

WEST OF WINDSOR NEWSLETTER

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year! Thank you for your continued support.

NEW GRANTS & PARTNERSHIPS

Libro Community Grant & Impact Partnership

The Libro Grant was awarded to WEST to support Employment and Labour Force Advancement through our Young Women in LEAD program.

Nextplay

Next Play Grant for Women in Sport to Support Youth in our EDGE Program.

Skills Training in Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Sheet Metal for Women (STARS)

Funded by the Government of Canada and Ontario through the Skills Development Fund.



IWD 2026 CAMPAIGN THEME IS
'GIVE TO GAIN'

#GiveToGain | #IWD2026

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

03.08.26
Save the Date

Mark your calendars for a powerful evening of celebration and impact! Join us on March 8th, 2026, for WEST's Annual International Women's Day celebration, a night dedicated to honouring women's leadership, resilience, and community strength. This special event will bring together changemakers, community partners, and allies to celebrate the spirit of empowerment.

We are proud to welcome **Warden Hilda MacDonald, Mayor of Leamington**, as our keynote speaker, who will share insights on leadership, service, and the power of giving back.

This year's theme #GivetoGain reminds us that true progress happens when we lift one another up. Together, we'll celebrate the milestones we've achieved and sow seeds for future impact.

Scan the QR code to purchase your tickets:



Message from the Executive Director

As we close out the year, I want to thank you for your continued support. Together, we've achieved incredible milestones and touched many lives. This season reminds us of the power of community and generosity. May your holidays be filled with peace, joy, and connection. Here's to a bright and impactful year ahead!



Rose Anguiano Hurst



Young Women in Leadership, Employment, and Development

Funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Youth Employment and Skills Strategy. The LEAD program continues to make a meaningful impact in supporting young women on their career and educational journeys. In this quarter, 15 youth have successfully gained employment or become self-employed, while 11 youth have returned to school or formal training to further their skills. The program remains committed to empowering young women through guidance, opportunities, and strong community support.



Empowering Women for Employment

Funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Empowering Women for Employment (EWE) offered workshops, training, and networking to support women’s professional and personal growth. Participants engaged in career sessions, essential certifications, financial and customer service training, and industry tours. From April to October, 51 women completed the program. Eleven gained employment and forty-one secured placements, showing EWE’s strong impact in helping women enter the workforce.



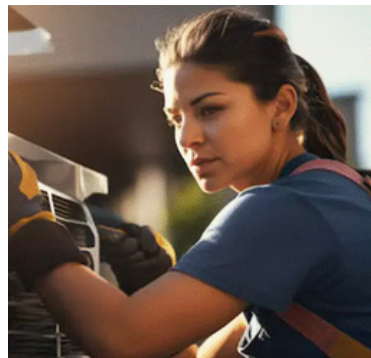
Language and Skills Development Program

Funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). WEST language learners toured St. Clair College, and honored Remembrance Day. They attended networking events like the Athena Scholarship Fund Luncheon, and W-E LEADS Health Networking Night, connecting with employers and practicing their language skills. CLB 3/4 students participated in the two-day UNIFOR Skills Trades Workshop, learning health and safety, plumbing, and electrical basics. Instructors also attended the 2025 TESL Ontario Annual Virtual Conference to bring new strategies to their teaching.



Electrical Pre-Apprenticeship Program for Women

Funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario. All 20 selected participants have successfully completed the in-class curriculum, demonstrating strong commitment and achievement. The program has already secured 2 signed placement agreements, with 6 more waiting for employer signatures, showing excellent progress. One participant has successfully secured a direct hire, while 5 others have found employment while actively pursuing relevant placements.



Skills Training in Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Sheet Metal for Women (STARS)

Funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario. Offered in partnership with Unifor Local 444 and St. Clair College. The clients have successfully completed the in-class curriculum and are now focused on securing placements where they can apply the skills they’ve gained in the skilled trades sector. In addition, they will receive further training in Ozone Depletion Awareness, Confined Space, and Asbestos Hazards.



CNC Industrial Mechanic Millwright Pre-Apprenticeship Program for Women

Funded through the Government of Ontario. The participants are making great strides as they near the completion of their in-class curriculum. Recently, they successfully completed mock interviews in preparation for the job fair held at St. Clair College on November 26th. We were able to secure a diverse range of employers for interviews during the event. Four employers were able to attend to conduct in-person interviews. We are continuing to expand opportunities for all participants.

Supporting Micro - Credential Apprenticeship Retention Training (SMART)

Funded in part by the Government of Canada's Canadian Apprenticeship strategy. Recruitment is ongoing. Participants are enrolled in a variety of training programs, including online courses such as Electrical Design and PLC Programming, as well as in-person training such as Forklift Operation, Hoisting and Rigging, Telehandler Operation, and Elevated Work Platform certification. We are grateful to our training provider partners for their support.

Through the SMART program's job-lead support, one of our welder pre-apprentices was recently hired and registered as an apprentice. She was thrilled that we were able to assist her in securing employment and providing the necessary equipment to help her perform her job effectively.

Client Testimonials

ALLIA L - STARS Program

"Not only are you changing my life but also my daughters. Because of this program, we will be able to grow and I can build a beautiful life for us. For that I am so incredibly grateful. WEST is such an incredible help to so many women and it is amazing to have resources like that in our community."

NINA - IES Program

"I was going through a lot of uncertainty. I'm very happy I met Lindiwe. The second I walked in, her smile brightened up the room! She was a positive, enthusiastic, caring person who also guided me through the entire process of how WEST programs and services work. This enabled me to creating more challenging, achievable training goals that ultimately led me to my dream job, encouraging those to live happier and healthier lives through an holistic and evidence based approach. I can't stress how the right person can make a huge difference in a time where you thought nothing could possibly work out."

EWE Program

"The EWE program was more than just a learning experience; it was a turning point in my career. It gave me the confidence to transition into a new field and the skills to thrive. What's even more incredible is that I am now working at WEST, the very organization that empowered me, helping others take their first steps towards success. This journey has shown me that with the right support, new opportunities are always within reach."

DISHA B - LEAD PROGRAM

"There was a time I wondered if I would ever find my place in the dental field again. Moving to a new country brought fear, self-doubt, and the heavy burden of starting over. The LEAD program became my turning point. It gave me more than just guidance—it gave me the courage to believe in myself, to speak with confidence, and to take the first steps toward rebuilding the career I love. Now, I'm about to begin my very first job in Canada as a dental receptionist—a role that signifies not just employment, but a powerful return to my professional roots. It's the first door opening, and I'm walking through it with pride and purpose."



Integrated Employment Services

Funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario. This quarter, we welcomed approximately 150 new client intakes. A major achievement this quarter was our successful collaboration with Tim Hortons, where we hosted two large hiring events across multiple branches. With on-the-spot interviews and employer-direct engagement, 25 participants were hired into Associate Team Member roles.

Community visibility also grew significantly, with the team participating in multiple outreach initiatives, promoting our services, building relationships, and ensuring job seekers are aware of workshops, programs, and upcoming job fairs.

Additionally, we expanded employer partnerships and secured client placements in diverse sectors including retail, healthcare, manufacturing, hospitality, marketing, and professional services.

Announcements & Opportunities

We're excited to share that we are now hiring for the following positions:

- Child Care Supply Staff
- Job Developer
- Settlement Counsellor
- Language Skills Training Instructor (Supply)

Make a Donation

Donations are accepted by filling out the form on our website or a cheque can be mailed to:

Women's Enterprise Skills Training of Windsor Inc. (WEST)

201-647 Ouellette Ave.
Windsor, ON N9A 4J4