



LONDON & MIDDLESEX
LOCAL IMMIGRATION
PARTNERSHIP

April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018

Community Achievement Report



A Community Initiative of Individuals and Organizations

Funded by:

Financé par:

Co-led by:



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada



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London & Middlesex Local Immigration
Partnership

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I. The London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership: (LMLIP)

The London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership (LMLIP), was established in September 2009 with funding from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). It is supported by the Ministry of Immigration and Citizenship (MCI) Ontario and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

The London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership mobilizes the community to plan and coordinate enhanced delivery of integration services to **all** immigrants.¹

LMLIP continues to be driven by more than 120 volunteers from the community, service providers from cross sectors, ethno-cultural associations, researchers, students, from secondary schools and higher institutions of education and immigrants with lived experience. Our volunteers contributed 4,251.5 hours (an increase of 41% hours compared to last year) in planning and implementing strategies. 447 individuals attended sessions facilitated and hosted by LMLIP and ninety two organizations supported our work.

Through the work of our volunteers, LMLIP was able to move forward projects that coordinated the successful integration of immigrants.

This year, LMLIP successfully reached out to a private company, rTraction, which supported the development of www.1000actsofwelcome.ca websites in English and French. Their in-kind contributions totalled \$13,750.

In this reporting period, we launched the #AllAreWelcomeHere lawns signs and the www.1000actsofwelcome.ca website to engage residents in London and surroundings in welcoming immigrants. LMLIP and its partners distributed, 1000 lawn signs, 2,000 pens inscribed with the 1000 Acts of Welcome website, and 500 stickers with #AllAreWelcomeHere to raise awareness among the host community on inclusion and co-existence. More than 800 acts of welcome were submitted.

Our webpage received 3,688 sessions (compared to 3,170 last year) with 3,004 unique visits (compared to 2,510 last year). LMLIP is recognized as a conduit of information for settlement and non settlement needs.

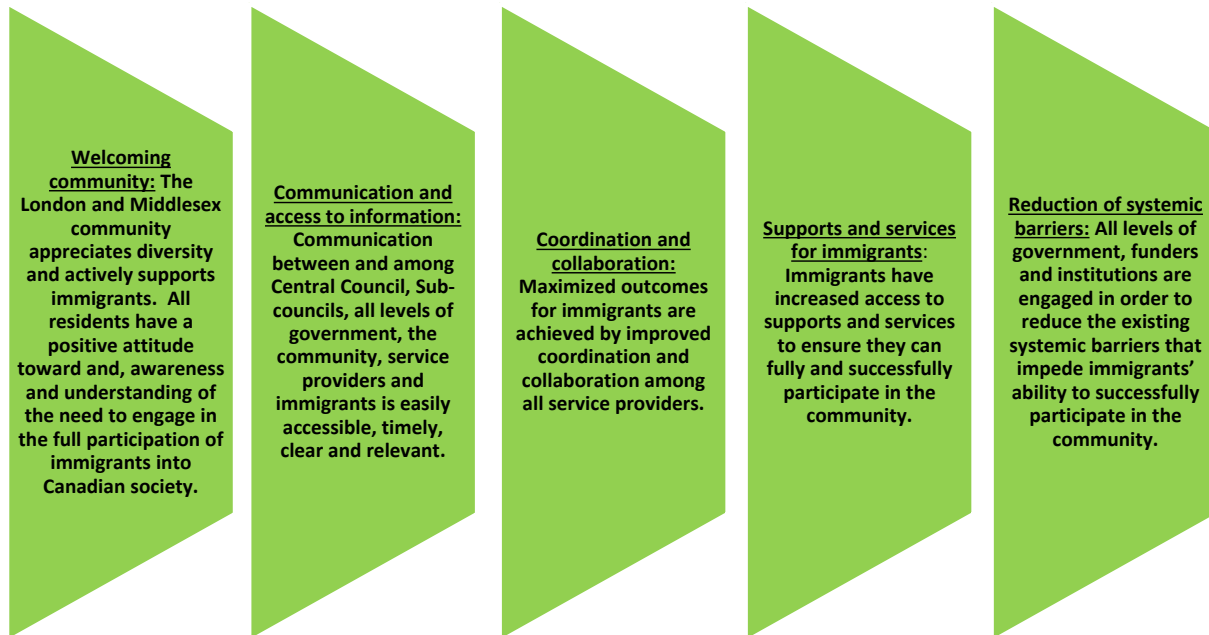
Our social media platforms demonstrated an increase in followers and likes. Twitter saw a 21% increase from last year and Facebook's likes increased by 77%. Between February 6 and March 31, 2018, the 1,000 Acts of Welcome website had 1,222 visitors with close to 820 acts submitted. *I am London* social media platforms also saw an increase by 152% likes.

