

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



The Sarnia-Lambton Local Immigration Partnership supports a collective and comprehensive community effort to create positive settlement outcomes for immigrants and newcomers locally.

SARNIA-LAMBTON LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (SL-LIP) COUNCIL

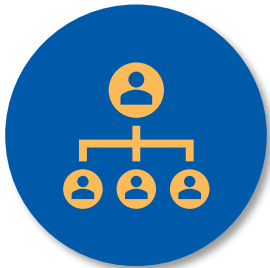
The establishment of the SL-LIP Council in 2010 marked a significant milestone in the collaborative effort to foster a thriving and inclusive community in Lambton County. Comprising representatives from various sectors including settlement, healthcare, education, employment services, social services, economic development, and business, the council serves as a vital advisory body tasked with guiding the implementation of a community driven Settlement Strategy. The Strategy is representative of a collective approach to community development, aiming to create a welcoming environment by leveraging the expertise and resources of multiple sectors.



36 Members



9+ Sectors



21 Organizations

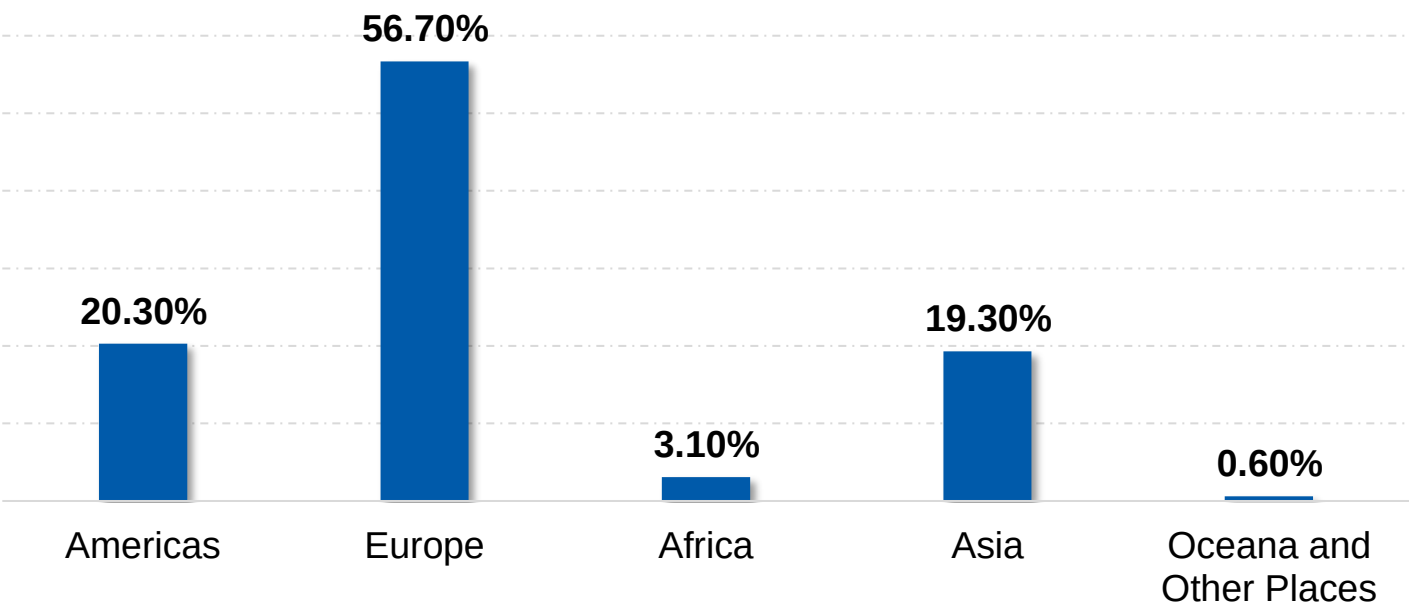


Several Working Groups
Created for multi-layered SL-LIP projects and events etc.

