



Leeds & Grenville IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

Fall 2015

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 7

COMMUNITY COLOURS

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PARTNERSHIP NEWS

WORLD CAFÉ

The Leeds and Grenville Immigration Partnership invites all immigrants to a World Café discussion to be held on Thursday, November 19th, 2015 from 5:00— 7:00 pm. This event will provide the opportunity to speak about your experiences as a newcomer in Leeds and Grenville. A light supper and child care will be provided. Transportation to and from the library can be arranged within the City of Brockville. To register please call or email Loretta at 613- 498-2111— 261 loretta@eecentre.com

FIRST ANNUAL IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

The Leeds and Grenville Immigration Partnership will be announcing the recipient of the First Annual Immigrant Entrepreneur Award on October 29th at the Leeds and Grenville Small Business Enterprise Centre Bridges to Better Business Conference. Watch our Facebook, Twitter and local media for this exciting announcement!



Cristina Sakaguchi,
Owner of The Perfect Trip Travel Agency
Gananoque, Ontario



Cristina Sakaguchi, owner of The Perfect Trip, moved to Canada from Peru in 2011. Her first Canadian home was Toronto, where she lived for two years. The last two years has been spent in Gananoque, where she runs her travel agency. Cristina says that Gananoque is a “perfect“ match for her professional and personal interests as she loves meeting new people, travel and adventure. The Perfect Trip offers a variety of services for clients including the arrangement of world-wide cruises and tours. She has organized holidays for everything ranging from a bachelor party trip to Cuba, to family adventures in Europe. Cristina’s specialty is arranging trips to her homeland of Peru.

Cristina’s interest in travel and learning about new places, began as a young student when she participated in an exchange trip to Buffalo, New York to improve her English skills. Later she studied in France where she completed a Masters of Communications. Through her studies and work experience she is now fluent in three languages – Spanish, English and French.

Originally Cristina had planned to immigrate to Quebec, but through a Canadian client of the company she worked for in Peru, she was offered a position at the Toronto company with the approval of her permanent resident status. She had originally asked the client for advice about gaining employment in Canada and ended up securing a job!

Cristina arrived in Canada approximately three years after she began the application for permanent resident status. She explains the process was not difficult but rather a lot of waiting after each stage which included interviews, exams and doctors’ appointments.

While in Toronto she met her husband who is a member of the Canadian Army forces. When he was transferred to the Kingston base they decided to live in Gananaoque. It offered a quieter lifestyle with close proximity to the base. They live in a beautifully restored 100 year old home with a view of the St. Lawrence River.

Cristina’s advice to newcomers is to keep an open mind about new experiences, and to work hard to accomplish your goals. She feels it is important to be open to adapting to new ways of doing things, and meeting new people. The internet is a wonderful tool for staying in touch with people all over the world. Christina is very happy with her new life in Gananoque.

For more information about The Perfect Trip :  www.facebook.com/perfect.trip.ca  @perfecttrip1

Fun Canadian Facts

- * Canada is the second largest country in the world.
- * The highest tides in the world occur in the Bay of Fundy in New Brunswick.
- * The capital of Canada is Ottawa, the second coldest capital in the world.
- * Canada has the longest coastline of any country in the world at 243,977 kilometers – 151,600 miles.
- * Montreal is the world’s second largest French speaking city after Paris.
- * The longest highway in the world is the Trans-Canada Highway which is over 7604 kilometers (4725 miles) in length.
- * Foods we think of as being Canadian include peameal back bacon, poutine, maple syrup and Timbits (small donuts from Tim Hortons).
- * There are more **doughnut shops** in Canada per capita than any other country



Photo from the BCRCMP Twitter

Interview with Trish McNamara
Program Manager, KEYS Job Centre
Gananoque, Elgin and Westport



Founded in 1983, KEYS has provided Kingston, Gananoque and communities in Eastern Ontario with a variety of dynamic employment programs and services. Their expertise in helping individuals to attain their employment goals extends to a diverse population; including: mature workers, persons with disabilities, youth, students and newcomers to Canada.

Whether clients need support to identify a career; to learn job search techniques; to build an effective resume and cover letter; to practice interview skills or to access training funding to increase their marketability, **KEYS is the Community Employment Centre.**

As a not-for-profit organization with a strong focus on service to others, they are committed to supporting members of our community through compassionate action and mutual respect.

