Voting is considered the most basic and important form of political participation. Participation in electoral processes and the act of voting may also be seen as a measure of social inclusion and a reflection of the sense of belonging, integration and empowerment of individuals. The upcoming municipal election provides an excellent opportunity to reflect on the participation in and influence of elections on newcomer and immigrant communities in Waterloo Region.

Already we see that newcomer and other immigrant communities are engaging in the upcoming municipal elections in Waterloo Region. Some of their members have registered to stand for election, some are participating in community discussions and we hope that many will vote on October 27. In this newsletter, you will find information about sessions for first-time voters being prepared by our municipal partners, a discussion about extending voting rights in municipal elections to permanent residents and the opinion of candidates standing for local election on that topic.

We are also pleased to highlight a few programmes having an impact on the settlement and integration of newcomers in Waterloo Region. You will find updates on work currently being done by the Partnership and several upcoming events and other conversation-starters, including profiles of Immigration Partnership members, a language tutoring program, a Ride for Refuge event and a community citizenship ceremony.

We’d like to extend a big thanks to our partners who contributed content and we hope you enjoy reading this issue of the Immigration Partnership Newsletter.

Tara Bedard
Manager, Immigration Partnership

This document is available in alternate formats upon request.
The Immigration Partnership Belong Steering Group envisions Waterloo Region as a cohesive community with an inclusive civic identity and enhanced immigrant participation in civic affairs. One of the strategies in our Community Action Plan to move toward this reality is to increase immigrant awareness of services provided by Municipal/Regional government through information sessions on civic structures. The idea is for these sessions to be held in municipal buildings with opportunities for tours, meeting elected officials and for sharing perspectives on what shapes and makes an inclusive community.

For community residents municipal government is the most accessible level of government, impacting vital services and programs including: Bus service and transit; roads; water and utilities; parks and recreation; garbage pick-up; police, fire and ambulance services; schools; and the delivery of public health, social assistance, social housing, children’s and senior services. If you live anywhere in Waterloo Region and pay property tax, directly to the municipality or though rent payments, your tax dollars fund local programs and services. Elected officials in the cities, townships and at the Regional level make decisions about how property tax dollars are spent and what services and programs should be available.

Every four years on the fourth Monday in October, Canadian citizens can cast a vote for candidates running in the municipal election. October 27, 2014 is voting day in Waterloo Region and registered voters who are Canadian citizens will cast their votes for City mayors and councillors, Regional Chair, Regional councillors and School Board Trustees.

Are you a first-time voter in this municipal election who would like the opportunity to find out more about how local democracy works, your role and how your voice can be heard?

If so, please register for an upcoming information session in your community and come with your questions and ideas. Sessions will cover topics such as: What local government does, how decisions are made, available programs and services and how to access them, and how to get more involved in civic affairs. Information sessions have been planned in Kitchener, Cambridge and Waterloo and will be hosted by both City and Regional staff:

**Kitchener Session**  
**When:** October 6 from 6 - 8 p.m.  
**Where:** Kitchener City Hall, Council Chambers, (200 King Street West)

**Cambridge Session**  
**When:** October 7 from 6 - 8 p.m.  
**Where:** Cambridge City Hall, Council Chambers, (60 Dickson Street)

**Waterloo Session**  
**When:** October 14 from 6 - 8 p.m.  
**Where:** Albert McCormick Community Centre, Community Room (500 Parkside Drive)

To register contact Sandra Ribes at 519-575-4757 ext. 3172 or register online using this link: http://row.survey.esolutionsgroup.ca/TakeSurvey.pxml?PageNumber=1&SurveyID=n2KJ4p62&Preview=true
Permanent Residents and the Right to Vote

Submitted by Theron Kramer, Immigration Partnership Council

If you came to Canada from another country and do not yet have your Canadian Citizenship, you and others may refer to yourself as a “Landed Immigrant”. Actually, that term is no longer correct according to the Canadian Government. The correct term is now “Permanent Resident”. Does it matter what you call yourself? Well, some think it does because the term Permanent Resident refers to the fact that you have many of the same responsibilities and privileges at the local level that a citizen has.

