



LONDON & MIDDLESEX
LOCAL IMMIGRATION
PARTNERSHIP

Community Achievement Report April 2019 – March 2020



A Community Initiative of Individuals and Organizations

Co-led by:



Funded by:



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

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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 2009 with the financial support of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). LMLIP is supported by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Province. It is co-led by the City of London and a community member.

LMLIP is one of close to 80 Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) across the country. LMLIP mobilizes the community to support the integration of **all** immigrants,¹ in its region and to create a more welcoming region where everyone thrives.

LMLIP is driven by volunteers. Each issue-specific Sub-council, Central Council and Work Group is composed of volunteers whose interests align with the issue at the table. With the support of over 300 volunteers, who contributed 4,000 hours of their time and energy, LMLIP coordinated a number of targeted projects in 2019-2020 that aimed at the successful integration of immigrants.

LMLIP and its community partners, which include organizations, services, faith institutions, cultural groups and residents, continue to work together to address issues that impede the integration of immigrants.

In this reporting year, 2019-2020, the LMLIP webpage received 3,021 visits with 2,489 unique visits. As a conduit of information, LMLIP established a Weekly Roundup to share with the community and residents, information on job postings, free workshops, webinars and opportunities for engagement. LMLIP Weekly Roundup reaches more than 300 volunteers, who in turn share with their communities, staff, clients and congregations. In this reporting year, LMLIP shared 800 job postings and close to 100 opportunities for learning and engagement.

LMLIP's social media platforms demonstrated an organic growth in followers and likes. LMLIP Facebook received 382 likes, and Twitter followers increased from 1,073 to 1,138, an increase of 81, from 2018-2019

This report covers the LMLIP's accomplishments in the second year of its new three-year Strategic Plan (2019-2022). LMLIP's priorities have been slightly adapted from the last Strategic Plan, to capture the discussions of the community. Its focus is also now limited to five issues, namely, education, employment, health & wellbeing, inclusion & civic engagement

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.

and settlement. The priority of justice is now embedded in a couple of issue specific sub-councils.

II. Our Community's Strategic Priorities

LMLIP Central Council and the five issue specific Sub-councils will be guided by the following five edited overarching priorities:



In this reporting year, the community faced some unpredictable challenges with the public schools strikes, and the COVID-19 epidemic, which affected the LMLIP's implementation plan for the year. For example, the French school boards were unable to organize two human libraries in their respective schools. A couple of information sessions for immigrants and receiving communities were cancelled.

However, along with partners and interested individuals the following key projects have been coordinated, facilitated, and/or hosted by the LMLIP under the identified overarching themes to raise awareness of services, connect immigrants, support the work of the settlement sector and provide information on issues related to immigrants and immigration.

Welcoming community

- ✓ To strengthen understanding of and respect for diverse communities, and recognize barriers faced by immigrants, LMLIP hosted the *Third Annual All Are Welcome Here* event in collaboration with community partners, including the settlement sector (Anglophone and Francophone), the City of London and Western Centre for Research on Migration and Ethnic Relations. This year the focus was on the conscious and unconscious biases in employment and housing and their effects on the experiences of immigrants in our region.
- ✓ To improve understanding and acceptance of newcomers and immigrants across the school community, supported two human libraries in collaboration with Brescia University College.
- ✓ To reduce discrimination and racism in all forms in the community and workplace, shared widely educational materials about best practices in workplaces and strategies of addressing issues of discrimination. Myth busting facts were shared on LMLIP social media platforms.
- ✓ To enhance supports for newcomer seniors, sponsored two *Opening Doors* workshops to provide key messages to peers and community leaders related to immigrant seniors.
- ✓ To strengthen community engagement by immigrants at all levels, coordinated educational sessions for immigrants about the federal elections.
- ✓ To enhance knowledge within the receiving community about engaging immigrants and about immigrants' contributions to the community coordinated the *Sixth Annual I am London* social media campaign focusing on immigrant entrepreneurs.
- ✓ To engage receiving community in welcoming all, supported the seventh annual *Journeys of Migration* led by Western Centre for Research on Migration and Ethnic Relations.

Communication

- ✓ To enhance the role of LMLIP as a convener of information within the LMLIP community and the general community about services and supports, through the LMLIP Weekly Roundup shared information about resources, services, accessibility.
- ✓ To enhance communication between and among immigrants, service providers, employers and government, facts sheets aiming at inviting immigrants to the region, and informing communities and employers about global talent were shared at events and throughout the region.