The Gananoque office is located out of the United Counties Building at 375 William Street and the Elgin office is located at Guthrie House.

As Program Manager, Trish McNamara's role is to help coordinate all programs and services out of the Gananoque, Elgin, Westport offices. Outreach to community partners including being a part of the Leeds & Grenville Immigration Partnership Council and the associated Employment and Settlement Working Group are an added bonus to her role at KEYS. As well, she participate on many boards and committees and is happy to work on projects that bring people in our communities together.

Trish states that Newcomers are important contributors to Leeds & Grenville communities as they bring a diversity of ideas and cultures into the region. Newcomers add to the existing workforce which makes our economy even more competitive.

Trish has obtained feedback from local employers who have hired newcomers and they indicate that these hires have allowed them easier access to the global market. Newcomers can facilitate relationships with suppliers and customers abroad and provide insight into their customs and cultures. Hiring a newcomer as an employee is an investment that can continue to give back to your company in many ways. She would encourage employers to hire newcomers! If any local employers are interested in learning more about how to hire newcomers, they can access free information and services from KEYS. Visit the KEYS website www.keys.ca to learn more.





**LEEDS GRENVILLE IMMIGRATION
PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL**

Brockville & District Multicultural Council
Chinese & Canadian Heritage Cultural Association
City of Brockville Economic Development
CSE Consulting
Employment & Education Centre
Francophone Immigration Support Network of East Ontario
Fulford Academy
KEYS Job Centre
Leeds and Grenville Small Business Enterprise Centre
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
Parks Canada
St. Lawrence College
1000 Islands Region Workforce Development Board
The Works (International Event Management & Exhibition Services)
TR Leger Immigrant Services / TR Leger Services aux Immigrants
United Counties of Leeds Grenville, Economic Development
Upper Canada Leger Centre
Volunteer Centre of St. Lawrence-Rideau



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**T.R.Leger offers English as a Second
Language (ESL)**

2288 Parkedale Avenue, Brockville - 613-342-1127

for adults 18 years of age or older

Canadian Language Benchmarks and
Placement Tests with qualified assessors

Prepare for work, TOEFL, citizenship, high
school credits

Learn through:

- pronunciation practice
- conversation
- journal writing
- language games
- computer/Internet training
- role playing
- video audio instruction

Volunteer Interpreters /Translator

The Leeds & Grenville Immigration Partnership has a list of volunteer translators / interpreters to assist people who need to access community services in their own language. The languages spoken by the volunteers are Persian, Romanian, German, Korean, Spanish, French, Italian, Farsi, Croatian, Serbian, Bosnian languages and Dutch.

Please contact the Leeds & Grenville Immigration Partnership (contact details can be found to the left) if you would like a copy of the list, or wish to become a volunteer translator.

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Winter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

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February 25th, 2015

8:30am-noon

Employment and Education Centre
105 Strowger Blvd. Brockville

IMMIGRANTS: What is a welcoming community?

EMPLOYERS: Are you interested in the benefits of highly skilled and mobile employees?

SERVICE PROVIDERS: How can the community support you in providing services to immigrants?

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: How can you show that you value a growing, diverse and vibrant community?

Register to attend a FREE half day community feedback event.

Participate in a facilitated, interactive workshop that will enable Leeds & Grenville to continue to build welcoming communities and a thriving economy.

Light breakfast provided. LIMITED SEATING, REGISTER TODAY!

Please RSVP by:

February 13, 2015

Phone: 613-498-2111 ext. 261

Email: loretta@ecentre.com

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Interview with David Paul
Leeds & Grenville
Immigration Partnership Chair
and
Director, Economic Development
City of Brockville

The City of Brockville is a founding member of the Leeds & Grenville Immigration Partnership, and David Paul,

Director, Economic Development, has been the Council Chair since the partnership's inception. Six years ago, attracting and welcoming new Canadians was identified as a key component of the City of Brockville Strategic Plan as way of addressing some of the issues facing the community. These issues include an aging population, and the need for skilled workers to ensure the economic viability of the City. The strategic plan embraced the need for a coordinated effort to attract new Canadians. There was support at both the federal and provincial government levels for community initiatives to attract and welcome immigrants.

The initial funding allowed the partnership network to develop solutions to gaps in the ability to attract and welcome newcomers, including raising awareness of the benefit of immigration in smaller rural communities. Traditionally, ninety five percent of immigrants to Canada, move to the large urban centers such as Toronto and Vancouver due in part to established cultural communities.

