

On July 1, 2016, the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership, in collaboration with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and the City of Windsor hosted a Canadian Citizenship Ceremony at the Windsor International Aquatic and Training Centre. Thirty-one individuals were sworn in by Glenn Drinkwater, a member of the Order of Canada who has been conducting ceremonies since 1997. This is the second year that the Canada Day ceremony has been hosted by the WE LIP. Dignitaries included City of Windsor Councillor Fred Francis, Lisa Gretzky, MPP (Windsor West) and Brian Masse M.P. (Windsor West). WE LIP council members came forward to help as volunteers and ten LIP council member organizations set up Welcoming Stations for the new citizens and their families with information on services and programs available in the region.



The following organizations participated in the Citizenship Ceremony event:

- Unemployed Help Centre
- Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County
- Conseil Scolaire Viamonde
- YMCA of Windsor-Essex
- Women's Enterprise Skills Training of Windsor Inc.
- Windsor Essex County Health Unit – Oral Health
- South Asian Centre
- New Canadians' Centre of Excellence Inc.
- The Windsor Women Working With Immigrant Women
- Windsor Islamic Council

Mayor Drew Dilkens extended an invitation to Windsor Essex residents, "I invite you to join our community in welcoming our newest Canadian citizens and their families, in what has become a proud Canada Day tradition in the City of Windsor."



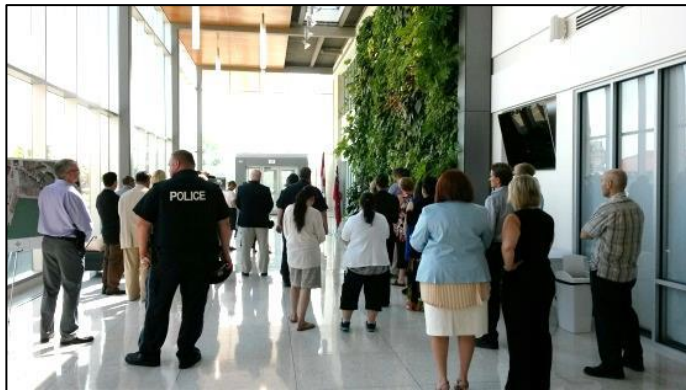
Photo credit Windsor Star

WE LIP council member, Municipality of Leamington, together with key community partners, met to show their leadership and commitment to cultural diversity in the community as part of the Community Development strategy.

The commitment displayed by the organizations shows their willingness to participate in building a community that recognizes the needs of all cultures. The announcement signified the launch of this initiative by first participating in training aimed at understanding diversity and how it impacts service delivery and customer service. This training is being delivered by WE LIP council member, South Essex Community Council.

By leading this initiative in their respective organizations, the Municipality of Leamington and its community partners anticipate both not-for-profit and for-profit organizations will follow the lead and consider cultural sensitivity as part of their orientation and professional development.

The Municipality has more than 35 nationalities calling Leamington home, and has been selected as one of the Ontario municipalities to receive and resettle government-assisted refugees.



“Leamington strives to ensure our community is a welcoming place where people feel free to express their cultural, linguistic and religious identity and where they have access to services and are supported to participate fully in civic life,” said Mayor John Paterson. “The diversity of the people in our community is part of what makes Leamington such a great place to live, work and play. We recognize that each person has unique strengths, and by embracing those strengths, we can continue to thrive” added Paterson.

“The Municipality of Leamington has made a strong commitment to embrace the philosophy that cultural diversity is a strength and not a weakness,” said Chief Administrative Officer Peter Neufeld. “The Municipality is taking steps to be welcoming and inclusive in our actions and services by training front line staff at all municipal facilities to be supportive in a culturally diverse community” added Neufeld.