SARNIA-LAMBTON
LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

Strategic Priorities 2020-2025

To foster an inclusive, welcoming, and prosperous Sarnia-Lambton where newcomers are fully integrated, valued, and empowered to contribute to the community's social, cultural, and economic vitality.

1 Build and Increase Awareness
Create resources and materials, provide training, and host community forums to engage and inform.

2 Community Engagement
Develop opportunities for participation through consultations, knowledge and resource sharing, and planning local campaigns and events.

3 Collaboration
Working together on initiatives, pooling resources, and creating new programs and projects.

4 Research
Identifying funding sources, conducting research and collecting data.

SL-LIP Council

36 members

9+ sectors

24 organizations

Newly formed Immigrant Advisory Committee in spring of 2025

SL-LIP Presentations

25+ Community events hosted with over 5000 people engaged

20+ presentations delivered

SL-LIP Representation

- Pathways 2 Prosperity – Annual National LIPs Conference Planning Committee
- Equity Diversity and Inclusion Framework – Social Services Network and the Sarnia-Lambton Antiracism, Diversity and Inclusion Committee or SLARDIC
- Canada Day Committee & Mitton Village Neighbourhood Connect Committee members
- National LIPs Secretariat – Antiracism and Research Working Groups members
- The IRCC Executive Director's Consortium
- The Southwestern Ontario LIPs Collaborative
- Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan - Chair of SLARDIC Lead of community Systemic Racism Pillar
- Immigration Task Force – Chair of the Community Action Group
- TeamWork Sterring Committee

SL-LIP Campaigns

- Celebrating 5 of Years Black History
- Hosting 2 Youth Antiracism Arts Challenges and 1 Anti-Black Hate Arts Challenge
- Ongoing campaigns: Acts of Welcome & All are Welcome Here
- Day of the Dead – International Celebrations of Life

We are proud to share that the SL-LIP has made great progress in supporting immigrants and refugees in Lambton. Thanks to these efforts, newcomers now have more opportunities to connect with employers, get help with job searches and access a wider range of resources and programs. Immigrants can find the services they need by accessing a dedicated point of contact and there are more ways for newcomers to get involved in the community. By working closely with local organizations and aligning our goals with Lambton County's economic and workforce needs, we are helping to make our community more welcoming, inclusive, and successful for everyone.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

1 Build and Increase Awareness

Create resources and materials, provide training, and host community forums to engage and inform.

Ukraine Resource

- A committee was launched to ensure that newcomers receive comprehensive assistance and could successfully integrate into the local community.
- Committee consisted of **10+** organizations across **6** sectors
- A program was implemented in partnership with 3 social enterprise businesses to supply free household items to families
- A Welcome to Lambton County - Tool Kit for Ukrainians Arriving in Lambton County in Russian, Ukrainian, and English was developed and disseminated across Lambton

Welcoming and Inclusive Workplace Webinar

- A webinar was developed and hosted for employers covering what makes a workplace welcoming and inclusive, the benefits of such environments, strategies to enhance inclusivity, and ways to retain immigrant employees.
- One employer champion was featured to share experiences
- **25 +** organizations from across Ontario attended virtually

Empower Minds: Mental Health Summit

- The event provided newcomers to Sarnia-Lambton a comprehensive view of prevention, community and peer support systems, legal issues, and emergency care associated with issues of mental health and substance use.
- **6** organizations across **4** sectors partnered to deliver the summit
- **100%** of respondents were satisfied with the event
- Participants found the event impactful in improving their knowledge of mental health and substance use

Racism is Bad for our Health

- Leveraging the results of recent research into experiences of racism and discrimination in Lambton and utilized these findings to inform the planning and execution of the community forum
- **80** attendees provided input into community-based strategy to address antiracism in Lambton

Community Engagement

Develop opportunities for participation through consultations, knowledge and resource sharing, and planning local campaigns and events.

Festival of Cultures, Canada Day, Arts in the Street and Tapestry of Voices

Results of data collected and compiled from these events indicate the SL-LIP engaged:

2500 people from **21** different cultural groups and achieved an **88%** event satisfaction score.

Internal Municipal Employee Wellness Events

Hosted cultural events and celebrations in partnership with internal committees to increase awareness and knowledge around international cultural celebrations of employees within the workplace

Treaties Recognition Week

- ✓ Created **3** social media campaigns
- ✓ Hosted a Teams Live event through the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation
- ✓ Provided newcomers to Lambton County with information and resources about the treaties governing the area

Welcoming Newcomers Through Hockey

Partnering with the Sarnia Sting, Tmrrw Inc. and Hockey Canada, the SL-LIP arranged for a total of **244** newcomers to attend the games, offering an unforgettable experience of watching hockey live for the first time in Canada.

"I love my city Sarnia. The experience gives us an opportunity to support the local team and spend time with friends and family in our own loving community."

Collaboration

Working together on initiatives, pooling resources, and creating new programs and projects.