Since the initial days of the partnership, David has seen growth, successes and changes. Examples of success are enhanced communication amongst community organizations, increased community awareness of the benefits of immigration, engagement of more and diverse partners at the Council table and the development of a regional approach.

Key components of success moving forward are:

- The building of a committed team of business ambassadors to invite new entrepreneurs and business people to live and invest in Leeds and Grenville;
- The recruitment and retention of international students. Research indicates that 50 % of students will stay and work in the countries where they are educated.

Providing a welcoming and inclusive experience to international students will encourage not only the students, but also their families to come and live and invest in Leeds and Grenville.

David states that sustainability of the Partnership is crucial and moving forward would like to see the Municipalities provide ongoing support rather than having to seek outside government funding.

We live in a beautiful resort-like part of the world, with natural beauty, close access to bigger markets and affordable life styles. David is confident new Canadians exposed to our area will love it and want to stay.

Introducing Frank Onasanya, North Grenville Councilor

Frank Onasanya, originally from Nigeria, made history on Oct 27th, 2014 when he was elected the first black councilor for North Grenville. Frank recently sat down with the Immigration Partnership staff and shared the story of the journey of his boyhood home in Nigeria to present day home and life in North Grenville.

When Frank first left Nigeria, he immigrated to England where he worked, married his first wife and had two children, a daughter who is now a lawyer and a son who works in the real estate industry.

He immigrated to Canada through a transfer with his company in England. The process took approximately two years and Frank was happy to arrive in Toronto where his brother also lived. Frank established life in Toronto and was then transferred again through his employment to Ottawa. Now married to his second wife and having young children, the Onasanya's decided they wanted to live a more rural life and made the move to North Grenville.

Frank is currently employed by the Department of National Defense and commutes to Ottawa for work. He has been very involved in his community through coaching soccer, volunteering, and most recently as councilor for North Grenville. When asked what motivated Frank to put his name on the slate for election, he said he wanted to make a difference in his community. He stated that North Grenville is a growing and wonderful community and it is a balancing act to have positive growth and still retain the elements of what make a rural community such a great place to live. He hopes to make a positive contribution to that balance.

When asked what advice Frank would give other newcomers he said perseverance and determination are important, as is really listening to people to understand where they are coming from. Be respectful, listen to others and acknowledge what they are saying. Often disagreements, even racism and prejudice comes from a lack of understanding.



FYI

Immigration Partnership staff and Council members, recently attended the Diversity Works conference in Kingston, hosted by the KEYS Job Centre. Diversity Works is an annual conference that provides the opportunity for newcomers, employers, stakeholders and partners to gather and learn about various immigration issues. It has a reputation for providing excellent key note speakers, and a choice of workshops that provide useful information to employers and newcomers.

While attending the conference, Immigration Partnership staff learned of the interesting link (see below) and wanted to share it with you. It enables you to take a series of quizzes, to help you identify where your biases may exist when it comes to gender, race etc. We think you may find it interesting, and we recommend you take a few moments to try some of the quizzes.

<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/aboutus.html>

A small church shines a light in the darkness

Reprinted with permission from an article originally published in the Brockville Recorder and Times, December 29 2014

We are one holiday down, with another to go before we slip into the letdown known as January. For many, it's an emotional hangover in which all the peace and goodwill of Christmas are left behind.

Although the world around us gives little reason to hang onto that goodwill (no, in fact, because of that), I want to leave you with something from our eastern Ontario Christmas that is worth holding onto and carrying forward.

This is a story of many rivers flowing from one source. It's also a story about healing. And it's a story about how Canadians, when at their best, react to the deep gashes of a hurting world. A week before Christmas Eve, members of four faith traditions got together at Christ United Church, in the Brockville-area village of Lyn, to mark the sacred season together.

Christ United's Rev. Wendy MacLean joined acting imam Ahmad Khadra of Brockville, Elinor Utting, a Brockville resident representing the Jewish faith, and local storyteller and performer Deborah Dunleavy, who represented First Nations. The resulting interfaith service, dubbed River and Star: A Gathering for Peace, drew about 40 people.