- ✓ To inform and engage levels of government, created and shared one page infographic on the new 2019-2022 LMLIP Strategic Plan.
- ✓ To dissipate myths, inform and engage, delivered presentations about immigration, immigrants and global talents at the Kiwanis Centre and the London Ecumenical Refugee Committee Meeting.
- ✓ To support immigrants exploring to privately sponsor families, promoted the workshops delivered by the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program on private sponsorships, in London Ontario.
- ✓ To enhance awareness about services, targeted and universal, among newcomers, shared over 5,000 copies of the settlement brochure throughout the region including Pearson International Airport.
- ✓ In response to the emerging threat of COVID -19, collated multilingual information related to health and financial supports, federally and provincially, and shared with more than 200 faith institutions and 50 ethno-cultural groups.

Coordination and collaboration

- ✓ To increase service providers' knowledge of available resources in community to support immigrants' successful employment, a list of employment resources was shared with the Settlement Sub-council.
- ✓ To strengthen relationships with religious groups and support them in assisting immigrants in the integration process, coordinated the *Second Annual Faith Group Event*. As per the identified need of the faith groups, the focus of the event was private sponsorships and mental health supports. Sixty individuals attended the session.
- ✓ To increase awareness about housing issues, facilitated conversations with the Housing Department at the City of London, to raise awareness and profile issues facing immigrants.
- ✓ To raise awareness on issues faced by immigrants, participated in *London's First Annual Newcomer Day*. Immigrants shared challenges facing them in employment, recreational services and housing. Service providers learned more about needs that will help them in their programming.

Access to supports and services for immigrants:

- ✓ To increase health service accessibility, a health resource was developed. The resource was translated into French, Arabic, Spanish, Chinese and Korean. The English copy is posted on the healthline.ca.
- ✓ To enhance awareness of and access to mental health services, shared information on available mental health resources and accessibility with ethno-cultural and faith groups as well as service providers who serve immigrants.
- ✓ To further enhance awareness of mental health services, a workshop on mental health services was coordinated in collaboration with the London Public Library and the Canadian Mental Health Association London-Middlesex.
- ✓ To raise awareness about the Ontario Human Rights Code and strategies to deal with discrimination and harassment, a session was delivered to immigrants in partnership with the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) and the *Opening Doors* project.
- ✓ To support immigrants, connected two newcomers to the interpretation services to work as interpreters.
- ✓ To engage landlords, established the *First Annual LMLIP Landlord Award* to acknowledge landlord(s) who are welcoming, accommodating and who have open communication with immigrants (renters).
- ✓ To further enhance awareness on services, provided sessions for newcomer youth on the justice system and the London Police Service and to immigrant women on domestic violence.
- ✓ *Immigrant Community Capacity and Engagement (ICCE)* project, which stemmed from the LMLIP Justice & Protection Sub-council's plan, in 2013, and led by John Howard Society, engaged the French speaking immigrants from Africa, and Eritrean communities. A forum to educate and inform service providers about these two cultural groups was attended by close to 35 service providers.
- ✓ To support and engage immigrant seniors, collaborated with an initiative of the City of London and two faith groups (United Church and the Islamic Centre of Southwest Ontario) and coordinated the first interfaith event. The objective of this meeting was to share a meal, interact with each other and learn about existing services in London.
- ✓ To connect immigrants, coordinated the first meeting with seniors from different communities and seniors from the receiving community, the Kiwanis Centre.
- ✓ To support the partner in the settlement sector, participated in the planning of the eleventh *Annual Life as A Refugee* event along with community partners. Provided input regarding acknowledging individuals and an employer who supported immigrants and refugees.

Reduction of systemic barriers

- ✓ To raise the profile of key issues that are faced in London & Middlesex such as the need for supports in housing and anti-racism education among service providers, funders, residents, shared information with service providers.
- ✓ To further engage the Francophone school boards, collaborated with the Francophone community centre (Carrefour communautaire francophone de London) and shared information in French on services and accessibility.
- ✓ To engage employers, explored the opportunity to work with the London Chamber of Commerce to instate an annual award for employer who hire and retain immigrants.
- ✓ To enhance awareness of housing as a key social determinant of health, met with developer to provide data on newcomers and the need of including this sector of the population in their plan for affordable housing.
- ✓ To further engage the municipality, provided input covering immigrants' need to the London Community Housing Strategy.
- ✓ To provide input regarding newcomers' integration participated on the Advisory Body of the City of London Newcomer Strategy.

III: LMLIP's Ongoing Commitment

In the coming two years, LMLIP Central Council and the Sub-councils will continue to work with the community, sectors and residents to continue its work in creating opportunities for immigrants to learn about services and accessibility, to connect to the broader community, to be engaged and contribute. LMLIP will continue to mobilize the community and multi-sectors to coordinate their efforts to support the integration process of immigrants.