This report highlights the work accomplished by our community between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018.

¹ For the purposes of the LMLIP, an immigrant is identified as any individual who defines themselves as an immigrant; this includes but is not limited to: Canadian Citizens, Permanent Residents, Convention Refugees, Temporary Residents and individuals with no immigration status.

II. Our Community's Strategic Priorities

LMLIP Central Council and the six issue specific Sub-councils continue to be guided by the five overarching priorities as outlined in the current Strategic Plan:



A number of projects and events have been coordinated, facilitated, and/or hosted by the LMLIP under the identified overarching themes to raise awareness of services, connect immigrants, and inform the host community on newcomers' needs. Some highlights from last year:

Welcoming community

- ✓ Raised awareness on immigrants' contributions and successes through the *I am London 150* social campaign.
- ✓ To help foster a welcoming environment, championed the issue of welcoming all through: Bilingual #AllAreWelcomeHere lawn signs, 1000 Acts of Welcome and the *All Are Welcome Here: United in Diversity Event*. A secondary school engaged 600 students to share their acts of welcome.

- ✓ Presented at the fifth Annual Pathways to Prosperity Conference on #AllAreWelcomeHere lawn signs campaign. Mission, BC adapted our message and image of #AllAreWelcomeHere and launched a similar campaign with bumper stickers.
- ✓ LMLIP provided input to the City's *Immigration Strategy* and the City of London's *Community Diversity and Inclusion Strategy*.
- ✓ Supported the fifth Annual *Journeys of Migration* which is led by the Migration and Ethnic Relations Centre at Western University. 300 individuals attended the session.

Communication and access to information

- ✓ Facilitated the building of community connections by sharing 30 engagement opportunities, 220 job postings, 48 emails on events for integration and 50 emails on free workshops and recreational activities in the community. Close to 300 individuals received this information.
- ✓ Presented to the Community Engaged Learning Program at Western University to engage students in welcoming activities. 40 students attended and five students signed up to support the work of welcoming campaigns.
- ✓ Distributed three LMLIP Newsletters to 200 service providers and individuals. Myth busting on and about immigration is one of the main subject areas of the newsletter.
- ✓ Established a new partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Coordinated the delivery of a session on cultural diversity to staff.
- ✓ Connected the City of London with 10 active ethno-cultural groups across the City to promote the City's new program, "Neighbourhood Decision Making" which would allocate funds to five geographic areas to implement ideas created by groups in their neighbourhoods.
- ✓ Immigrant Community Capacity and Engagement (ICCE) project, which stemmed from the LMLIP Justice & Protection Sub-council's plan, and led by John Howard Society, hosted the fifth forum for service providers on the Sudanese and Farsi communities. Close to 40 service providers attended the session.

Supports and services for immigrants

- ✓ Organized *Ready to Volunteer* event where established immigrants were matched with service providers who were recruiting volunteers. 70 individuals attended the session. Most of the attendees signed up with services to volunteer in the fields aligned with their interest.
- ✓ In partnership with the London Intercommunity Health Centre, organized a session on the justice system to the Women of the World group. Forty-seven immigrant women attended the session and two lawyers provided information on the legal system and responded to questions.
- ✓ In partnership with the Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee, presented at an annual conference on engaging immigrant parents. 200 parents and staff from the Thames Valley District School Board attended. The bilingual *Welcoming All Voices* resource, created by the LMLIP Education Sub-council a few years ago was shared with attendees.
- ✓ Participated at the meetings held by IRCC, with the focus on supporting the Yazidi refugees, and provided input.
- ✓ A work group from the Education Sub-council presented on Enhancing Cross Cultural Awareness to parents who attend the Mutual Aid Parenting Groups across the city. The feedback was positive.