For example, as a permanent resident of your municipality you can own property (or rent), start a business and, of course, pay property taxes. In this region, those taxes support the services delivered by your city or township, the Regional Municipality of Waterloo and the school boards in the area. However, unlike your neighbors who are citizens, you have no say in how your property taxes are spent because you cannot vote in municipal elections.

Many people believe that permanent residents should be able to vote in local municipal elections (but not necessarily in provincial or federal elections). The City of Toronto has asked the Province of Ontario to change the Municipal Elections Act to allow permanent residents to vote. Compass Kitchener, an advisory committee to Kitchener City Council made up of local citizens, approached Kitchener Council as part of an effort to increase voter turnout in local elections, and asked it to explore the possibility of supporting Toronto’s efforts to change the Municipal Election Act. Kitchener Council agreed to have staff report back to them on the issue after working with Compass Kitchener to consult local citizens about whether or not they agree that permanent residents should be able to vote in municipal elections.

In many countries, permanent residents already have the right to vote in municipal elections. There is now a Canadian group of volunteers called “City Vote” which is raising the issue across Canada. It operates with funding from the Maytree Foundation (http://maytree.com/blog/category/voting/). So, if you are a permanent resident, you will not be able to vote in this year’s municipal elections but you can expect a lot of discussion over the next few years about your right to vote locally.

Whether you are a permanent resident or a Canadian citizen, please encourage your family, friends and neighbours who can vote to do so on October 27, 2014. If you want more information about how to vote, who to vote for, etc. please see other information in this newsletter, go to your municipality’s website, or attend one of the many candidates’ meetings that will be held before election day.
Municipal Election Candidate Survey: Permanent Resident Voting and Inclusion in Waterloo Region

Submitted by Daniella McIntosh, Community Engagement Coordinator

In a survey to all municipal election candidates in Waterloo Region, the Immigration Partnership asked individuals to comment on whether or not they support permanent resident voting in municipal elections and to describe how they would support inclusion for diverse groups in Waterloo Region. In total, we heard from 106 respondents. Included below are comments received from Mayoral and Regional Chair candidates. To view the full and most up-to-date responses, visit: www.immigrationwaterlooregion.ca

We asked:
**Briefly describe how you will support inclusion for diverse groups in Waterloo Region**

What we heard:

Oscar Cole-Arnal, Regional Chair Candidate
By my presence in their lives within the community and supporting that right at every level of government where I am able – whether elected to Regional Chair or not. Also, I view diversity in our community as a gift to be enhanced rather than a problem to hide under a carpet.

Moira-Sharon Magee, Regional Chair Candidate
I will educate myself as to what is currently being done to engage this valuable part of our community, and assist wherever possible to ensure the ‘powers to be’ hear my voice of affirmation for their right to vote in our democratic society.

Paul Myles, Regional Chair Candidate
By listening to concerns from anyone who resides in the region, regardless of their citizenship status. Allowing more public input through open houses and information sessions. It’s our region; let’s build a better future together.

Ken Seiling, Regional Chair
The Region has active programs which focus on diversity. There is much work being done internally and we work with our community partners on diversity issues. Personally, I attend as many events as I can put on by the various ethnic and cultural groups so I can better feel the sense of a cosmopolitan community which is growing rapidly and bring more and more diverse people to the Region who need to find a way to be part of it as well.

### Do you support permanent resident voting?

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Doug Craig,
Cambridge Mayor Incumbent
As Mayor, I have over the past 14 years been involved in numerous ways to welcome, include and support diverse groups in the Cambridge community. These include consistent contact and involvement with such groups as the Portuguese, Armenian and Muslim communities. The city also is a supporter of the Y and its policies to aide new immigrants to our city.

Sardool Bhogal,
Cambridge Mayor Candidate
We can form partnerships between various existing social service organizations and design programs to include all diverse residents without incurring much additional cost.

John Wolf,
Regional Chair Candidate
By being involved in various community groups, like supporting the YMCA, churches and the public school system.

