓ March 7 Community Meeting workshops addressed a number of the Health & Wellbeing and Employment Sub-councils' recommendations. Workshop topics included: "Common

Assessment Process”; “Journeys to Canada”; “Breath - self-care in stressful times”, presented by the Opening Doors Project; “Building Bridges: Anti-racism 101”, presented by the Opening Doors Project

In Progress

The six Sub-councils have established a number of working groups to work on identified issues to coordinate local and sustainable solutions. The following are currently working on:

- Supporting parents
- Supporting teachers
- Supporting students
- Exploring alternatives to deliver ESL programs
- Working on a position paper recommending that “Teaching in Multilingual Classrooms” be designated a mandatory requirement for certification in Ontario
- Building on existing capacity and link it to www.immigration.london.ca.
- Through the London Middlesex Immigrant Employment Council (LMIEC) promote all existing resources available to employers to encourage them to hire immigrants
- Developing a checklist of keys to success and opportunities for peer to peer mentorship –with information of what a client needs to land a job
- Reviewing cultural sensitivity training
- Screening and assessment tools on early identification of learning disabilities
- Providing supports to immigrants in a holistic manner
- Promoting neighbourhood events
- Providing education opportunities to immigrants on housing, parenting, elder abuse and emerging needs
- Providing education opportunities to service providers working with immigrants
- Developing tools and resources to assist immigrants access the justice and protection services systems

Moving forward

LMLIP is recognized provincially as a “best practice” in how we mobilized the community to develop the LIP and for how we coordinate and partner to deliver integrative services.

LMLIP is changing the landscape of how we work together as organizations and systems and moving forward with a common goal of ensuring that immigration is on everyone’s planning agendas.

The work of the LMLIP continues in the implementation phase. Each Sub-council will lead the implementations of their work plans and the Central Council continues to meet to direct work of the LMLIP to ensure that progress is made against the goals of the Community Immigrant Strategic Plan.