Coordination and collaboration

- ✓ Collaborated with an elementary school and a Settlement Worker in School, to organize a human library as a platform to educate grades five to seven on immigrants' culture and contributions. Students were provided with an opportunity to ask and learn from the human libraries who represented 26 countries.
- ✓ Coordinated with the South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre, the delivery of an information session on the Canadian justice system to new immigrants in the neighbourhood. Children's Aid Society, the London Police Service and John Howard Society provided a participatory workshop on their services. 27 individuals attended the session.
- ✓ Partnered with a church to present at three masses with close to 300 parishioners in attendance on welcoming immigrants and LMLIP social campaigns. 100 lawn signs were distributed at this church.
- ✓ Coordinated the delivery of an information session to the London & Area Association for Volunteer Administration on diversifying their volunteers and tapping into immigrants talent. Twenty Volunteer Coordinators from non-profit organizations attended the session.
- ✓ Established a new partnership with a business, rTraction. Through this partnership www.1000actsofwelcome.ca was developed in English and French.
- ✓ Established a new partnership with the Centre Communautaire Regional de London. Through this partnership, the French site of www.1000actsofwelcome.ca is maintained.
- ✓ Connected with the N'Amerind Friendship Centre to brief on the work of LMLIP and to explore ways to engage the Centre with regard to welcoming immigrants.
- ✓ Leveraged funding of partners to support the All Are Welcome Here campaigns, which included the bilingual lawn signs, the 1000 Acts of Welcome and the *All Are Welcome Here: United in Diversity Event*.

Reduction of systemic barriers

- ✓ Presented at the Ontario Home Economics Conference on the challenges faced by immigrants in renting their first homes as well as challenges faced by private sponsors in understanding the complex needs of privately assisted refugees. Attendees also heard from a successful settlement experience of one of the privately assisted refugees.
- ✓ Participated in two meetings hosted by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and raised awareness among funders and decision-makers about the complexity and diversity of needs faced by immigrants and the need for continuum of services.
- ✓ Participated in a conference call hosted by IRCC for agencies and organizations funded by IRCC and to identify gaps in services and provided input.
- ✓ Presented the paper, "Speaking Freely: Professional Health Interpretation in London, Ontario", on April 7, 2017 at the Annual Conference organized by Western's Migration and Ethnic Relations graduate program and the London Middlesex Health Providers Alliance on April 13, 2017. A position statement on the paper was also shared with LIPs across Canada. Waterloo and Region Local Immigration Partnership adapted this resource to raise awareness among the health care providers on the impact of professional interpretation in medical sites.

III: Our Ongoing Commitment

LMLIP Central Council and the Sub-councils will continue to work closely with the community to implement the third and final annual implementation plan. Our population continues to be fueled by immigrants who choose London and Middlesex as their adopted cities. London and Middlesex is home to nearly 83,770 immigrants representing 22% of the total population, a 9% increase from 2011 (76,585)². The work of the London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership Council and Sub-councils will continue to be of significance in mobilizing the community with all its sectors and residents, to explore pathways that lead to the successful integration of immigrants.

As we wrap up the LMLIP Strategic Plan 2016-2019, this year, LMLIP Governance Work Group will be working on drafting the fourth Strategic Plan. Communities will be consulted to identify opportunities and explore solutions for the fourth *LMLIP Strategic Plan 2019-2022*, with the objective of supporting the smooth integration of immigrants in the region. LMLIP will draw from the *Immigration Strategy* and the *Community, Inclusion and Diversity Strategy* of the City of London to explore points of collaborations and support.

LMLIP will continue to count on the generous support and contributions of residents, service providers, immigrant communities and sectors to facilitate the integration of immigrants.

IV: Conclusion

In our final year of implementation of the LMLIP Strategic Plan 2016-2019, LMLIP will continue to work with partners and residents to assist in the integration process of immigrants.

We will continue to engage Londoners in reaching out to immigrants and sharing their acts of welcome, display a lawn sign or a sticker with #AllAreWelcomeHere. Students will be engaged in the school system and schools will be engaged to welcome parents.

LMLIP's leadership in addressing issues has impacted communities beyond London and Middlesex. To cite an example, resources created through the Seeds of Change project, that stemmed from the LMLIP Health & Wellbeing Plan on mental health and addiction issues faced by immigrants, are now being used in Hamilton, Niagara region, and Sarnia. LMLIP lawn signs were adapted by Mission, BC Local Immigration Partnership to involve residents in welcoming immigrants.