Sandra Hill,
Cambridge Mayor Candidate
I supported all groups or organizations in the Region. Furnish the Future was very involved helping organizations in the Region to support families in need, students with community service hours and citizens who were under a court order to do community service hours. This program was not recognized by the City of Cambridge. Thousands of new immigrants and people with permanent resident status needed this program to feel a part of our society. The public stepped up and donated items to families in need instead of sending the items to our Regional Landfill (see: www.furnishthefuture.ca).

Harpinder Singh,
Cambridge Mayor Candidate
As a visible minority I have gained valuable lived experience that has given me keen insight into the importance of diversity and inclusion. I began school unable to speak English, my parents barely understood the language and could not help me at home and nor could they afford tutoring. I will unfold my journey in the coming weeks. All I say today is this: I will champion inclusion and the value of diversity as Mayor of Cambridge because I believe in fundamental human dignity and the rights of everyone.

Dan Glenn-Graham,
Kitchener Mayor Candidate
Offer help for those with disabilities to get to the polls and encourage voting among new citizens. Have a translator gadget on the website to help those from different cultures.

Slavko Miladinovic,
Kitchener Mayor Candidate
I never knew diverse groups were excluded in Waterloo Region.
James Rhodes,  
*Kitchener Mayor Candidate*  
As part of my platform, I want to see more commitment by the City of Kitchener, as well as the Regional Municipality, to fund non-profit endeavors. From my experience one of the most important factors in supporting diversity comes through support to non-profits and charities that have the experience to promote and enhance inclusion. I believe this to be especially true in respect of newcomers and immigrants. A necessary step for us to support inclusion is through funding from all levels of government.

Berry Vrbanovic,  
*Kitchener Mayor Candidate*  
I have a proven track record of working with diverse groups in Waterloo Region that goes back to even before my election to City Council in 1994. While this survey is primarily focused on immigrant issues, my engagement also involves working with those with accessibility issues as a member of GRAAC and working with our LGBTQ community on issues such as a community flag pole. In terms of immigrant issues, I am a former board member of the KW Multicultural Centre and of the Queen Helena Canadian-Croatian Cultural group. I have regularly attended and participated in events organized by various communities ranging from our local Caribbean community to our Indian and Sri Lankan communities, our Chinese community and our local Islamic cultures. I also have extensive experience in the development work that the City of Kitchener and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities have done in the developing world. As Mayor, I would not only work to continue this engagement by reaching out into these various communities, but I would also work to engage them more into the activities of the City. One way I would do this is to engage cultural community groups in quarterly or semi-annual meetings with my office to address issues of concern. I would also look to see how we could strengthen Kitchener’s work with groups like the Immigration Partnership and other community partners working with New Canadians.

Dave Jaworsky,  
*Waterloo Mayor Candidate*  
Meaningful citizen engagement and neighbourhood partnerships must be cultivated. As Mayor, I plan to invite individuals, neighbourhood associations and groups to attend Council meetings in person, and to promote the live webcast of all public Council meetings at the City and Regional Level. Conversely, I also plan to attend their events and meetings so that they feel a personal connection. As Mayor, I will work with community agencies and Council to continue to focus on belonging and leadership, as I do now through my board service at the KW Community Foundation. Diversity needs to be understood and embraced at the city level and also the neighbourhood level. Increased awareness can be achieved through increased support from the city, as well as personal leadership from the Mayor. There is no silver bullet answer, but as a start I sincerely believe that awareness, leadership and neighbourhood partnerships are part of the solution.
Rami Said,
Waterloo Mayor Candidate
As a growing community we attract many different and diverse people. In order to ensure our success we need to provide better services to help integrate them in our communities and help them grow both personally and as members of our society. I believe we need to help grow our programs and provide better information and more relatable resources in different languages. I also believe it is important for our local government to work with many community groups and settlement workers to help communicate information to these groups. There is a great advantage in working with those already helping and working closely with diverse groups and immigrants in our community. Together I believe we can build a stronger and more progressive community that strives to be far more inclusive and supportive of all.

Erika Traub,
Waterloo Mayor Candidate
Canada is fundamentally inclusive. Waterloo Region should be proud of its record of inclusion of diverse groups. I hope to see that continue.

Susan Foxton,
North Dumfries Mayor Candidate
I am unsure at this time what I can do except I will be open to the possibilities. I will listen and learn and strive to do what I can.

Joe Nowak,
Wellesley Mayor Candidate
Not sure at this point.
Community Focus: Libraries Inspire

Submitted by Kristin Johnson Perlock, Kitchener Public Library, & Kelly Kipfer, Waterloo Public Library

October is Canadian Library Month and Ontario Public Library Week will be held from October 19 to 25, 2014. This year the theme for Canadian Library Month and Ontario Public Library Week is “Libraries Inspire”.

Message from KPL: Kitchener-Waterloo is increasingly diverse with approximately one quarter of its population born outside Canada. To meet the needs of Kitchener’s diverse residents, the Kitchener Public Library (KPL) maintains special collections and offers unique programs and services. Special collections include adult and children's multilingual collections and language learning materials to support English as a Second Language (ESL) learners. In addition, a joint partnership between Citizenship & Immigration Canada, the Kitchener-Waterloo Multicultural Centre and the KPL provides year long settlement service at the Central Library, as well as the Forest Heights, Grand River and Stanley Park locations.

Kitchener and Waterloo Library Multicultural and ESL Fall Programs

Public Legal Education for Spanish Speakers, with Rachael Lake, B.A., J.D., articling student from Waterloo Region Community Legal Services. Registration required.

Where: KPL Central location, 85 Queen St. N.
When: October 20 @ 7 p.m. Housing Rights
November 17 @ 7 p.m. Ontario Works/Ontario Disability Support Program

Sessions in Spanish: El bufete jurídico de Waterloo Region va a ofrecer tres sesiones públicas sobre sus derechos legales en español. La sesión de septiembre cubrirá los derechos de consumidores (los derechos cuando firma un contrato con Rogers, lo que pasa cuando los deudas van a colecciones), la sesión de octubre cubrirá los derechos de inquilinos, y la sesión de noviembre cubrirá los derechos cuando solicita o recibe subsidios de Ontario Works y/o Ontario Disability Support Program.

English Conversation Circles, in partnership with the YMCA (KPL) and the KW Multicultural Centre (Waterloo Public Library - WPL). Practice your English language skills while we talk, listen, learn and laugh about life in Canada. This free, drop-in program is a great way to improve your English speaking skills and meet new people. All ages welcome. No registration required.

Where: KPL Central location, 85 Queen St. N.
When: Tuesdays @ 7 p.m.,
September 9 – December 16

Where: WPL John M. Harper Branch, Program Room
When: Tuesdays from 6:30-8 p.m., ongoing
Where: WPL McCormick Branch, Optimist Room
When: Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m., ongoing
Library Tours for People Learning English (ESL) & Canadian Newcomers

Where: KPL Central location, 85 Queen St. N.
Learn how the library can help you. Our librarian, Kristin, can show you English books and CDs, study guides for TOEFL and IELTS and more. We also have newspapers, books and movies in other languages. It’s all free! To book a tour, call 519.743.0271 ext. 230, or email kristin.johnson-perlock@kpl.org. No registration required.

Citizenship Week – Celebrate Canada!, in partnership with YMCA Immigrant Services.

Where: KPL Central location, 85 Queen St. N.
When: October 15 @ 6 p.m.
To celebrate Citizenship Week, we’re displaying artwork created by New Canadian students. Discover what Canada means to newcomer youth, view artwork and learn more about services offered through the YMCA, including the Coordinated Language Assessment Referral Service. No registration required.

Citizenship Course

Where: KPL Pioneer Park location, 150 Pioneer Dr.
When: Tuesdays from 7 - 9 p.m.,
October 14 - December 2
Planning to become a Canadian Citizen? Need help preparing for the Citizenship test? Join the YMCA Citizenship Support Group to learn more about your local community and to become an active citizen. Registration required.

Library Settlement Partnership

Where: KPL Grand River location, 175 Indian Rd.;
Forest Heights location,
251 Fischer-Hallman Rd.;
Central location, 85 Queen St. N.
Settlement workers assist New Canadians coming to the Kitchener-Waterloo area and help them with various settlement needs such as language training, career & employment, housing, health care and education.

Appointments are preferred, so please call ahead to meet with a settlement worker. If you need further information, please contact 519.745.2531. The full schedule can be found here: http://www.kpl.org/locations/central/lsp.html.

Dual Language Story Time, in partnership with the KW Multicultural Centre.

Where: WPL McCormick location
When: Saturday, November 8 from 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.
What: English / Urdu Story Time
Join us for our special bilingual family story times. Stories and songs are shared in English and a second language. All ages are welcome!

Managing Your Money Series, in partnership with Focus for Ethnic Women.

Where: WPL Main location
When: Mondays and Fridays, September 22 – October 27, from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
In this free, 10-session workshop series for women, participants will discover new ways to manage spending, save effectively and minimize debt. Spaces are limited. To register, please call 519-745-2531 ext. 130 or 132.
International talent (International trained/educated professionals – ITP/IEP) are part of Canada’s past, present and future settling, belonging and working mosaic. We have all heard the stories about doctors driving taxis or engineers making/serving coffee at ‘Timmies’. Ever wonder why or how this could be? The Immigration Partnership is working with federal, provincial, regional and local partners to raise awareness of why and communicate the how to help reduce the number of stories like this.

From my early days in the Region, I engaged and provided passive support to WRIEN (Waterloo Region Immigrant Employment Network), which has merged with Waterloo Region’s Immigration Partnership that looks at the holistic needs of immigrants instead of just their employment. Being an ITP/IEP myself, I never forget the experiences/challenges/hurdles I encountered during my period of settling, belonging and working in Canada. One hurdle I remember having to overcome was that I thought my command of English (coming from UK) would not be an issue when communicating. However the simple task of changing my word-processor dictionary from Eng(UK) to Eng(US) filled all my well-crafted documents with green and red underlining. Another experience was my ‘integration’ within a company and the living/working culture; I quickly found that what I thought was being said was different than what was meant. My confidence to ask for clarification before committing to anything I was unsure about was at a high-level initially but diminished in a short time. As a result of asking for clarification, this helped others to re-evaluate how they were asking for things to ensure comprehension of meaning and not just acceptance of spoken words.

So, when I got the opportunity to become actively involved with the Immigration Partnership, I jumped at it, and some might say ‘with all guns blazing’. With the launch of the Community Action Plan in 2014, the Immigration Partnership signaled a clear direction for the next 3+ years and all of us need to play our part to ensure that Waterloo Region is at the forefront of effective utilisation and integration of the highly skilled and professional next generation Canadians and their families! Recently I was invited and enthusiastically agreed to Chair the Immigrant Employment Awareness Group (IEAG), part of the Work Steering Group (WSG) whose focus is on the Working Pillar of the Immigration Partnership.

Many challenges face businesses today, mine included, one being in the talent or skilled labour market place! With the need to differentiate ourselves from competitors, one way is to open our doors and windows during the engagement and attraction phase of hiring. Through positive actions and support for community initiatives and partners, the Regions’ businesses and community will thrive and prosper.

Over the next year I will be actively supporting and help to drive, through the IEAG/WSG, the Immigration Partnership’s brand and awareness of programs to help local companies engage with the International Talent community.

Notes on the author: John Rose is the Managing Partner of Resourceful, a Canadian company established in 2003 which provides Recruiting, Talent Search, Sourcing, Recruitment Training, Job/Career Search and Support, speaking and guidance to businesses, organizations and individuals at local, national and international levels. John is the Co-Host/Partner of the inaugural #HRUWaterloo Event and a speaker/panelist at the Immigration Partnership’s Global Skills Conference.
Tara Bedard, New Immigration Partnership Manager

I joined Waterloo Region’s Immigration Partnership as Manager in July 2014. For nearly 15 years prior to that, I worked to enhance respect of human rights and promote the inclusion of one of Europe’s most marginalized groups. My educational background is varied, combining undergraduate studies in international development with graduate studies in program management and business administration (international management). I began my career as a researcher engaged in community-level information gathering and international advocacy and was most recently the director of research, policy, capacity building and communications programming at the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC), a leading European public interest law organization based in Budapest, Hungary.

