

The Sarnia-Lambton Local Immigration Partnership is committed to coordinating services that enable newcomers to unlock their full potential and make meaningful contributions within the local community.

SL-LIP works towards this vision through...

Our key achievements for 2024-25 include...

### Community partnerships



Coordinating the delivery of community services in ways that are accessible and responsive to newcomer's local realities

**128**  
professionals  
engaged...

across  
**71**  
organizations

...in  
**10**  
sectors

No. of organizations engaged per sector



### Public engagement

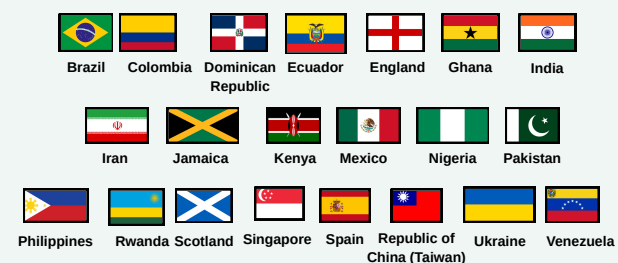


Fostering learning and awareness by facilitating meaningful connections between newcomers and the local community

Around  
**2500**  
people  
engaged...

from over  
**21**  
cultural  
groups

...with  
**88%**  
event satisfaction  
score



## Community Partnership Highlights



### Facilitating the local immigration agenda

The Sarnia-Lambton Local Immigration Partnership sits at various community tables learning about emerging priorities and contributing to community conversations around local immigration. Key community platforms include:

- County Council
- The Local Immigration Partnership Council
- The Immigration Taskforce
- Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan Committee

The Sarnia-Lambton Local Immigration Partnership also contributes to and draws immigration perspectives from:

- Pathways to Prosperity - national dialogue on immigration
- National Local Immigration Partnership Secretariat
- Southwestern Ontario Local Immigration Partnerships

**837**

registered Welcome App users in 2024/25



### Harnessing public-private partnership towards newcomer integration

The Sarnia-Lambton-Local Immigration Partnership continues to partner with TMRRW Inc. - a local creative agency leveraging technology for greater social impact. In 2022, this partnership led to the creation of a Welcome App - a user-friendly, personalized guide to support newcomers to Lambton County in 8 different languages. Work continues to improve user experience and support initiatives aiming to implement the App in other regions of the country.

Public-private partnerships are pivotal in advancing newcomer integration by combining public-sector insights into newcomer needs with private-sector technical expertise. Tools such as the Welcome App bridge gaps in access to housing, employment, and social resources, aligning with broader goals of reducing barriers and enhancing retention.



### Reinforcing welcoming values through a Community EDI Framework

The Sarnia-Lambton Local Immigration Partnership worked alongside local institutions, across sectors, to review the successes and challenges of implementing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) instruments in the community as well as to identify opportunities for further collaboration.

The community has expressed its desire to establish a shared platform for sharing EDI tools and resources and reviewing progress in implementation, with the overall intention of strengthening values of a welcoming community.

**25**

local organizations working towards a community framework for EDI Collaboration

## Public Engagement Highlights

### Integration through Hockey



The Sarnia-Lambton Local Immigration Partnership has an ongoing partnership with Hockey Canada offering newcomer families a unique opportunity to experience a live hockey game for the first time while networking with the local community. Over the past year, the partnership sponsored 204 newcomers to attend the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, an international hockey event held at the Progressive Auto Sales Arena in Sarnia.

### Tapestry of Voices Exhibition



Tapestry of Voices is an exhibit of Canada's rich linguistic landscape that includes over 60 aboriginal languages, two official languages in English and French, and more than 100 languages spoken by immigrants. In the past year, the Local Immigration partnership partnered with the Canadian Languages Museum to bring the exhibit to Sarnia-Lambton and have it available for viewing in 5 different locations – the Lambton Shared Services Centre, the Sarnia Library, the Francophone Community Centre (Centre Communautaire Francophone de Sarnia-Lambton), and the New Year's Eve Festival of Cultures at the Centennial Park.

### Mental Health and Substance Use Awareness



In collaboration with Lambton College and Lambton Public Health, the Sarnia-Lambton Local Immigration Partnership organized a mental health and substance use event titled 'Empower Minds' in 2024. 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.

### Arts in the Street



In July and August 2024, with the title 'Arts-in-the-Street', a five-event celebration of Latin culture took place at Lochiel St. of downtown Sarnia. Performances were put together by Latin Fire – a local dance studio offering bachata and salsa lessons to the Sarnia-Lambton community. The event was organized as a partnership between Latin Fire, the City of Sarnia and the Local Immigration Partnership. With two dates in July and three in August, this year's Arts-in-the-Street was held under the theme 'Unity in Motion' and aimed to facilitate cross-cultural networking within the community.