LMLIP will continue to strive to work with the community and residents to create a more welcoming community for all in the region.

² 2016 London Census: Fact Sheet 7

V: Acknowledgements

We sincerely acknowledge our funder, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada for their continued financial support.

LMLIP success is attributed to the continued support and contributions of the following:

- ✓ The City of London for its leadership and continued support;
- ✓ The members of the LMLIP Central Council and its working groups; Sub-councils and their working groups; and participants who attended, coordinated and promoted LMLIP events (Appendix A and B); and,
- ✓ The generous in-kind contributions of organizations and associations (Appendix C).

Special thanks to WIL Employment Connections, the host of LMLIP, for their continued in-kind support.

Appendix A: LMLIP Council Members

- Afeez Ajibowu
- Dr. Mohamed Al-Adeimi
- Dr. Saad Aldin
- Asmaa Al-Joudy
- Theresa Allott
- Pauline Andrew
- Rose Aquino
- Robin Armistead
- Eman Arnout
- Sahar Atalla
- Nazia Bano
- Kelly Barnes
- Jutta Zeller-Beier
- Jean-Marc Boisvenue
- Katy Boychuk
- Jean-Pierre Cantin
- Gerardo Castro
- Patty Coenen
- Robert Collins
- Tam Dam
- Lisseth D'Andrea
- Christelle Desforges
- Wilma de Rond
- Carolyn Doyle
- Tracy Drenth
- Arthur D'Souza
- Maria D'Souza
- Xiaoxiao Du
- Abbey Duggal
- Melanie Elms
- Noha Elsheikh
- Mayssa El Sayegh
- Ana Enriquez-Johnson
- Dr. Victoria Esses
- Sheila Foster
- Svetlana Galynskaya
- Susannah Gergich
- Mahin Ghasemiyani
- Max Gomez
- Craig Harper
- Anna Hendrixx
- Francis J. Hinnah
- Jennifer Hollis
- Cynthia Hove
- Cindy Howard
- Rifat Hussain
- Taghrid Hussain
- Huda Hussein
- Sherin Hussien
- Jo-Ann Hutchison
- Cecilia Inguanse
- Rick Jefferson
- Hina Kalyal
- Alain Kazadi
- Kate Kennedy
- Hanaa Khair
- Maureen Kirwin
- Dharshi Lacey
- Flora Lan
- Gabrielle Laurin
- Arla Longhurst
- Ramona Lucan
- Dr. Gaston Mabaya
- Karen Macari
- Ghadeir Madlol
- Najia Mahmud
- Valerian Marochko
- Patricia Mazariegos
- Janet McAllister
- Cathy McLandress
- Rachel Merrill
- Sara Middleton
- Nancy McQuillan
- Yenny Medina
- Barbara Milanovic
- Kathy Milczarek
- Dr. Beth Mitchell
- Speciose Mukakamanzi
- Phillipa Myers
- Lissette Ochoa
- Bill Pigram
- Naeem Qureshi
- Amani Radhaa
- Jacquie Rumiel
- Carlos Saakan
- Dr. Dev Sainani
- Sara Salem
- Jennifer Sandu
- Jayne Scarterfield
- Bharati Sethi
- Nabila Sissaoui
- Jill Tansley
- Denise Taylor-Edwards
- Nimmi Thind
- Jan Tomlinson
- Corinne Walsh
- Janice Walter
- Amy Wilkinson
- Lana Winchester-Tucker
- Joe Winser
- Martin Withenshaw
- Ahmed Yahya Ali
- Michelle Young
- Robert Zuniga

