



WATERLOO REGION IMMIGRANT EMPLOYMENT NETWORK

(WRIEN)

Waterloo Region Immigrant Employment Network (WRIEN)

The Issue

- Waterloo Region is rapidly growing.
- By 2011, 100% of Canada's net labour growth will come from immigration (Statistics Canada).
- Employers are concerned about the aging population and impending skills shortage.

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Alarming Trends

- In Waterloo Region:
 - Unemployment rate for Canadian-born: 5%
 - Unemployment rate for immigrants: 14%
- Yet:
 - Recent immigrants are more educated and skilled today than ever before.

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Why KWCF?

- The community is ready
- KWCF was ready
- Issue critical to the health of the Region
- Great relationship with the Chamber

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Process

- Immigrant Skills Summit
- Development Phase
- WRIEN launch





Attracting and integrating immigrant skills

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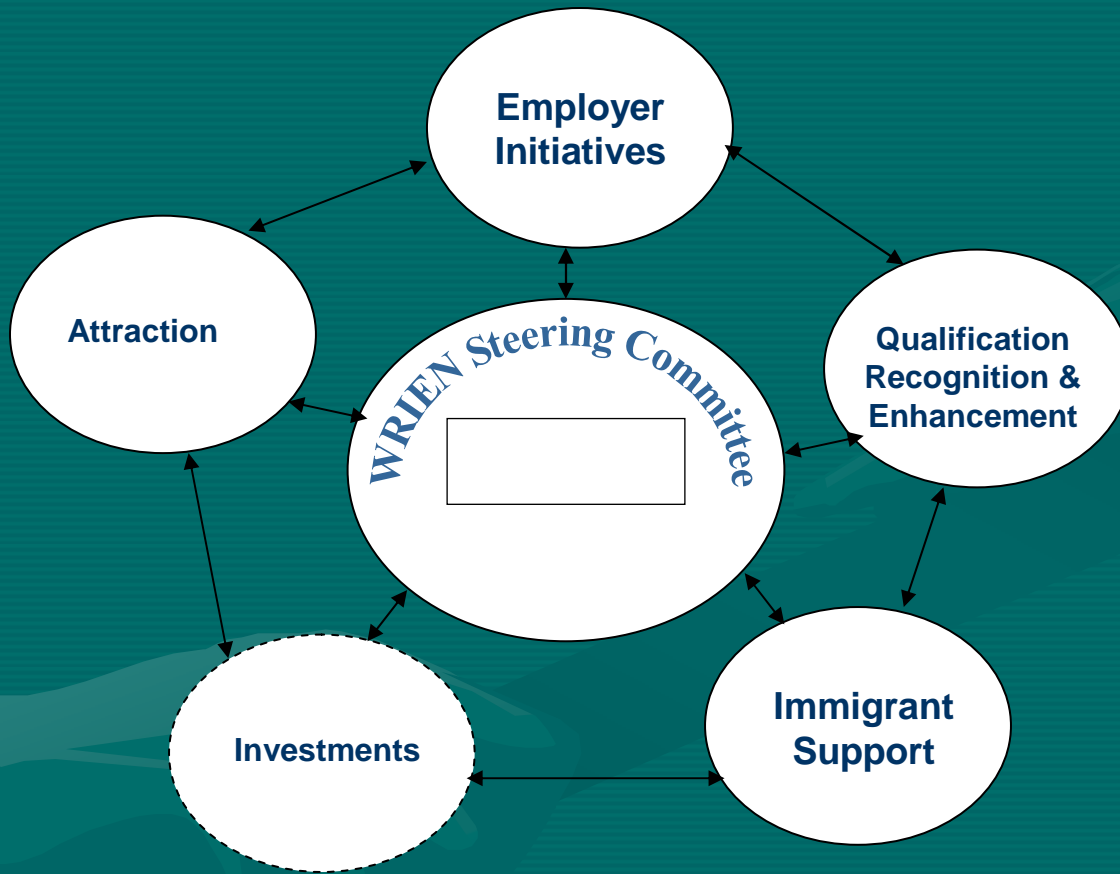
COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE:

- Immigrant Leaders
- Employers
- Funders
- Government
- Community-based organizations
- Educational institutions

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PURPOSE:

WRIEN will bring together cross-sectoral stakeholder partners for the purpose of better attracting immigrant talent and ensuring immigrants are much more visible and successful within recruitment and selection processes undertaken by employers in Waterloo Region.



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Work Groups

- Employer Initiatives
- Qualification Recognition & Enhancement
- Immigrant Support
- Immigrant Attraction
- Investments

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STEERING COMMITTEE:

- Facilitate the development of a comprehensive overall regional strategy
- Table and assist in the resolution of overlaps and gaps in service delivery
- Act as a clearing-house of information on immigrant employment programs/services

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STEERING COMMITTEE:

- Provide a framework from which priorities and strategic choices can be made.
- Act as a catalyst (not a bureaucracy) to encourage the efforts of existing programs.
- Facilitate partnerships among all stakeholders.

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STEERING COMMITTEE:

- Create synergies among and integrate (not duplicate) the many community initiatives promoting immigrant employment
- Advocate on behalf of various stakeholders to ensure efficient allocation of financial resources of various funding bodies

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STEERING COMMITTEE:

- Leverage more investment from senior levels of government for regional immigrant employment initiatives.
- Lobby senior level governments and professional bodies to make legislative changes that facilitate more immigrant employment.

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STEERING COMMITTEE:

- Work collaboratively with service providers to support and encourage the good work that is currently underway.

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WHY WILL THIS BE A SUCCESS?

- More employer involvement and interest.
- Cross-stakeholder collaborative.
- Greater accomplishments attained when groups work together.

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APPLICATION ELSEWHERE?

Applicable elsewhere

- WRIEN builds on the good work already occurring - thus making it relatively easy to replicate.
- Specific projects of WRIEN may be applicable in communities/instances where replication of the whole network is not an option.

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Success:

- Remember:
 - This initiative is a collaborative – a community response towards ensuring our region's continued economic and social success.
 - Other communities can do the same!