Pause for a second to think about this: An imam sitting next to a Jew sitting next to a Christian minister in a small country church, all of them singing a First Nations song. We may be forgiven if the past year's headlines make us think of this as impossible. But Khadra recalled such interfaith interactions as being common in his native Syria during special times: "Back at home, in Syria, always, always I went to the church and always the people of the church came to the mosque," he said.

Utting explained to the crowd some of the traditions and origins of Hanukkah before lighting the menorah. Shortly after, in an illustration of how Judaism, Islam and Christianity all flow from the same Abrahamic source, Khadra related the story of Joseph, known as Yusuf in the Qur'an, as an illustration of how God's plan is not about individual desires.

Khadra referred to a deep wound that happened just before the event: the Dec. 16 massacre of more than 140 people, 132 of them children, by the Taliban in Peshawar, Pakistan: "No religion on Earth finds that acceptable."

Dunleavy, whose great-grandmother was of First Nations background, led prayers in the Four Directions and a singing of The Earth Is Our Mother.

MacLean said the gathering grew out of the Lyn church's usual Christmas healing service, which recognizes that, for some unfortunate people, this is not a festive season but rather the darkest time of the year. "This year, I was feeling the weight of so many things in the world that I felt the healing needs to be bigger," she said.

That realization came even before Peshawar or the Sydney siege. "I'm hoping that this is the first of many occasions where we will gather around peace," she said. Amen to that, as they say in my Catholic tradition.

Besides the obvious outpouring of goodwill, what can we carry into 2015 from this example?

First, the reassurance that, while Canada is not immune to intolerance, we have a tendency to come together and work at getting along. This event to me echoed another encouraging moment of 2014: In October, days after the Parliament Hill shooting, when non-Muslim residents of Cold Lake, Alta., rallied around their Muslim neighbours when the town's mosque was vandalized.

Second, the realization that, in Lyn, as in Cold Lake, it doesn't always take large crowds or grandiose gestures to shine a light in dark times. Sometimes, 40 friends and neighbours coming together to learn and respect each other's differences is all it takes. It was all very low-key, but at the same time powerfully positive. In a word: Canadian.

—Ronald Zajac

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Interesting resources for both Employers and Immigrants

The Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council's webpage triec.ca is an excellent resource for both employers and immigrants. Funded by Maytree and the Greater Toronto Civic Action Alliance in 2003, TRIEC is taking positive steps to address the underutilization of skilled immigrants education and experience. Of particular interest to employers is TRIEC campus, a online learning hub to support employers in a culturally diverse workplace.

Brockville Flag Fest

Brockville will be hosting Flag Fest on Sunday, February 15th from 9:00am to 5:30pm, with activities planned throughout the city. A snow park at Laurier Hill, sleigh rides at the Memorial Fields, a vendor village at the giant flagpole and fireworks are some of the fun events. There will also be a Canadian flag commemoration ceremony with guest speakers and musical performances. What could be better than fireworks on the winter snow?

For more information: www.brockvilleflagfest.com



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SPRING 2015

2015

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 6

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Executive Director 1000 Islands Region Workforce Development Board

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FREE Employer Training Opportunity

Thank you to all who attended the Community Feedback Event held on February 25th at the Employment and Education Centre in Brockville.

The event, facilitated by Karen MacDonald Hurley of Opportunity Group, generated a lively and engaged discussion on welcoming communities and what is required to further the work of the Leeds and Grenville Immigration Partnership. A diverse group of participants including service providers, employers, new Canadians and local politicians, contributed to the discussions. All participants expressed the desire to increase the number of newcomers moving to Leeds and Grenville and all recognized the many economic and social benefits of a multicultural community. Ideas from the Event are being used to map out future initiatives of the Immigration Partnership and its partners.

One key idea resulting from the discussions was the offering of free Employer Training sessions. Please see page 4 for details.



Page 2

Interview with Frank O’Hearn

**Immigration Partnership Council
Member Executive Director,
1000 Islands Region Workforce
Development Board**

Frank O’Hearn has been the Executive Director of the 1000 Islands Region Workforce Development Board (www.workforcedev.ca) since June, 2012. His role includes acting as the spokesperson for the organization; a consultant to the Board and a liaison between the Board and Board funders. The 1000 Islands Workforce Development Board is one of 21 Workforce Planning Boards in Ontario. Their mission is to work collaboratively with community partners to address the region’s key labour force needs. The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) is the primary funder of the Board.