Appendix B: Other Participants

- Zainab Abdel-Gawad
- Susan Abdula
- Surya Acharya
- Phil Adams
- Bukun Adegbembo
- Maymona Ahmad
- Kim Aitken
- Hanadi Akkad
- Aseel Al-Bakos
- Ehsan Ali
- Hanan Ali
- Abdalla Al Farra
- Sereen Alkhayyat
- Samia Alhnahti
- Amad Al Sindi
- Saleh Althamena
- Sienna Alunday
- Diego Alvarez
- Reem Alwani
- Josette Amorim
- Bettina Andrade
- Sarah Andrews
- Fae Andrighetti
- Lourdes Assiss
- Zaid Attarbashi
- Hope Aquino-Chien
- Juan Ayala
- Rene Ayala
- Antonela Bacara
- Sara Badawi
- Anjana Balakrishnan
- Mona Balche
- Fred Ball
- Oscar Ballestros
- Jackie Bannerman
- Esther Banninga
- Dani Bartlett
- Larissa Bartlett
- Rana Batal
- Jenny Baxter
- Eleanora Bedogo
- Roza Belai
- Sandra Datars Bere
- Rachel Berdan
- David Billson
- Mary-Catherine Bishop
- Zoe Blair
- Tamara Blaney
- Fabio Bonfim
- Lisa Boyko
- Sukhi Brar
- Sarah Brooks
- Mayor Matt Brown
- Tricia Brown
- Nicole Buteau
- Deborah Canales
- Sheila Carson
- Maria Carvajal
- Pearlette Cassells
- Treanna Caswell
- Mary Chapman
- Satish Chopra
- Nicole Coenen
- Janet Collins
- Marilyn Cook
- Jessica Cooper
- Emilie Crakondji
- Ryan Craven
- Natalie DePaepe
- Kristi Darnell
- Mardel Davis
- Janan Dean
- Tania DeJonge
- Michelle Dellamora
- Wafa Derke
- Sara Dhurjon
- Lynette D'Souza
- Rebecca D'Souza
- Hosain Ebad
- Simone Edwards
- Dalia Elbargisy
- Laure Eldik
- Sarah El Kababji
- Lina El-Kassem
- Tobias Evans
- Eaman Fahmy
- Ahmed Fares
- Gustavo Forero
- Skylar Franke
- Jacqueline Fraser
- Mike Froome
- Claudia Garcia
- Mariela Garnica
- Yusuf Gaya
- Hanan Gindi
- Laurice Ghobrial
- Rita Giroux-Patience
- Laidy Gonazales
- Myrian Goyes
- Tom Green
- Liz Grigg
- Aaron Guo
- Michael Haan
- Mudrika Hamou

- Nada Hashem
- Zeba Hashmi
- Jorge Herrera
- Ron Hill
- Sue Hillis
- Jackie Hoekstra
- Kelly Hollingshead
- Councillor Anna Hopkins
- Sean Hunter
- Bisan Hussein
- Modupe Ikenyei
- Tasmaa Islam
- Serin Issa
- Lamia Itani
- Melbin James
- Mo Jeng
- Jessica Justrabo
- W. Serge Kabongo
- Kathy Kaill
- Nurdin Kassam
- Shelina Kassam
- Meorah Kassem
- Arielle Kayabaga
- Nanette Kazadi
- Nisar Khan
- Saleha Khan
- Martina Kaiser
- Jazmine Kempston
- Terence Kernaghan
- Emal Ketan
- Wes Kinghorn
- James Kingsley
- Amy Kim
- Judy Kim
- Sunhee Kim
- Kinga Koltun
- Robert Kmith
- Theresa Lapensee
- Suzanne LaRose
- Madilyn Lavallee
- Katherine Leiton
- Milagros Leon
- Valentin Leonida
- Paul Levac
- Claire Leunissen
- Shawna Lewkowitz
- Jenny Liem
- Mia Loebach
- Michael Loebach
- Christina Lord
- Emily Low
- Lesley Macaskill
- Michele Manocchi
- Jaime Martinez
- Patricia Matallana
- Mandy McDonagh
- Brett Mckenzie
- Glenn McLeod
- Nancy McMurphy
- Mary Jane McLeod
- Marcel Marcellin
- Eden Martin
- Cecilia Millson
- Mary Ann Molloy
- Laura Monteiro
- Sandra Morales
- Laszlo Morar
- Marta Morar
- Philippe Morin
- Ed Morris
- Noura Moussa
- Lianne Mulder
- Brianna Murphy
- Laura Murray
- Peninah Mutinda
- Anaise Muzima
- Mohsen Nahdi
- Fanny Newport
- Kelsey Nichols
- Marcela Nieto
- Miriam Nixon
- Jennifer O'Brien
- Melanie O'Brien
- Karen Pennesi
- Janet Pinder
- Terry Poirer
- Jules Poirer
- Fr. Mark Poulin
- Stephanie Pullam
- Lesley Oliver
- Leroy Osbourne
- Prachir Pasricha
- Wassem Qazi
- Lucy Quaglia
- Habib Radhaa
- Amena Rajeh
- Suzanne Rajeh
- Virginia Ridley
- Nadine Renno
- Brandon Robinson
- Philip Rokicki
- Elisabete Rodrigues
- Ana Rojas
- Nelson Rosales
- Deborah Rosehart
- Juan Roq
- Jerome Rutagarama
- Adnan Saadedin
- Alberto Sanchez
- Anne-Marie Sanchez
- Tom Schinbein
- Gabriele Schotter
- Sydney Scott
- Firas Sefian
- Kim Selig
- Shobhita Sharma
- James Shelley
- Allan Ssemugenyi