IMMIGRATION IN SARNIA-LAMBTON

Stats Can Census 2021

Region of Birth of Immigrants Sarnia-Lambton 2021

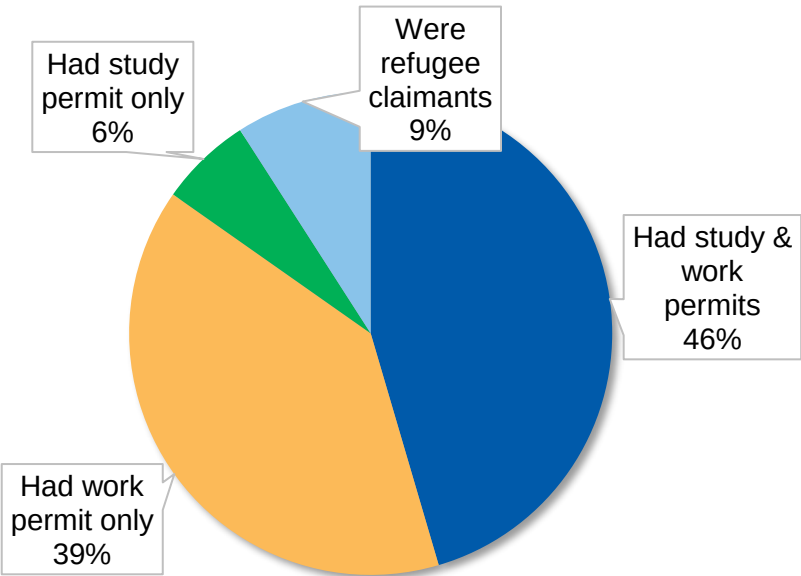


12,195

Immigrants currently live in Sarnia-Lambton

79%

of immigrants in Lambton County had become Canadian citizens.



Recent Immigrants

LAMBTON COUNTY NEWCOMER SETTLEMENT STRATEGY

The Strategy seeks to address the multifaceted needs of newcomers and existing residents alike to foster social cohesion and economic growth and is implemented via adhoc working groups through the following areas of focus or Pillars:



Employment



Community Engagement



Coordination of Services



Research & Facilitation





Desired Outcomes:

1. Increased awareness of pathways to hiring immigrants.
2. Improved understanding of the benefits of hiring and retaining immigrants.
3. Improved connection between employers and newcomer job seekers.



- ✓ Providing ongoing administrative support for employment navigation tools for both employers and newcomers on the Welcome to Lambton App
- ✓ Created and streamed a webinar in partnership with WILL Immploy that focused on recent immigration trends through insights from industry experts.
- ✓ Facilitated the development and execution of a two-day hybrid EDI training platform in partnership with the Newcomer Connection Program, for 60 local employers to promote the benefits of a diverse workforce and guide the development of strategies for creating an inclusive work environment.
- ✓ Hosted a tour for 25 employment-ready newcomers, highlighting significant locations across Lambton and organized a networking event where participants were interviewed by four local employers.



Desired Outcomes:

1. Increased newcomer, immigrant and refugee participation within the community.
2. Increase awareness of the specific needs of vulnerable immigrant and refugee populations.
3. Increased awareness and accessibility of local programming and events.
4. Increased participation in local recreation and sporting opportunities.
5. Increased awareness of racial discrimination issues in Lambton County.



@SARNIALAMBTONLIP

In 2023, our LIP Facebook increased by 150 new followers which was 85.2% increase from the previous year.



@SARNIA-LAMBTON-LIP

In 2023 an Instagram account was created, and 257 new followers were recorded in just 4 months with numbers increasing weekly.

- ✓ Brought 5 new food vendors and 4 multicultural dance artists to the annual Canada Day event
- ✓ Convened a forum titled "Racism is Bad for your Health" to solicit community input, informing the development of an anti-racism strategy, website, and resource materials
- ✓ Contributed to the planning of the annual University of Western Ontario, Pathways to Prosperity Annual LIPs Conference
- ✓ Provided migrant workers in Lambton with accurate information and access to available services and supports in the community in partnership with the North Lambton Community Health Centre through TeamWork, a Migrant Worker Support Program.
- ✓ Hosted a multiphase Anti-black youth arts campaign together with the Sarnia-Lambton Alliance Against Hate, to engage students and the broader community in raising awareness around hate and discrimination workshops while promoting diversity and inclusion through creative expression.
- ✓ Hosted information tables at 5 community events and fairs to promote the Welcome to Lambton App, the Sarnia-Lambton Alliance against Hate program and the All are Welcome Here campaign.