Frank’s background includes careers with both the Federal and Provincial Governments focused on a large



The Leeds Grenville LIP membership is composed of a variety of stakeholders, organizations and citizens who have an open mind to being creative in its quest for new immigrants. Everyone is welcomed to participate! They involve recent immigrants and celebrate their accomplishments.”

He explains that a recent report from Deloitte entitled ‘Welcome to Canada. Now What?’, states that, “Immigration is essential to Canada’s growth. Statistics show that Canadian companies will depend on foreign-born workers to sustain and increase the workforce that fuels our economy. At the same time, the global talent market is becoming increasingly competitive. To continue Canada’s growth, we must be able to compete for top talent.”

variety of employment programs and services. This work also included activities directly associated with the processing of new Immigrants to Canada, refugee settlement, Immigration counselling and the enforcement of the Canadian Immigration Act. The most rewarding moments of Frank's career was working with new immigrants (refugees) from South East Asia, during their settlement to Canada. He says that it was a humbling yet most rewarding experience.

Frank has been on the Leeds and Grenville Immigration Partnership Council since June, 2012. He states, "it is a pleasure to work with Partnership staff and the various stakeholders who are part of the council. Having a positive, welcoming environment for new immigrants, potential immigrants and all visitors to our community is critical to our development and growth.

The 1000 Islands Regions Workforce Development Board's most recent Local Labour Market Report (October, 2014) clearly supports these observations.

Local challenges include the need to ensure labour supply exists to meet employment demands of employers. This observation is based on the following trends in Leeds and Grenville: low population growth, an aging population, low birth rates, reliance on the growth of population from migrants and a low rate of natural population increase. Population increase is actually following a negative trend in Leeds & Grenville.

Many rural communities in Ontario and Canada have similar labour force challenges and as a result, these communities are all competing for immigrants and citizens. This high level of competition suggests that Leeds & Grenville has to continue to work collaboratively to make its communities attractive and welcoming places for newcomers.



Page 3

Interview with Nataliia Bezugla **Newcomer to Leeds and Grenville and Owner of** **Natasha's Fine Foods**



Nataliia and her husband Peter Edwards in their kitchen in Lyn.

Love is why Nataliia made the decision to move from Kharkov, a city of 1 500 000 people in the Ukraine, to the Village of Lyn. She met her husband Peter Edwards while he was travelling in the Ukraine and they maintained their relationship through visits and Skype until their marriage in 2012 . The couple consider themselves quite fortunate as it took only six months from the date of their marriage in the Ukraine until the immigration paperwork was completed and Nataliia arrived in Lyn. Arriving at night, the Village was in virtual darkness except for the fire station. Nataliia describes her first impression of their home as a castle adorned with lights as she and Peter arrived late on a warm, May night. For Nataliia, it was like moving to a cottage or resort area after life in the big city of Kharkov.

Nataliia explained that being a newcomer means you must be willing to start your life again. Her first year was spent obtaining a drivers license, taking ESL classes provided by TR Leger Immigrant Services (www.trimmigrantservices.ca)

was also helpful in providing information and guidance. She also took the Safe Food Handling course from the local Health Unit.

Nataliia opened at the Brockville Farmers Market selling traditional Ukraine food such as cabbage rolls, periogies, traditional potato salad, beet salad and borsht, using locally sourced food whenever possible. The business was an immediate success as she completely sold out of all her products. As sales grew, she continued to increase her inventory and then expanded into the Kingston Farmers market where she once again became a sold out success! She now prepares and cooks food four days each week and sells at the Brockville Farmers Market on Saturday and the Kingston Farmers Market on Sunday. Her daughter, who recently graduated with a fine arts degree and is working in Kingston, also helps with food preparation on weekends.

The couple are currently expanding the business, designing and building a professional kitchen and developing plans to begin catering for weddings and other events ,as well as the market work. These plans also include hiring an assistant.

Nataliia shares that moving to Lyn has been a very positive experience. People in Leeds and Grenville are very welcoming; from the bank, to

at St. Lawrence College, practicing English as much as possible and renovating and redecorating the couple's 100 year old plus home. Language was the biggest barrier Nataliia faced, but the ESL classes were very helpful in strengthening her skills.

Her business, Natasha's Fine Foods, almost started by accident. In her early days of arriving in Canada, Peter and she would spend weekends touring the area, visiting local markets, garage sales and other points of interest. They both noticed the demand for good, wholesome home cooked food and decided to investigate the possibility of opening a booth at the Brockville Farmers Market. Peter had some previous business experience and the Leeds and Grenville Small Business Enterprise Centre (www.lgsbec.com)

store employees to neighbours, people have been welcoming, kind and helpful.