- Katie Stewart
- Richard Stewart
- Elizabeth Sutherland
- Diane Szoller
- Mervat Tadrus
- Jorge Talero
- Betty Tam
- Dr. Shelly Taylor
- Henricus Terpstra
- Gaurab Tewari
- Betty Thai
- Lisa Tucker
- Jose Guillermo Torres
- Meena Umme
- Councillor Harold Usher
- Anjana Upadhyay
- Joseph Van Der Klugt
- Kevin Vansteenkiste
- Jenny Varela
- Dana Wachter
- Sarah Walker
- Rael Wienburg
- Paige Whetstone
- River Christie-White
- Alanna Williams
- Emma Wilson
- Jacob Winter
- Joshua Wright
- Ghada Yahia
- Basel Yazbek
- Seniha Yildiz
- Zhang Yinmei
- Young Yoon
- Steve Young
- Sandra Zarate

Appendix C: Participating Organizations & Associations

- Access Centre for Regulated Employment
- Across Languages
- African Canadian Federation of London & Area
- Addiction Services of Thames Valley
- Baha'is of London
- Bell Media
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of London & Area
- Brescia University College
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Centre Communautaire Regional de London
- Centre for Addiction & Mental Health
- Centre for Life Long Learning
- Chelsea Green Children's Centre
- Child Reach
- Children's Aid Society of London & Middlesex
- Collège Boréal
- Community Employment Choices
- Community Legal Education Ontario
- Congregation Or Shalom
- Conseil scolaire Viamonde
- Conseil scolaire catholique Providence
- Covent Garden Market
- Culture Office, City of London
- Diversity Inclusion Anti Oppression Advisory Committee
- Elgin Middlesex Oxford Workforce Planning & Development Board
- Fanshawe College
- Glenn Cairn Community Resource Centre
- Goodwill Circles London
- Investing in Children
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- Immploy
- Islamic Centre of Southwest Ontario
- John Howard Society of London & District
- Kala Manjari
- King's University College
- London Cross Cultural Learner Centre
- London Economic Development Corporation
- London Employment Help Centre
- London Environmental Network
- London Fire Department
- London French Day Care Centre
- London Intercommunity Health Centre
- London Muslim Mosque
- London Police Service
- London Public Library
- LUSO Community Services
- M & T Printing Group
- March of Dimes Canada

- Media Sonar
- Merrymount Children's Centre
- Middlesex County
- Middlesex-London Health Unit
- Migration and Ethnic Relations Centre
- Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration
- N'Amerind Friendship Centre
- Newcomer Settlement Services, South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Networking for an Inclusive Community
- North Cut Studio
- Northview Apartment REIT
- OPSEU
- Ontario Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration
- Ontario NDP
- Ontario Provincial Police
- Pathways to Prosperity, Western University
- Office of MP Irene Mathysen
- Office of MP Peter Fragiskatos
- Office of MPP Peggy Sattler
- Pillar Non-Profit Network
- Platinum Leadership Inc.
- Reforest London
- Réseau de soutien à l'immigration francophone Centre-Sud-Ouest de l'Ontario
- Réseau-femmes du sud-ouest de l'Ontario
- rTraction
- Sifton Properties
- Somali Association of London
- South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre
- St. George's Church
- St. James' Church
- St. Justin's Church
- St. Thomas Rising
- Thames Region Ecological Association
- Thames Valley District School Board
- Urban League
- Unifor Local 302
- United Way London & Middlesex
- Western University Canada
- WIL Employment Connections
- Women in Politics
- Women's Rural Resource Centre
- World Wide Community Movement
- YMCA of Western Ontario