

The 2015 Global Citizenship Summit

Outcomes Report

Lambton
College



Acknowledgements



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- Lambton College Digital Photography Students for capturing wonderful images of the Summit
- All of the participants: food vendors, international students and cultural groups and speakers- without them, the Summit would not have been a success.
- Everyone who attended the Summit - the students during the day and the guests in the evening, particularly those who took the time to share their thoughts and feedback which were invaluable to the writing of this report.

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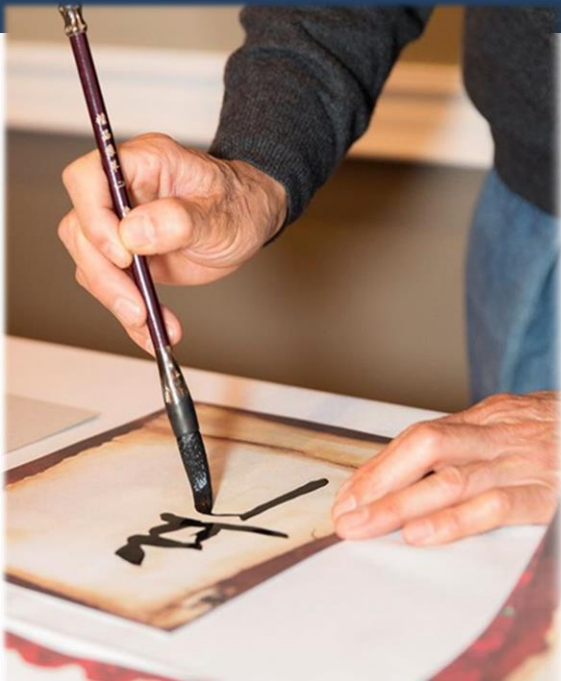


Introduction

In recent years, Sarnia-Lambton's cultural diversity has continued to increase due to a growing number of international students at Lambton College. Over 400 international students¹ were enrolled in 2015, a 35% increase from the previous year.

Since 2014, the annual Global Citizenship Summit hosted by Lambton College, in partnership with the Sarnia-Lambton Local Immigration Partnership (LIP), has aimed to inform the community about the college's international student population and local cultural groups, foster global citizenship, and challenge misconceptions.

The 2015 Summit included a student only session attended by 300 Lambton College students. The evening event was open to the public and included a dinner, silent auction and more.



Booths

French Association

Sarnia Muslim Association

Spanglish Legal Services

The Aboriginal Centre, Lambton College

The Sarnia Lambton Chinese Association, in partnership with Chinese international students

Nigerian International Students

Panamanian International students

Saudi Arabian International students

Indian International Students

Food Vendors

Dolly's Jerk Joint

John's Restaurant

Coffee Lodge

Chartwells

Creations

Personal Touch Eatery & Catering

Fields to Feast

Dante Club

Sitara

Speakers

Gilad Cohen, Founder & Executive Director of Jayu (keynote speaker)

Leo Johnson, Founder of Empowerment Squared (keynote speaker)

Aruba Mahmud, Sarnia Muslim Association

Rezan Mosa, Student at Western University

Marie Short, First Nations Elder

Impact of the 2015 Global Citizenship Summit

The objectives of the Global Citizenship Summit were to foster relationships between international and domestic students at Lambton College and to build understanding and knowledge of diversity both on campus and in the Sarnia-Lambton Community. The event also highlighted local cultural groups and different aspects of their culture (e.g. food, artwork), and how those who practice global customs and religious beliefs are also contributing Canadian citizens. Organizers aimed to provide useful information about how to engage in positive change in Canada and abroad. Attendees also learned how to become better informed and supportive global citizens, and how to create change in the world (from Canada) through artistic expression.

Fifty-Eight Summit attendees filled out questionnaires distributed by the Sarnia-Lambton Local Immigration Partnership.

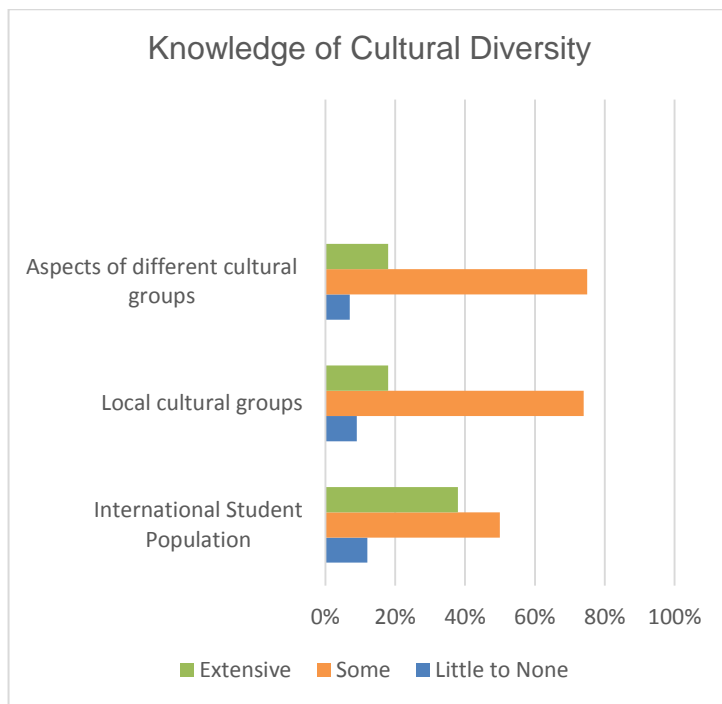
Prior Knowledge of Cultural Diversity

In order to fully comprehend the impacts of events that seek to increase understanding of cultural diversity, it is important to gauge the level of knowledge that exists in the community prior to taking part in them.

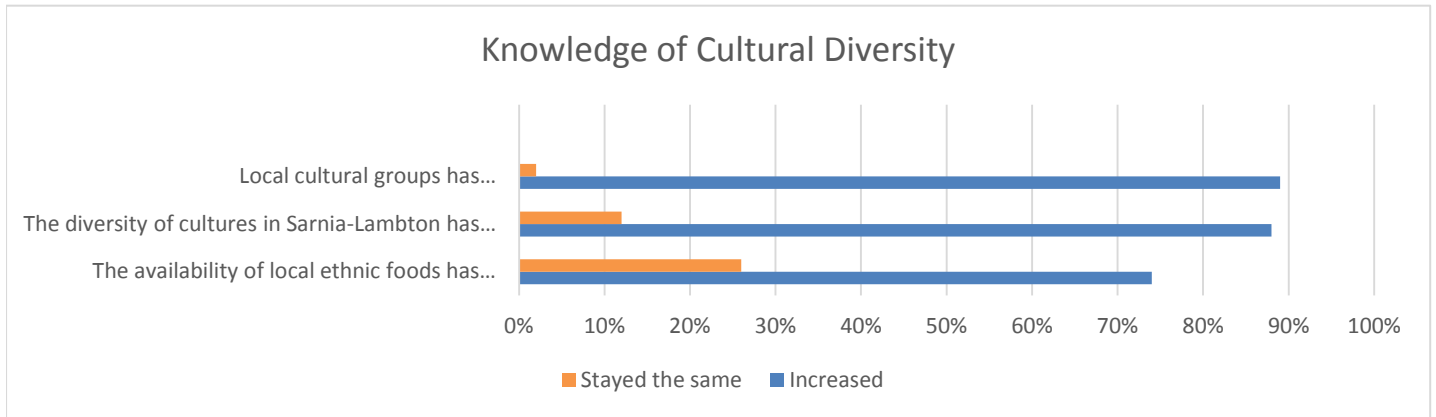
For this reason, attendees of the Global Citizenship Summit were asked to rate their knowledge of:

1. Sarnia-Lambton's international student population
2. Local cultural groups
3. Aspects of different cultural groups (i.e. entertainment, food, artwork).

The majority of respondents reported having some knowledge of all three.