Both Nataliia and Peter are excited about the business and expanding their loyal customer base. The Leeds and Grenville Immigration Partnership wishes them the best of luck, and can attest that the food is delicious!



Page 4

FREE EMPLOYER TRAINING!

Employment & Education Centre, 105 Strowger Blvd. Brockville, Ontario Tuesday May 26, 2015

Increase your capacity to effectively attract, hire and integrate skilled immigrants into your workplace. Learn about your responsibilities under the Employment Standards Act 2000.

Agenda

**Registration: 7:30 am to 7:45 am. A light breakfast will be served.
Hire Immigrants Ottawa: 7:45 to 8:45 am**

Hire Immigrants Ottawa (HIO) is an initiative that brings together employers, immigrant agencies and stakeholders to enhance employers' ability to access the talents of skilled immigrants in the Ottawa area. The initiative was launched in 2006 as a response to a growing need to identify and address barriers and challenges employers face in attracting, hiring and integrating skilled immigrants into the labour force. HIO's mandate is to increase the capacity of employers in the Ottawa region to more effectively attract, hire and integrate skilled immigrants into skills-appropriate positions.

Ministry of Labour: 8:50 to 9:50 am

Leslie Aiston from the Ministry of Labour will provide a presentation designed to provide a general overview of an employer's responsibilities under the Employment Standards Act 2000. She has been with the Ministry of Labour for 20 years, the last 8 years as an Employment Standards Officer.

**Please RSVP by May 19th, 2015 to Loretta Corbeil:
loretta@eecentre.com or 613- 498-2111 Ext 261**

We all have a role to play in creating welcoming and inclusive communities... So what can I do to welcome my new neighbours?

- Say hello! - Introduce yourself and your family;
- Take the time to learn something about your new neighbours;
- Learn how to pronounce their names in their language;
- Try to imagine what it would be like to leave your home and move to a new place;
- Take an interest in learning about other cultures and traditions;
- Overcome language barriers by speaking slowly and using simple words (not raising your voice);
- Share a dish, a recipe or something from your garden; Invite your neighbours for a coffee or a meal;
- Let them know about community activities or events taking place ;
- Organize a sport event, BBQ, a street party or a film night and involve your new neighbours in the event
- Share with them places to visit, things to see, fun things to do and plan an outing together; If you have kids encourage them to play together or walk

to school together;

- Let them know if there is a neighbourhood association or group they can join
- Answer questions about garbage pick-up, recycling, composting, seasonal home decorating etc.);
- Make them feel like they're part of the community!

Ideas from: Welcoming Neighbourhood Tool Kit, Halifax Regional Municipality

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Look for the Sign in our Windows!



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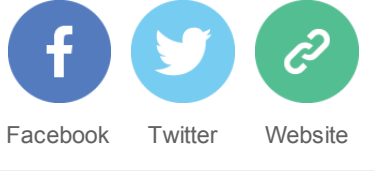
E-mail: diversity.matters@eecentre.com



Back Row L-R: Harold Hess (Volunteer Centre of St. Lawrence Rideau), Matthew Raby (Upper Canada Leger Centre), Meghan MacDonald (CSE Consulting), Julie Case (TR Leger Immigrant Services), Frank O'Hearn (1000 Islands Region Workforce Development Board), Monique van Someren (Newcomer Business owner, The Works), Wendy Onstein (Meeting Guest, Leeds & Grenville Small Business Enterprise Centre), Trish McNamara (KEYS Job Centre), Cor Schreurs (Newcomer Business owner, The Works)

Front Row L-R: Loretta Corbeil (Immigration Partnership), Melissa Francis (Immigration Partnership), Sophie Borcoman (Parks Canada), Sue Watts (Employment & Education Centre), Dave Paul (City of Brockville Economic Development)

Absent: Bea Singh (Brockville & District Multicultural Council), Peter Au (Chinese & Canadian Heritage Cultural Association), Malika Séguin (Francophone Immigration Support Network of East Ontario), Dr. Tom Steel (Fulford Academy), Gord MacDougall and Susan Nielson (St. Lawrence College), Ann Weir (United Counties of Leeds & Grenville)



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