LMLIP will continue to count on the generous contributions of volunteers, their supportive organizations and service providers as well as interested citizens from the receiving and immigrant communities, to create a more welcoming community where everyone thrives.

IV: Conclusion

LMLIP and its partners faced some challenges in implementing some activities in this reporting year given the unpredictable conditions, therefore a few projects will be carried over to the next year. The LMLIP hopes to continue to engage the community and the dedicated volunteers to implement actions from the current Strategic Plan.

The Welcoming Community Work Group will continue to explore innovative ways to welcome all and organize the *Fourth Annual All Are Welcome Here 2021*. Another key event that our

Sub-councils will continue to strengthen the relationship with faith institutions to support them with information and resources through the *Third Annual Faith Groups Event*.

V: Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the LMLIP's funder, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada for their continued financial support.

LMLIP works with the community, services and the three levels of government to accomplish its collective goals. We acknowledge the continued support of the following:

- The City of London for its leadership and continued support;
- The LMLIP Governance Work group and their massive contributions in revising the Terms of Reference and LMLP policies;
- 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).

We also acknowledge the continued in-kind support of the agency that provides administrative support to the LMLIP staff, WIL Employment Connections.

Appendix A: LMLIP Council Members

- Abe Oudshoorn
- Adil Kalyal
- Afeez Ajibowu
- Ahmed Yahya Ali
- Alain Kazadi
- Amani Radhaa
- Amna Wasty
- Ana Enriquez-Johnson
- Ana Rojas
- Anaise Muzima
- Anthea Fordyce
- Arla Longhurst
- Arthur D’Souza
- Asmaa Al-Joudy
- Barbara Milanovic
- Dr. Beth Mitchell
- Bill Pigram
- Bory Sreng
- Cathy McLandress
- Cecilia Inguanse
- Christina Lord
- Corinne Walsh
- Delmar Tobin
- Dev Sainani
- Dharshi Lacey
- Eman Arnout
- Emily Low
- Erika Dickie
- Fairouze Touni
- Fan Liu
- Flora Lan
- Gabrielle Laurin
- Gaston Mabaya
- Gerardo Castro
- Hina Kalyal
- Holly Weaver
- Huda Hussein
- Jacquie Rumiell
- Janet Pinder
- Jean-Marc Boisvenue
- Jean-Pierre Cantin
- Jennifer Hollis
- Jennifer Sandu
- Jennifer Strong
- Jerome Rutagarama
- Jill Tansley
- Jo-Ann Hutchison
- Joe Winser
- Jutta Zeller-Beier
- Kara McKeown
- Karen Macari
- Kathryn Rayner
- Kathy Milczarek
- Lana Winchester-Tucker
- Lissette Ochoa
- Lisseth D’Andrea
- Mahin Ghasemiyani
- Maria D’Souza
- Martin Withenshaw
- Massara Bethoon
- Melanie Elms
- Mirlande Dickinson
- Mohamed Al-Adeimi
- Nabila Sissaoui
- Nancy McQuillan
- Nelida Forero
- Noha Elsheikh
- Pauline Andrew
- Phillipa Myers
- Polina Shadman
- Ramona Lucan
- Rebecca D’Souza
- Rifat Hussain
- Rita Giroux-Patience
- Robert Collins
- Robin Armistead
- Rose Aquino
- Saad Aldin
- Sahar Atalla
- Sara Middleton
- Sheila Foster
- Stephanie Andrews
- Tam Dam
- Terry Poirer
- Trevor Johnson
- Valerian Marochko
- Dr. Victoria Esses
- Zenaida Ravanera

