

WE LIP Newsletter – Summer 2016



LEAMINGTON SYRIAN REFUGEE WELCOME DINNER

May 26, 2016

The South Essex Community Council Leamington Syrian Refugee Committee hosted a welcome event for Syrian refugees who have recently settled in Leamington. The event was held at Faith Mennonite Church and was attended by private sponsored refugees and their sponsors who prepared a potluck meal for all to enjoy. WE LIP Council members, Windsor Islamic Association and the Syrian Canadian Council representatives, travelled to Leamington to support the event and personally welcome the families.

Sponsors shared stories of how the refugee families have introduced them to traditional Syrian foods and together they have been able to find establishments in Leamington where ingredients can be purchased. The families and sponsors have enjoyed spending time together and learning from each other.

In addition to enjoying a good meal together, the potluck event provided opportunities for some of the Syrian families to meet for the first time and make plans to connect again soon.



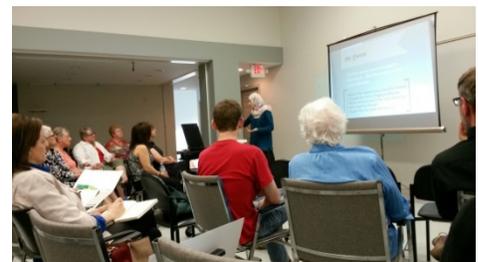
RAMADAN CULTURAL AWARENESS SESSION

June 2, 2016

WE LIP members, South Essex Community Council and the Windsor Islamic Association, partnered to deliver the informative session about Ramadan in order to provide Private sponsors and community members with more insight into the lives and beliefs of the newly arrived Syrian families.

The event was held at the South Essex Community Council and attendees included representatives from:

- Faith Mennonite Church
- Leamington Area Ecumenical Refugee Committee
- Uni-Fab
- Municipality of Leamington Council
- The Pilgrim Church



Lina Chaker, the presenter, discussed Ramadan and its purpose in the Islamic faith. The presentation touched on the key points of spirituality, self-discipline, charity, unity and devotion.

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Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

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SETTLEMENT PARTNERS INFORMATION COMMUNICATION EXCHANGE (SPICE) PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CIRCLE

June 17, 2016

Settlement Partners Information Communication Exchange (SPICE) is a committee led by WE LIP and made up of representatives from Newcomer Service Providers and City of Windsor Employment and Social Services. The goal of the committee is to develop a coordinated approach on service delivery challenges and improve upon the ways newcomers receive information.

The committee hosted a Professional Learning Circle on June 17 at All Saints' Church in downtown Windsor. The event provided an opportunity for a larger complement of front line staff to meet face to face, share information and provide opportunities to seek clarification on specific topics that effect the successful settlement and integration of immigrants and refugees.



CANADA DAY 2016 CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

July 1, 2016



On July 1, 2016, the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership, in collaboration with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and the City of Windsor hosted a Canadian Citizenship Ceremony at the Windsor International Aquatic and Training Centre. Thirty-one individuals were sworn in by Glenn Drinkwater, a member of the Order of Canada who has been conducting ceremonies since 1997. This is the second year that the Canada Day ceremony has

been hosted by the WE LIP. Dignitaries included City of Windsor Councillor Fred Francis, Lisa Gretzky, MPP (Windsor West) and Brian Masse M.P. (Windsor West). WE LIP council members came forward to help as volunteers and ten LIP council member organizations set up Welcoming Stations for the new citizens and their families with information on services and programs available in the region.

The following organizations participated in the Citizenship Ceremony event:

- Unemployed Help Centre
- Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County
- Conseil Scolaire Viamonde
- YMCA of Windsor-Essex
- Women's Enterprise Skills Training of Windsor Inc.
- Windsor Essex County Health Unit – Oral Health
- South Asian Centre
- New Canadians' Centre of Excellence Inc.
- The Windsor Women Working With Immigrant Women
- Windsor Islamic Council



COMPASSION FATIGUE WORKSHOP

July 15, 2016

In light of the large numbers of immigrants and refugees that Windsor Essex has received over the past year, WE LIP, together with the Canadian Mental Health Association hosted a Compassion Fatigue workshop. The purpose of the half-day session was to provide frontline staff working with newcomers/refugees tools to help reduce the risk and/or mitigate the impact of Compassion Fatigue. Over 40 individuals from 7 different agencies participated.