Desired Outcomes:

1. Increased awareness of programs and supports, communication and engagement between settlement and non-settlement organizations.
 2. Increased understanding of barriers to effective services and learn about newcomer needs.
 3. Services are better coordinated at the community level
 4. Programming and service delivery by mainstream institutions is adapted to newcomer needs.
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- ✓ Created a collaborative partnership between the YWHO Youth Hub and YMCA and College Boreal, Newcomers Services programs
 - ✓ Created a panel of local settlement supports representatives and presented to 3 local non-settlement organizations on available newcomer services
 - ✓ Leveraged partnerships within the SL-LIP Council and created a community action group serving within the Immigration Taskforce Framework to implement activities designed to coordinate services at the community level.
 - ✓ Addressed language barriers amid non-settlement organizations and increased capacity for service by employing AI technology on the Welcome to Lambton App, one of several features that work to close the gap between newcomers and local services and increase positive settlement outcomes.



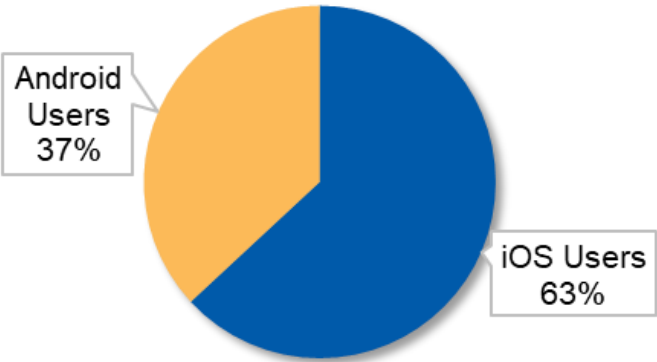
THE WELCOME TO LAMBTON APP



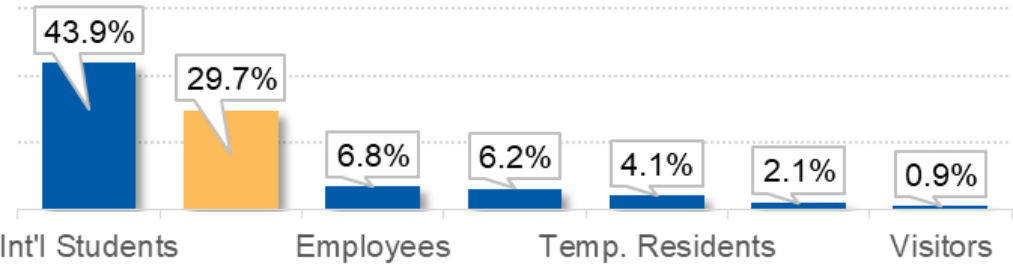
Created by the Sarnia-Lambton Local Immigration Partnership, the Welcome to Lambton app is a user-friendly, helpful guide to support newcomers to Lambton county.

Overview of Users:

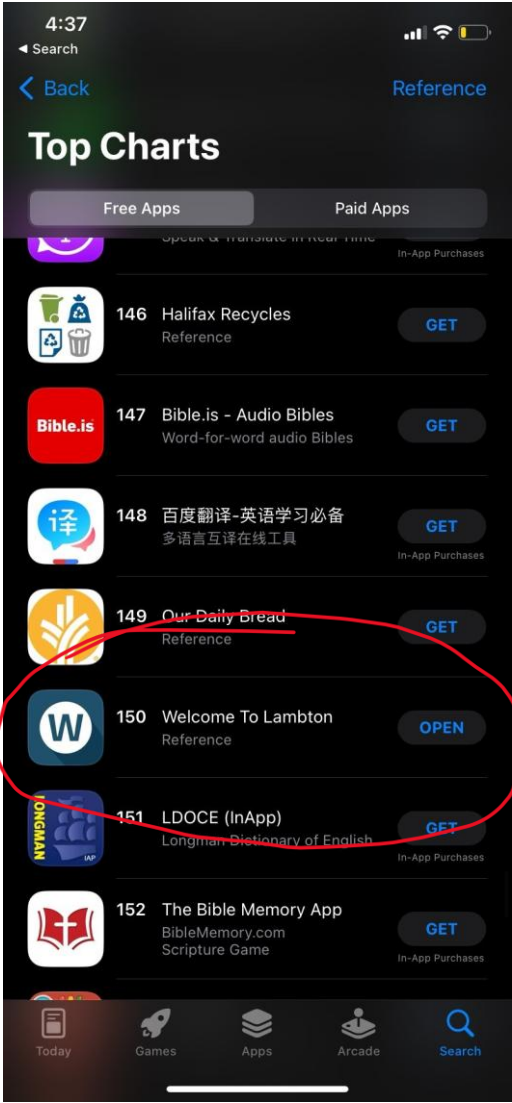
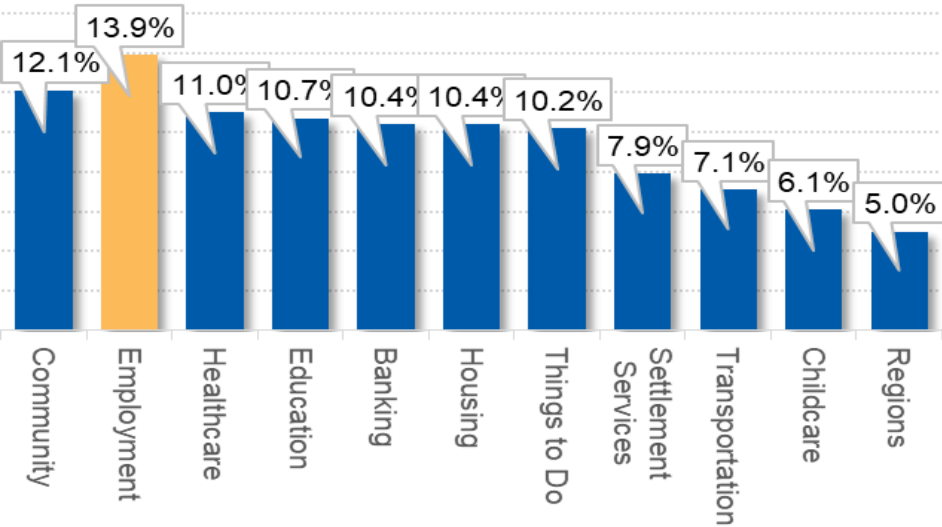
App Platform Usage September 2023



App Language Users September 2023



Users Areas of Priority





Desired Outcomes:

1. Strengthened connections between cultural or religious groups and supports and newcomers in the community.
 2. The development of strategies within the community in response to emerging needs.
- ✓ In 2023, the SL-LIP hosted a number of events during Welcoming Week, [a nationally recognized initiative that works to celebrate the inclusive spirit of local communities across Canada] that featured local service provider information tables with music and dance for newcomers in Lambton.
 - ✓ Conducted an in-depth look at the discrimination experienced by immigrants and racialized individuals in the Lambton region using interviews and focus groups paired with input from the Racism is Bad for your Health forum, along with research into discriminatory practices in the settlement sector, resulting in the development of strategic recommendations.



Community Multicultural Activities...

Black History Month:

Throughout the month of February 2023, SL-LIP hosted events and festivities to honor the legacy of Black Canadians:

- ✓ Presenters travelled to Lambton from the Buxton museum to host an afternoon for youth with displays and interactive games
- ✓ Eight Slam Poetry events were hosted by a Black, Francophone multimediuim artist from Montreal, a form of performance poetry that combines the elements of performance, writing, competition, and audience participation
- ✓ Screened historically relevant feature films at the Sarnia Public Library and YMCA Newcomer Centre
- ✓ A campaign featured forty Black Canadians sharing their stories through social media platforms, including online webinars and other informative content.
- ✓ Partnered to host a family-style dinner at Centre Communautaire Francophone featuring African cuisine, culturally relevant artifacts and live entertainment.

Festival of Cultures – New Year's Eve 2023

The SL-LIP hosted a vibrant multicultural New Year's Eve celebration that took place on December 31, 2023. It aimed at uniting newcomers with community members. The event was free, family-friendly and offered a rich cultural experience. Attendees enjoyed performances from a magician, balloon artist, salsa dancers, a First Nations band, Punjabi dancers, Irish dancers, and a variety of multicultural foods, along with fireworks and much more. Over 300 people participated in this festive gathering.



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With special thanks to the Corporation of the County of Lambton, members of the Sarnia-Lambton Local Immigration Partnership Council, the Immigration Task Force, Tmrrw Inc. and the Sarnia-Lambton Antiracism, Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Sarnia-Lambton Local immigration Partnership Council
162 Lochiel Street
Suite 100
Sarnia, Ontario N7T 7W5
sarnia-lambtonlip@county-lambton.on.ca



@SARNIALAMBTONLIP



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<https://www.lambtononline.ca/en/resident-services/local-immigration-partnership.aspx>