Appendix B: Other Participants

- Abir Hassan
- Afifa Baig
- Ahmad Ali
- Ahsan Ahmad
- Alice Johnson
- Allison Henderson
- Aloys Ndayizeye
- Alvin Hopkins
- Amne Ali
- Imam Amin Al-Ali
- Andrea Moyer
- Angela Belair
- Angela Borchert
- Anhar Qasem
- Anne Alton
- Antoinette Martin
- Ariana Carlucci
- Arielle Kayabaga
- Arlene Thompson
- Assem Fadel
- Avdija Ramic
- Badreya Al Hashmi
- Baptiste Alain Bourquardez
- Barb Czyz
- Bijou Mimipongo-Moolman
- Bisharo Hassan
- Brenda Qureshi
- Brent Nolan
- Burton Moon
- Cai Su Qi
- Cara Finn
- Carissa Groot-Nibbelink
- Christine Le Dreff
- Christine Ranger
- Dalia Elbargisy
- Datang Chen
- David Cottrill
- David Torres Martinez
- Debbie Turnbull
- Debora Szelepski
- Dhira Ghosh
- Diane Kooistra
- Dina Shukri
- Dipyendu Chaudhuri
- Dolovan Morado
- Doreen Hodgkinson
- Dzevad Melkic
- Edgar Yanez
- Ehsan Ali
- Elena Ashford
- Elisabete Rodrigues
- Elisabeth White
- Elizabeth Peloza
- Emal Ketan
- Evelyn Diaz
- Fadia Alariqee
- Fadnuma
- Fanny Newport
- Federico Pereanez
- Firas Sefian
- Fr. Bill White
- Francis Hinnah
- Gabriele Schotter
- Gary Longhurst
- Gebremariam Woldemicael
- Germán Gutiérrez
- Gerri Catherwood
- Ghaidaa Amir
- Glenn McLeod
- Gord Fansher
- Gurmeet Malhotra
- Hala Mon Ali
- Halima Ahmed
- Hanan Abdullah
- Hanan Gindi
- Helen Younes
- Helene Lecard-Hallas
- Hisham Slim
- Huda Mahmud
- Irina Chulkova
- Irma Rivera
- Israr Habib
- Jacqueline Fraser
- Jai Ravipati
- Jan McLeod
- Jan Tomlinson
- Jane Moffat
- Jason Lange
- Jean-Baptiste Ntakoma
- Jennifer O'Brien
- Jessica Kipp
- Ji Zhong
- Jienchu Zhao
- Joanne Ford
- Joe Chiasson
- Johannes
- John Bannerman
- John Davidson
- John Kok
- John Korkidakis
- Jon-Paul McGonigle
- Jose Guillermo Torres
- Joshma Jose
- Joy Petersen
- Joyce Mitchell
- Judy Wright
- Jules Poirier
- Justin Patton

- Kamala Hasanova
- Karen Chiasson
- Karen Pennesi
- Karima Balkaid
- Karna Trentman
- Kate Kennedy
- Kathryn Warmington
- Kathy Kinsella
- Katy Boychuk
- Kay Habib
- Kevin Dickins
- Kieran Maingot
- Kinga Koltun
- Lamia Itani
- Lana Salih
- Leena Habib
- Leia Smoudianis
- Lena Haider
- Leora Swartzman
- Leroy Osbourne
- Leta Keating
- Limei Yan
- Linda Davis
- Linda Latella
- Lisa Vollick
- Lucy Quaglia
- Lynette D'Souza
- Madison Loder
- Malak Ali
- Malath Adam
- Manal Abou Zaher
- Mandeep Malhotra
- Maram Al-Areqi
- Marg Glendon
- Margaret Mitchell
- Marilyn Cook
- Mark Carruthers
- Mark Karjaluo
- Martha Achiek
- Martina Kaiser
- Marwa Ahmed
- Marwa Azami
- Mary Catherine Bishop
- Mary Jane McLeod
- Mary Roes
- Max Gomez
- Maymona
- Megan Sager
- Melony Daye
- Mervat Tadrus
- Mia Loebach
- Michael van Holst
- Michele Manocchi
- Michelle Dellamora
- Mike Feng
- Mohammed Fouad Al Haddad
- Mudrika Hamou
- Muriel Abbot
- Nader Basha
- Naeem Qureshi
- Najalaa Ali
- Nancy McSloy
- Nancy Needham
- Natalee Wales
- Natalia Lapshina
- Naya Alnasser
- Neda Salloum
- Nicole Buteau
- Nicole Pinder
- Nishu Atrey
- Norma Chicoine
- Nour Hamid
- Pat Hodgins
- Patricia Foto
- Patrick Bestall
- Patrick O'Connor
- Paul James
- Paula Vergara
- Peggy Sattler
- Peninah Mutin
- Petrusia Hontar
- Quili Zhang
- Rafe Sleewa
- Rajaa Al Absi
- Rajaa Al-Abed
- Rakhee Chopra
- Rana Husain
- Rana Jadan
- Raneem Ibrahim
- Raquel Lopez
- Ray John Jr.
- Reymond Kouamé
- Rosh Abdullah
- Roxanne Gilroy-Machado
- Saad Habib
- Sabrina Griffin
- Sahar Al Nuami
- Said Bangura
- Saleh Althamena
- Saleha Khan
- Sally Abood
- Sally Bennett
- Sam Badawi
- Samia Alnahdi
- Sandra Astaiza
- Sara Bawazir
- Sarah Luth
- Sarah-Lee Umraugh
- Sebastien Kouakou
- Shamso Omar
- Sheila Carson
- Shelley Blair
- Sherin Hussien
- Siham Barakat
- Siham Kadi
- Sitara Jameel
- Sonia Iseid
- Sonia Muhimpundu
- Stephanie Vanderburgt
- Stephen Giustizia
- Stephen Turner
- Summer Burton
- Surya Acharya
- Susan Abdula
- Susan Kadray
- Taghrid Hussain
- Tam Dam
- Tammy Denomme
- Tarek Moharram