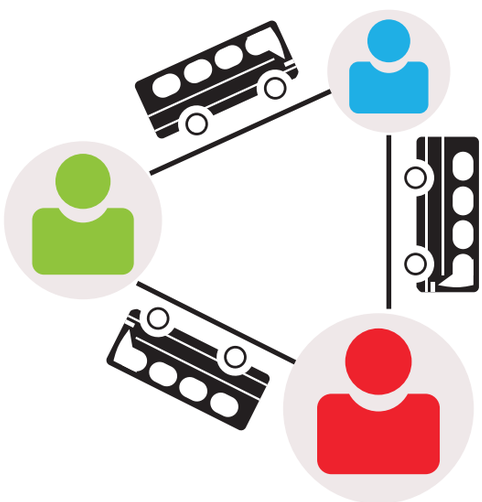
The Welcome to Lambton App

- ✓ The result of a private/public partnership
- ✓ Serves as a navigation and orientation tool for newcomers in Lambton
- ✓ Accessible in **9** languages with an AI driven chat feature
- ✓ **1000+** profiles created in 2025
- ✓ Top **3** newcomer priorities:
  - Employment
  - Health
  - Education
- ✓ The App is being activated in cities across Canada

"As a newcomer, having access to job resources and language training options through the app made a big difference in starting my new life here."

Networking Bus Tour

- ✓ Hosted by SLEP and the SL-LIP
- ✓ **21** job-ready newcomers participated in the event
- ✓ **1** bus tour of Lambton was organized
- ✓ **1** networking event concluded the tour
- ✓ **4** organizations were represented by employers who met and interviewed the newcomers
- ✓ **4** newcomers found employment



Southwestern Webinars Series

- ✓ **4** webinars were co-hosted by SL-LIP to support newcomers with employment, housing, and settlement programs
- ✓ **400+** unique individuals attended the webinars

Welcoming Week

- ✓ **2022** – A nationally celebrated initiative began in Lambton.
- ✓ **9** days – The annual celebration spans this duration and features multicultural food, music, dance, feature film viewing, and Cirque performances.
- ✓ **340+** newcomers have enjoyed these community festivities to date.

Research

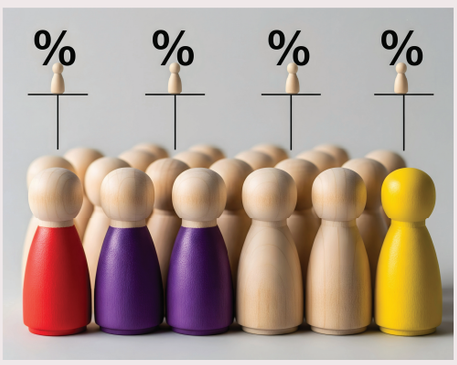
Identifying funding sources, conducting research and collecting data.

LIP Secretariat Research Working Group

SL-LIP is a member of the National LIP Secretariat Research Working Group, where it fosters research-focused collaborations on immigration data, best practices, and resources, and contributes to building a national community of practice and peer-to-peer mentoring among LIPs across Canada.

Asset Mapping and Gap Analysis

- ✓ The overall intention of the study was to provide an evidence base for strengthening immigration focused partnerships in Sarnia-Lambton.
- ✓ Partnered with regional university to conduct research that resulted in an analysis of newcomer assets, gaps in service with an action plan to be activated locally
- ✓ **43** organizations in the health, education and employment sectors were invited to take part in the study



Community Impact Assessment

SL-LIP generates and administers surveys at all public events to gauge impact and collect feedback from participants

Accountability

The SL-LIP developed a tracking tool to capture activities undertaken by LIP staff and Council, providing an overview of activities, identifying key initiatives, and highlighting emerging priorities.

Successful Grant Applications

Continued SL-LIP funding for **3** years • Antiracism Arts Programs • Sarnia-Lambton Alliance Against Hate Program • Full-time staff support for the Sarnia-Lambton Antiracism, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee • Development and implementation of the pilot prototype and the Welcome to Lambton App platform.

Research Surveys and Reports

- ✓ Lambton County Discrimination and Diversity Survey – April 2020
- ✓ Discrimination Experienced by Immigrant, Visible Minorities and Indigenous peoples in Sarnia-Lambton – September 2021
- ✓ Discrimination and Other Challenges Experienced by Racialized Newcomers When Accessing Settlement Services in Southwestern Ontario – May 2024
- ✓ Community Impact Reports from Local Events x 8
- ✓ Community Asset and Gap Analysis for Sarnia-Lambton – June 2025

Testimonies and Reflections

"Lambton County has a long history of welcoming newcomers from all walks of life, and we are proud to have a welcoming, supportive community here," said Lambton County Warden Kevin Marriott. "To make sure all newcomers to Lambton County feel valued and supported, we need to ensure they have access to the resources and tools they need to settle and participate within our community. ***The Welcome to Lambton app*** *will help us accomplish that."*

"It's impossible to overstate the instrumental role ***Welcome Platform*** *will play in making Southwestern Ontario and, at large, Canada a more welcoming place for newcomers" – Verge Capital*

"Great event. Makes Sarnia feel alive! [It is a] good place for newcomers to mingle and meet people."

"Experience was impactful and valuable. Greatly enjoyed it. It was educational for me because I learnt about the support available for the community."

All are Welcome Here Campaign *- "It's putting the word out there that we are a welcoming community, that's the reality of who we are." - Tanya Tamilio of the Centre communautaire francophone Sarnia/Lambton*

"Every time we've done surveys or sought community feedback, we've found that [Sarnia-Lambton] is a community that likes diversity, that likes having international food at restaurants, and that values immigrants. We're that type of community, so newcomers can know that their families and children are welcome here, they're welcome to live and grow here and there are many opportunities for them here." - Maggie Elliot, SL-LIP, Social Planner, 2023

SARNIA-LAMBTON
LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

COUNTY OF LAMBTON

Funded by:
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Financé par :
Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada