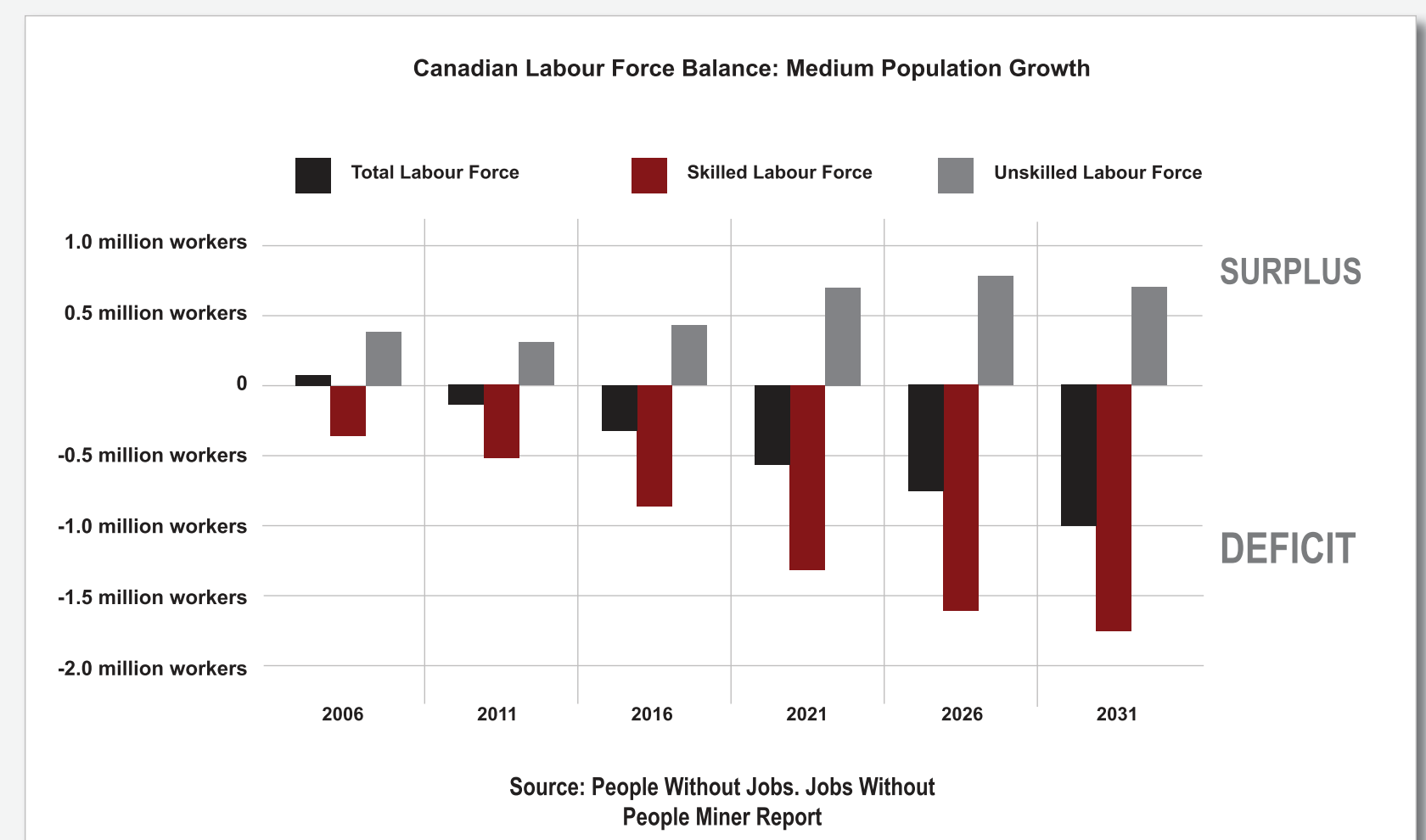
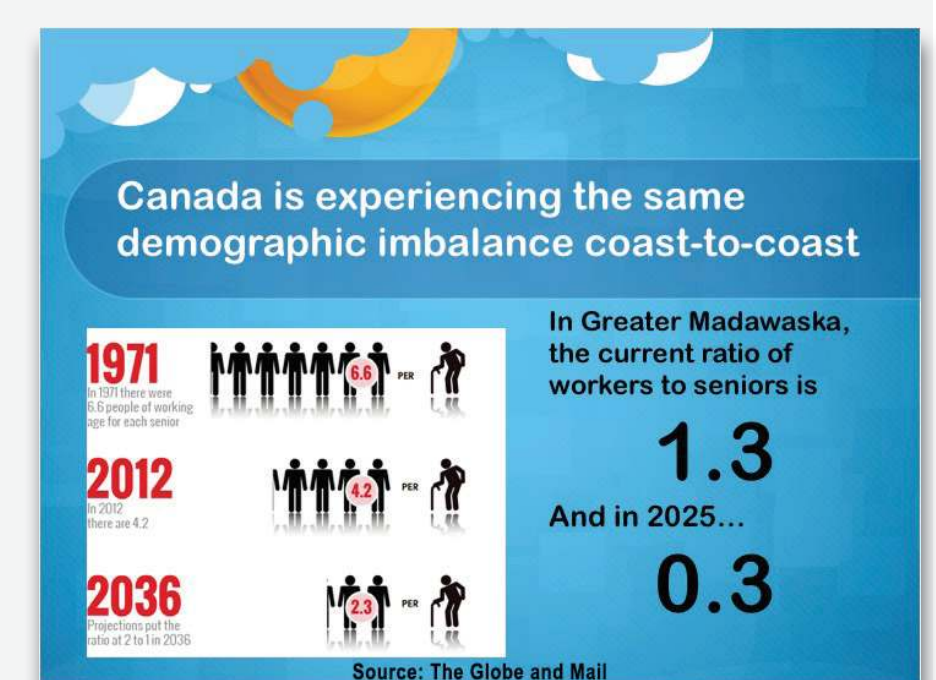
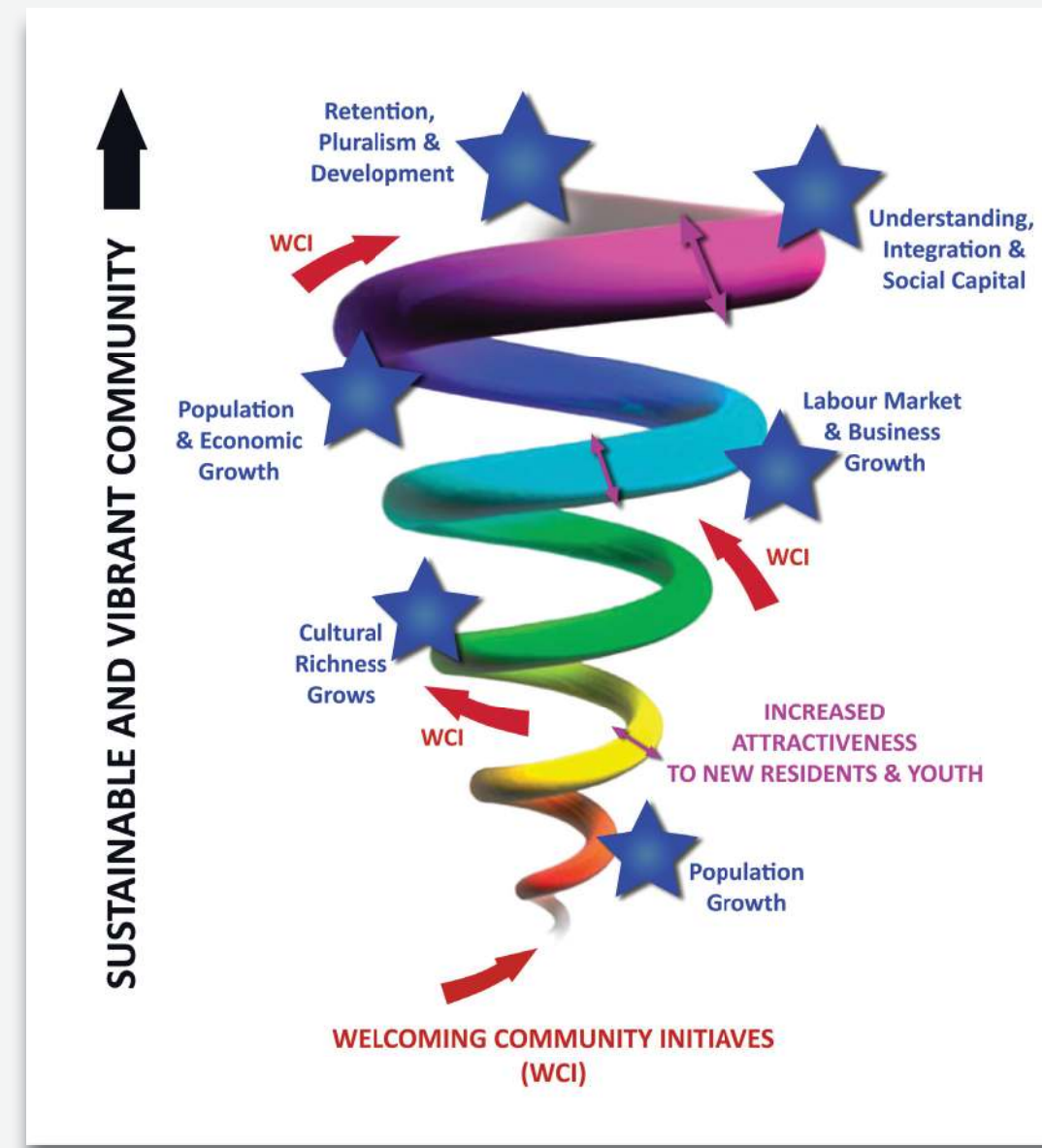


# Municipal Engagement Strategy

## Empowering Welcoming Policy and Practice

After LIP had experienced significant success in service provider engagement, the next step identified by the partners was to create productive relationships and connections with leadership in municipal government. A ten-minute delegation presentation named 'The Worth of our Welcome' was formed through partner workshops, founded in sector-based research conducted by the Secretariat. The presentation, delivered by Chéla Breckon, Project Manager, conveyed the following information to twenty-six municipal Councils:

- A snapshot of the LIP project and partners
- A historical briefing of our past activities
- A demonstration of the current demographic groupings by age within the municipality
- A forecast of how the working age population will change as a result of the baby-boom generation moving to retirement
- A demonstration of how this phenomenon is affecting Canada coast-to-coast and locally
- A strong linkage presenting new Canadians as a significant source of positive contribution to communities, both in economic development and valuing diversity
- An invitation to collaborate with LIP on positioning as a more welcoming community in programming, planning and policy development



## Outcome

Although this initiative is not yet complete, several follow-up meetings have already been conducted with municipal leadership in order to explore a new partnership and opportunities. Several secondary presentations have also been made to supporting committees such as Economic Development, Community Development and Culture, Parks and Recreation Committees. The interest in this work continues to grow within municipal government and the LIP Secretariat and Partners will continue to support leadership going forward.

### Immigrants Are A Necessary Component To The Workforce

People looking to move to a new community look for a welcoming community  
by CONNIE TABBERT  
Editor

COBDEN – Chela Breckon is hopeful Whitewater Region is open to welcoming immigrants who may settle in the area.

Ms. Breckon is from the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) of Renfrew and Lanark and spoke at the township's economic development committee on Wednesday, Jan. 6.

The Whitewater brand speaks for itself, she said. She was referring to a newly-released video of the township that was shown prior to her speaking to the committee.

"That video is such an accomplishment and I really want to commend this group on really developing such a wonderful brand," she said.

She knows of no other municipality in the county who truly gives a representation of what it is.

The Local Immigration Partnership of Renfrew and Lanark project started as a pilot program and has grown. The federal Department of Immigration began establishing these projects as early as 2008 in Canada. It started in Ontario as a pilot project and was so successful, it is now a project that is across Canada, she said.

It is funded, supported and partnered with a variety of businesses and organizations throughout the two counties, which she outlined to the committee.

"We can work together to attract, integrate and retain new Canadians in order to sustain our economy, our public services and the communities' vitality."

-Chéla Breckon

Ms. Breckon provides a person with answers to all the questions a new Canadian may have," Ms. Breckon said. "We don't have those services in Renfrew County and one of the big initiatives over the last four years is to lobby for that type of funding here."

However, she noted, the services that are available within the two counties have been tapped to their limits.

Ms. Breckon said one of the reasons new Canadians should be welcomed is because of a document recently released by the Labour Market Group of Renfrew and Lanark. This group's information is the driver of funding for immigration, she noted. The document provides information about the current labour market, emerging trends and skills that are required.

Source: Whitewater Region News  
April 2, 2016