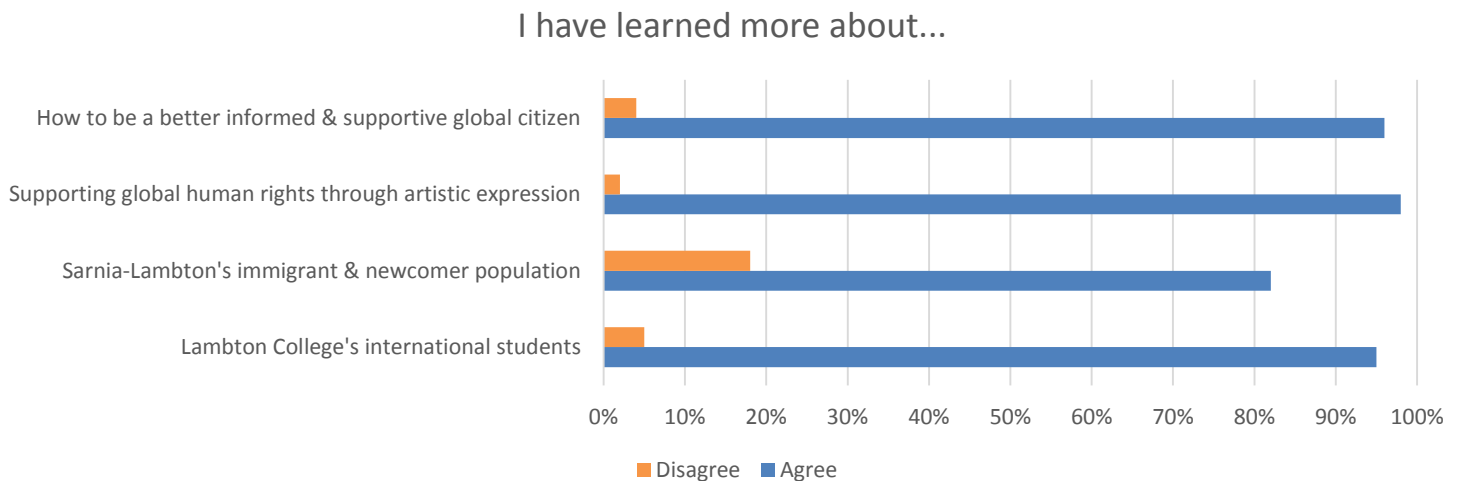


Knowledge gained from attending The Global Citizenship Summit



The vast majority of respondents, even those who reported having extensive prior knowledge of the area's cultural diversity, reported learning something new about Lambton College's international students and Sarnia-Lambton's immigrant and newcomer population.

Furthermore, an impressive 96% and 98% of respondents learned more about how to be a better informed and supportive global citizen and how to support global human rights through artistic expression, respectively.



"So enlightening & informative. [I] feel that now the surface is scratched, I want to learn more of what I can do to help make a difference 😊. "

"It was an awesome experience and I am glad I was a part of it, as it has helped me learn so many new things about the world we live in."



Impact of Speakers

The event featured two keynote speakers: Leo Johnson and Gilad Cohen. Leo Johnson is a Liberian refugee who spearheads a number of charitable international development initiatives. As Johnson shared with the audience, he focused on sustainable, solutions and knowledge exchange, in order to empower Liberian youth to build a better future.

Gilad Cohen is the founder of Jayu, which uses art to "share human rights stories and lay the groundwork for positive social change". At the Global Summit, Cohen discussed how art, film, dance and media could raise awareness of human rights issues and be a positive force for social change.

Two local Muslim women, Aruba Mahmud and Rezan Mosa, spoke about wearing the hijab and the niqab respectively, with the aim of increasing knowledge and awareness of these religious practices and dispelling misconceptions.

Survey results indicate that these speakers had a significant positive impact on the attendees. Of those who completed the survey:

- **95% agreed** that the event provided information about how they can contribute to making positive change in other countries (from Canada)
- **91% gained useful information** about how they could bring about change in the world from Canada by using the arts as a means of expression
- **93% gained useful knowledge** about how people practice global customs and religious beliefs and remain good Canadian citizens

This increased knowledge due to attending the Global Citizenship Summit is the first step in creating a welcoming community, the ultimate outcome for the Sarnia-Lambton LIP.

"This is an extraordinary event for our city. I have not had so much exposure to other cultures in one evening. Debunking the myth was an excellent topic and very timely. Ruth, Amy and the students did an amazing job. Please don't stop this in the future."

Impact of the Sarnia-Lambton LIP

The Sarnia-Lambton LIP was the main partner with Lambton College, which facilitated and hosted the Global Citizenship Summit. Therefore, respondents were also asked about Sarnia-Lambton LIP and its role in the community. In order to ensure that the LIP remains relevant, gauging its local impact is essential.

100% of respondents believe that LIP is successful in achieving its goal of creating a more welcoming community for immigrants and newcomers.

Furthermore, 38% of respondents requested to be added to the LIP emailing list which regularly sends out information on cultural and community events, as well as local and regional workshops and training opportunities.

Conclusion

Survey results from the 2015 Global Citizenship Summit indicate that this event was highly successful in meeting its objectives of increasing the community's knowledge of local cultural groups and their practices. The Summit was an excellent opportunity for community members to not only learn from but also interact with a number of local cultural groups and international students, fostering engagement and allowing participants to challenge misconceptions and "debunk the myth." With the generous support of sponsors and the hard work of Lambton College staff and students, the Summit was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and raise awareness of multiculturalism in Sarnia-Lambton.

