



The Tikkun Project is a research-action project exploring how young people living in various communities in Canada, South Africa, and Kosovo are actively contributing to social healing and change. The research team included WE LIP members, Dr. Karen Roland, Dr. Erwin Selimos and Lina Chaker.

"Tikkun Olam" is a powerful Hebrew phrase which means "repairing/healing the world". Dr. Yvette Daniel from the faculty of Education at the University of Windsor has devoted three years of research and collaboration to gather together young people from areas of conflict and growth in the world: South Africa, Kosovo, and, in Ontario, Thunder Bay, Toronto, and Windsor. The young people are from a wide array of cultural and religious backgrounds, including Indigenous Canadian, African, Eastern European, and Syrian. They joined together in the work of creating world healing and reconciliation through various forms of research and expression both within their communities and as a collective community. During the first week of April, in the culminating event of this three-year project, they came together in Windsor for a three-day program of face-to-face interaction, workshops, art performances, and engagement.

The final symposium on Wednesday, April 5th, opened with a Syrian drumming circle, followed by an "ArtNote". WE LIP members, Charlotte LeFrank, Nesreen Elkord, and Lina Chaker facilitated a drama performance by Syrian youth from Westview Freedom Academy. These young people have, since their arrival in Canada, persisted in finding opportunities to share their stories to familiarize and inspire local community members to help them achieve their goals. They were motivated by the deep desire to help Canadians understand the suffering of the Syrian people, to process the trauma and losses they have experienced, and ultimately, to heal and to forge a better future. Raneem, a performer in the production, stated, "Sharing these stories will ease the burden and make us open our arms to life."

To learn more about the Tikkun Project, visit www.tikkunproject.org.



The Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership (WE LIP) views the social inclusion of young immigrants and refugees in the community as a central piece of building a welcoming Windsor-Essex region. As such, WE LIP has committed itself to incorporating the issues and challenges of newcomer youth into their strategic priority. As part of this goal, WE LIP has formed a Newcomer Youth Committee which is being chaired by Dr. Erwin Selimos. The first meeting, held on May 13, 2017, began a four-meeting process in which the committee will develop action priorities.

As a collaborative process, the goal of these four meetings is to identify high impact "actionable" projects to be implemented beginning September 2017. There is great enthusiasm among stakeholders to build an inclusive Windsor-Essex for young people; this is the most essential ingredient needed to build community-wide actions that will support the social inclusion of newcomer youth in the region.

Based on the first meeting, there are several areas of emerging focus, interest and action:

1. **Youth participation:** Developing structures or opportunities in the community for newcomer youth to be involved in the development of programs and services to meet their needs, including youth representation on the Newcomer Youth Committee.
2. **Education/Employment:** Ensuring access to education and good employment in Windsor-Essex, especially after high school.
3. **Social participation:** Creating opportunities for youth of various social and cultural backgrounds to meet and interact, in order to break down the apparent silos among young people; increasing access for newcomer youth to leisure opportunities.
4. **Mental health and social well-being:** Increasing access to culturally responsive mental health services; creating opportunities for youth to develop positive self-esteem and self-concepts within the context of migration and settlement.