- Tehemton Mirza
- Teresa Armstrong
- Tom Schinbein
- Treana Caswell
- Vasantha Sritharan
- Vasile Caniuca
- Vincent Tao

- Virginia Walker
- Waella Mansoor
- Wafa Bagushair
- Wi Hong Zhu
- Xiaoling Qui
- Yan Li
- Yasmeen Al Alie

- Yerusalem Berhane
- Yvonne Lindsay
- Zainab Abdel-Gawad
- Zuhir Marbina

Appendix C: Participating Organizations & Associations

- Access Centre for Regulated Employment
- Addiction Services of Thames Valley
- Age Friendly London Network
- Ahmadiyya Muslim Jammah
- Assyrian Church
- Baha'is of London
- Basha's Handy Candy
- Berhan Immigration and Settlement
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of London
- Bosnian Canadian Islamic Centre
- Brescia University College
- Byron United Church
- Canadian Blood Services
- Canadian Heritage
- Canadian Latin Association
- Canadian Mental Health Association- Middlesex
- Carrefour communautaire francophone de London
- Centre for Lifelong Learning
- Chalmers Presbyterian Church
- City of London
- Coalition to Empower Gender Equality
- Collège Boréal
- Community Employment Choices
- Community Living London
- Community Services Coordination Network
- Conseil scolaire catholique Providence
- Conseil scolaire Viamonde
- Culture Office, City of London
- Diamond Digital
- Drewlo Holdings
- Elgin Middlesex Oxford Workforce Planning & Development Board
- Fanshawe College
- First Aid Learning Centre
- Franco Educ
- Half & Half Social
- Housing Development Corporation
- Hutton House
- Indwell Developments
- Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- Employ
- Indwell
- Investing in Children
- Islamic Centre of Southwest Ontario
- Ismaili Muslim Community of London
- John Howard Society of London and District
- Kala Manjari
- King's University College
- Kiwanis Senior Centre
- La Société Économique de l'Ontario (SÉO)
- Libro Credit Union
- Literacy Link South Central
- Local Employment Planning Council
- London Abused Women's Centre
- London Community Chaplaincy

- London Cross Cultural Learner Centre
- London District Catholic School Board
- London Economic Development Corporation
- London Ecumenical Refugee Committee (LERC)
- London Employment Help Centre
- London French Day Care Centre
- London Heritage Council
- London Intercommunity Health Centre
- Merrymount Children's Centre
- London Muslim Mosque
- London Police Service
- London Public Library
- LUSO Community Services
- Merrymount Children's Centre
- Michael Loebach Barrister & Solicitor
- Middlesex County
- Middlesex London Health Unit
- Migration and Ethnic Relations Centre, Western University
- Millstone Homes
- Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism & Culture Industries
- Moharram Ventures
- Movati
- Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration
- My Sisters' Place
- Networking & Empowering Communities through Conversation
- North London Resource Centre
- Office of MP Peter Fragiskatos
- Office of MPP Peggy Sattler
- Office of MPP Theresa Armstrong
- ParaMed
- Pillar Nonprofit Network
- Platinum Leadership Inc.
- Rakhee Chopra
- Redeemer Lutheran
- Refugee Training Sponsorship Program
- Réseau de soutien à l'immigration francophone Centre-Sud-Ouest de l'Ontario
- rTraction
- Service Canada
- Siloam United Church
- Siskinds LLP
- Sisters of the Precious Blood
- Skilled Accents
- Society of St. Vincent De Paul
- Somali Association of London
- South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre Newcomer Settlement Services
- St. George's Church
- St. Joseph Chaldean Catholic Church
- St. Justin's Church
- St. Michael's Church
- St. Thomas Elgin Local Immigration Partnership
- Thames Valley District School Board
- Trinity United Church
- Turan Financial
- United Sikhs
- United Way Elgin Middlesex
- Village Green Church
- Vitalpoint Church
- Western University
- WIL Employment Connections
- Women in Politics
- Woodfield Settlers
- YMCA of South Western Ontario
- Zoroastrian Society of Ontario