

# 1. The business case for diversity

## What are the facts about immigration in the London region?

Immigration data from the 2006 census was not available at the time of publication, but samples of information from the 2001 census and from other sources provide an interesting snapshot of immigration in our region.

**Total immigrant landings** – About 3,100 immigrants came to Middlesex County/London area in 2005. That is up more than 60% over 2001, when 1,956 immigrants came to Middlesex.

**Country of origin** – The top country of origin for immigrants arriving in Middlesex County in 2005 was Colombia, followed by China, the United States, India, and Lebanon.

**Top native languages** – The top five native languages spoken by new immigrants coming to Middlesex County in 2005 were Spanish, Arabic, English, and Chinese.

**Age of immigrants** – In 2005, the largest proportion of immigrants was 17 years of age and younger (approximately 29%). About 25% were aged 25-34.

**Education** – Almost one third of immigrants arriving in Middlesex County between 2001 and 2005 came to Canada with a university degree.

**Where immigrants land** – Middlesex County was the 6th most popular intended destination for immigrants to Ontario. Essex County was the 8th most popular destination. The top five destinations in Ontario were Toronto, Peel, York, Ottawa and Hamilton.

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

*"I would encourage companies to give these people a chance. Our experience shows they are well educated, have a strong work ethic, are eager and grateful for opportunities and want to prove themselves. Many are mature workers who have new ideas and experience to bring to the table. You won't be disappointed."*

— Tricia Gill, HR Manager  
Gamma-Dynacare Medical Laboratories