

## **New website designed to attract immigrants**

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An online welcome mat has been put out to welcome immigrants and others to Chatham-Kent.

The municipality, in partnership with the Cultural Coalition of Chatham-Kent, unveiled Chatham-Kent's Welcome Newcomers website on Friday,

The website, located at [www.chatham-kent.ca/newcomers](http://www.chatham-kent.ca/newcomers), provides newcomers with access to community and settlement information as well as promotes Chatham-Kent as community for people to relocate.

The project received \$271,392 in funding from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

The website contains more 120 pages of information and links to language and educational resources, housing and employment information and health and financial supports.

Mark E. Egbedeyi-Emmanuel, president of Cultural Coalition of Chatham-Kent, said, "it is a very valuable and useful resource for our community."

He added the website demonstrates a strong commitment by the community to continue attracting, welcoming and supporting newcomers.

Egbedeyi-Emmanuel said he has received calls from communities such as Guelph and Peterborough inquiring how about the work being done in Chatham-Kent to attract and welcome immigrants.

He praised the co-operation between the coalition and municipality and believes the website will be part of the continuing success story.

Mayor Randy Hope pointed out council voted in 2007 to support this project because of the importance it places on attracting immigrants to the community.

"It's been a great opportunity for this community to finally get to the point . . . where we can say, 'We have a website that will assist all individuals in choosing Chatham-Kent,' " he said

Hope added because of this project, Chatham-Kent will be better positioned to recruit productive people, create employment opportunities, attract investment and develop a more sustainable community.

Egbedeyi-Emmanuel said there also needs to be awareness created about immigrants arriving.

He said there needs to be a call to action for all citizens to prepare for what Chatham-Kent will begin to look like in the next 10-15 years as it attracts more immigrants.

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