

Erie St. Clair **LHIN**



The Health Equity for Newcomers and Immigrants (HENI) Committee is a partnership of the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership (WE LIP) and the Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network (ESC LHIN). Through the continuous work of its 30+ local community organization representatives, the HENI Committee strives to achieve its objective of enhancing multi-sectoral collaborations on newcomer health system design, priority identification, service coordination, and advance strategies aimed at improving outcomes for newcomers and immigrants to Windsor-Essex County.

In 2018, the committee chose to focus on a regional language strategy, resulting in the creation of the WE SPEAC (Windsor Essex Service Providers Enabling Access to Communication) Project. A project team comprised of representatives from education, health and newcomer serving agencies has led the work. The group has been meeting regularly over the past few months to develop a project charter and to determine project timelines and deliverables. Components of the project include University of Windsor nursing students conducting a literature review and an environmental scan of language supports currently available in the region. These activities will assist in identifying regional gaps and in creating a repository of available language service supports which will be shared with local health service providers.

Through the work of our engaged community partners, the HENI Committee is able to work toward fulfilling its commitment of increasing appropriate access to language supports across our region.

WE SPEAC Project

PURPOSE: To reduce language barriers experienced by persons seeking healthcare services in the Erie. St. Clair region.

GOAL: To increase regional health service provider (HSP) agencies' knowledge and use of available services, technologies, tools, and approaches that effectively reduce language barriers.