CITY OF WINDSOR LAUNCHES MYNEWCITY APP

June 20, 2016



On World Refugee Day, June 20, 2016, the City of Windsor launched a new app. MyNewCity was designed to help “Newcomers” to the Windsor Essex region search for services and agencies to help them with their transition. Entries can be searched by agency or service address, agency name, type, street name, city or town or keyword.

MyNewCity will help newcomers to Windsor Essex navigate their way through services on their own, or with the help of agency staff. The internationally recognizable symbols used on the map make it easy to find a service regardless of the user’s primary language, and with just a few steps they can even print a map to guide their way across town.

The MyNewCity – Newcomer Services “app” is an initiative of the Geomatics Division of the Engineering – Infrastructure and Geomatics Department at the City of Windsor, in collaboration with the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership (WE LIP) and the Orientation Advisory Committee (membership includes Windsor and Essex County Agencies funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to provide Orientation, Settlement and Language services). The app can be accessed on any computer or device, anytime, and anywhere, using the internet directly or via Wi-Fi.

To access the app, go to www.mappmycity.ca. The app has also been linked to the www.welcometowindsor.essex.ca webpage hosted by the County of Essex.

MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL OF WINDSOR-ESSEX RECEIVES \$35,000 FROM WELCOME FUND FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

July 19, 2016

WE LIP member, WindsorEssex Community Foundation announced a \$35,000 contribution to the Multicultural Council of Windsor Essex from Community Foundations of Canada's Welcome Fund for Syrian Refugees in support of local settlement efforts. As Canadians join together in welcoming refugees from Syria, the Welcome Fund provides an important community-driven investment in assisting families to transition into suitable permanent housing. Special thanks to Manulife, CN, GM, and Community Foundations of Canada for this exciting opportunity!



LEAMINGTON MAKES COMMITMENT TO CULTURAL DIVERSITY

July 20, 2016



WE LIP council member, Municipality of Leamington, together with key community partners, met to show their leadership and commitment to cultural diversity in the community as part of the Community Development strategy.



The announcement signified the launch of this initiative by first participating in training aimed at understanding diversity and how it impacts service delivery and customer service. This training is being delivered by WE LIP council member, South Essex Community Council.

By leading this initiative in their respective organizations, the Municipality of Leamington and its community partners anticipate both not-for-profit and for-profit organizations will follow the lead and consider cultural sensitivity as part of their orientation and professional development.

HYGGELIG TRANSITION: EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR A CHANGING WORLD SUMMER CAMP

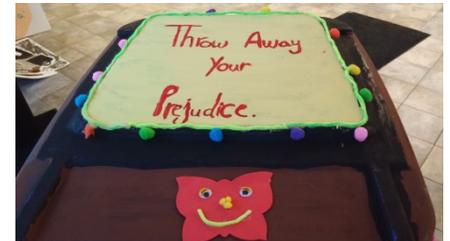
July and August 2016

For six weeks during the summer, an ambitious group of Newcomer Syrian youth worked hard to enhance both their community and their personal development while participating in a summer camp called: Hyggelig Transition: Empowering Youth for a Changing World. WE LIP council member, Lina Chaker, helped to organize the camp. The project was led by Hiba Hijazi and was meant to aid in the youth's integration to Windsor through personal development, volunteerism, and community engagement. The Windsor Women Working With Immigrant Women welcomed the camp by providing space and staff support.

On August 19, 2016 at the St. Clair College Residence and Conference Centre, a graduation celebration and public reception was held. Each partnering organization was formally recognized for its contributions to the success of the camp.

The evening was comprised of activities that showcased the work of the participating youth:

- Video Presentation: Recognizing community contributions
- Living Library Session: Providing space for dialogue
- Quilt Story: Expressing themselves through pictures



WE LIP Information Links:

City of Windsor: <http://www.citywindsor.ca/residents/socialservices-/Social-Services-Overview/Pages/Windsor-Essex-Local-Immigration-Partnership.aspx>

Workforce WindsorEssex: <http://workforcewindsor-essex.com/windsor-essex-local-immigration-partnership/>

Welcome to Windsor: <http://www.welcometowindsor-essex.ca/en/why-windsor-essex/local-immigration-partnership.asp>