In that role, I led large multi-national projects involving actors from a wide range of sectors addressing the barriers to integration and inclusion experienced by Roma, including in their capacity as migrants. I collaborated extensively with European Union, United Nations, Council of Europe and national Government institutions on law, policy and programming assessment and development. As a member of the senior management team, I led strategic partnership and communications development and strengthened the organization’s contribution to collective actions to promote long-term integration and social change in Europe. One of our biggest successes was our contribution to the adoption by the European Commission of a pan-EU strategy for Roma inclusion.

There are several achievements from my time there that I feel are particularly relevant to the work of Immigration Partnership. One is the progress I made in integrating our community capacity building work, which was isolated when I became director of my department, across all of our other programming streams in order to increase the overall impact of and, importantly, Roma engagement in, our work. Another relates to my involvement in the development of our organization’s Equal Opportunities policy and monitoring framework, and the progress I made increasing Roma representation among the staff of my department. As an international organization promoting Roma inclusion and participation, it was critical for us to follow our own advice and provide leadership to all of the different stakeholders that we sought to influence at all levels. We were also continually reminded, and recognized ourselves, that the high level work we were doing was much more effective and meaningful with a strong link and alignment with what was happening in local communities, and so focused our programming accordingly.

With the arrival of my three young boys, it was time for my family to relocate home to southwestern Ontario. I am so happy to be involved in a dynamic initiative like Immigration Partnership and to contribute to creating more inclusive and cohesive communities at home in Canada. Since joining Immigration Partnership, I have immersed myself in its past and present work and have been meeting our partners and other groups to learn about their programs, the communities they are working with and the needs of newcomers and other immigrants. I have been busy formulating my priorities for the months to come in order to help make Immigration Partnership as effective and impactful as possible. If you are looking for me before I find you, I can most likely be found at our office at 235 King Street, a playground or at any number of the interesting festivals in the region.

-Tara
BELONG PILLAR  - submitted by Janet Howitt, Community Engagement Coordinator

The Belong Steering Group (BSG) has continued to meet throughout the summer months. We have a committed and enthusiastic membership who has been supporting specific action items. Our Municipal Services Action Group has been actively planning and developing interactive information and education sessions on local democracy, the role of municipal government, services, programs and ways to get involved in civic affairs. Sessions have been planned in Kitchener, Cambridge and Waterloo for early October and the focus will be on first-time voters who might want more information on municipal government before the October 27 municipal election. These sessions will include information, time for questions and answers and time for attendees to share their experiences with municipal government, concerns of first-time immigrant voters and how our community benefits from a diverse voting pool. All sessions will be evaluated and improved moving forward into 2015 when further municipal information sessions are planned to encourage civic engagement at a local level.

Another priority of the Belong Steering Group is to increase the general public’s awareness of the value of a diverse and welcoming community. An action group is forming and plans are coming together to develop and launch a broad public awareness campaign that will celebrate the diversity in our communities, recognizing and acknowledging the contributions of immigrants and refugees. Stay tuned.

WORK PILLAR  - submitted by Nora Whittington, Community Engagement Coordinator

The Work Steering Group (WSG) continues to address barriers experienced by immigrants in accessing meaningful work and by employers in easily accessing international talent. Moving forward into the fall and winter, the WSG will host a Diversity Intelligence Seminar for employers in Waterloo Region aiming to build awareness of the value of hiring international talent and increase the hiring of immigrants in the region. At the same time, the WSG will be refining plans for a pilot project focused on immigrant talent recruitment and its launch, and working on the development of an employer survey to get new data on their practices and needs in the area of recruiting, hiring and retaining immigrant talent. The survey results will be given to employment service provider partners to enable their planning for targeted training of staff and immigrant clients. The WSG will also develop plans for upcoming networking events for employers and immigrants seeking work. If you are interested in attending our Diversity Intelligence Seminar or would like more information about our other work, contact: nwhittington@regionofwaterloo.ca.

SETTLE PILLAR  - submitted by Daniella McIntosh, Community Engagement Coordinator

In early September, the Settle Steering Group (SSG) held a meeting where they discussed the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Programme, the implications of Bill C-585 and advocacy. During the summer the SSG’s Health Supports Action Group made progress in their efforts to engage the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network (WWLHIN) in the work of the Immigration Partnership. Following an informative and forward-looking meeting, the group will continue to liaise with WWLHIN staff and plans to organize an information session and facilitated discussion with the WWLHIN this fall for a broader group of Immigration Partnership members to increase mutual understanding and explore collaboration possibilities. The SSG’s Community Supports Action Group began work on their actions to develop and expand supports for refugee claimants in the Region by first looking at the needs and available resources of local organizations with a primary mandate to serve refugee clients. Both action groups will meet again in the coming weeks to finalize their work plans for the next year and to continue to carry out their activities. The Settle Pillar is looking forward to continued action throughout the fall.
Community Events & Updates

Follow the Immigration Partnership on twitter (@ImmigrationWR)
or visit the Immigration Portal at www.immigrationwaterlooregion.ca
to get information on local immigration related news and upcoming community events.

Ride for Refuge
Get ready for the 11th Annual Waterloo Region Ride for Refuge event!
When: October 4, 2014
Where: Koinonia Christian Fellowship, 680 Sawmill Rd. Bloomingdale, ON
Time: Registration opens at 8 a.m.; Opening Ceremonies at 8:45 a.m.; Ride begins at 9 a.m.

You can participate by making a donation or registering to join the ride. Several Immigration Partnership members will be participating in this event: the Mennonite Coalition for Refugee Support, Reception House Waterloo Region and Welcome Home KW.
Visit www.rideforrefuge.org/location/waterloo for more information about this annual event.

One-on-One Conversational English Tutor Program
The KW Multicultural Centre is offering a One-on-One English Conversational Tutoring Program that matches tutors and peers together in order to assist the peer, a second language learner, in improving his/her skills in English. For more information about the program email: tutoring@kwmc-on.com.

Community Citizenship Ceremony
Waterloo Public Library, in collaboration with KW Multicultural Centre, is thrilled to host a community citizenship ceremony on October 23 at the WPL McCormick location. Held during Ontario Public Library Week, this event is a celebration of community and inclusion and the diversity that makes Canada great. Leading up to this event, library customers will have the opportunity to participate in the creation of a community art project that will be on display at the event. Drop by any WPL location between October 16 and 22 to participate in this project!

Cambridge International Festival
As part of Culture Days, Cambridge celebrated its first annual International Festival on September 27 at Riverside Park. During this event Cambridge’s increasing cultural diversity was celebrated through dance, music and stories of New Canadians at the Live Performance Stage. Visitors to the International Festival enjoyed the family-friendly Kid Zone, browsed the vendor village for unique items and experienced a variety of global foods. Thank you to the sponsors, vendors, volunteers and supporters for making Cambridge’s International Festival a huge success. We’ll see you again in 2015! See: www.cambridgeinternationalfestival.ca
Conestoga College’s Immigrant Internship Program wants to work with you!

Conestoga College, the School of Career and Academic Access, is happy to announce the three-year renewal of the Immigrant Internship Program, starting this past August. The Immigrant Internship Program also has a new manager, Tina Allishaw. We are continuing to accept referrals and see clients and look forward to continuing the strong partnerships that we have developed.

The Immigrant Internship Program is hoping to continue to support new Canadians or Internationally Trained Immigrants with limited or no Canadian work experience. Our next set of goals includes building on current partnerships and venturing new collaborations. We look forward to connecting with all of the community partners.

Conestoga: Recruiting for the English Language Training (ELT) Program for Internationally Trained Engineers

Conestoga College is still recruiting for the English Language Training Program for Internationally Trained Engineers. The program is recruiting for engineers in all disciplines. Call to inquire about our upcoming information session.

Clients referred to either of the programs by external Employment Ontario providers (EO ES) do not have to close their files with their current EO ES provider. The process for both programs is to work with you to streamline services for the client.

For any inquiries please call Tina Allishaw – Manager, Immigrant Pathways at 519.748.5220 ext: 2587