



St. Thomas and Elgin Immigrant Survey 2023 Information and Consent Letter

April 1, 2021

Immigrants make the St. Thomas-Elgin Region a more diverse and vibrant community – and your experience is an important part of that. We want to hear from immigrants about the experience of integration and wellbeing in our community. The St. Thomas-Elgin Local Immigration Partnership will use the survey results to guide how more than local organizations work together to improve services and living experiences for immigrants living here.

This survey is for all immigrants in the St. Thomas-Elgin Region who are age 16 or older. This includes anyone born outside Canada who is now living, working or studying in this community (permanent residents, Canadian citizens, refugees, temporary residents, refugee claimants, and international students).

This research is being conducted by the St. Thomas Elgin Local Immigration Partnership - a group of community members and organizations working together to help immigrants reach their full potential and contribute to creating and sustaining a thriving, prosperous community for everyone. To find out more visit www.stelip.ca. The St. Thomas Elgin Local Immigration Partnership receives funding from the federal government. The overall survey results will also be used in conjunction to other LIP communities to improve the survey content and implementation for later versions.

Personal information

You do not have to provide your name to do the survey. The survey will ask both multiple choice questions and short answer questions about your experiences and ends with a short section about demographic information. When the survey is finished, you can choose to enter your name into a draw for a prize. If you provide your name, it will not be connected to your survey answers and will only be used for the draw.

Draw prizes include one \$100 prepaid credit card, three \$50 prepaid credit cards, and five \$10 Tim Horton's gift cards. The chance of being selected for a prize depends on how many participants enter the draw. Based on past surveys, we expect there to be a 1 in 263 chance of getting a \$100 prepaid card, a 1 in 133 chance of getting a \$50 prepaid card, and a 1 in 52 chance of getting a \$10 Tim Horton's gift card.

You can also leave your name at the end of the survey if you are interested in participating in future research by the St. Thomas Elgin Local Immigration Partnership. If you provide your name, it will not be connected to your survey answers and will only be used to share information about this and future research opportunities. If you consent to share your contact information for future research, you can withdraw that consent at any time by contacting the St. Thomas Elgin Local Immigration Partnership at communications@stelip.ca or calling 519-631-9800 x 241.

Completing the survey is voluntary and you can skip any question you do not want to answer. You can stop or close the browser window any time you like without consequences, but we cannot remove your answers once you submit them because we will not be able to separate the answers from the rest of the data.

Online surveys

It will take about 10 to 20 minutes to complete the survey. Survey responses will be collected through CheckMarket survey software and kept on servers within Canada. Because the survey is being completed over the internet, absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. Survey responses will be deleted from the CheckMarket servers two months after the data collection period is complete.

Paper surveys

If someone is not able to fill out the survey online and would like to respond by phone, email or on paper, they can contact us at communications@stelip.ca or call 519-631-9800 x 241. Paper copies of filled out surveys will be sent to the St. Thomas Elgin Local Immigration Partnership and entered by their staff. Paper copies will be stored in a locked space at Immigration Partnership offices and will be destroyed shortly after they are entered into the survey database.

Translated Surveys

The immigrant survey is available in English and 5 other languages that are most common in St. Thomas and Elgin. Surveys that are translated and are those that are used in-person at public events have a smaller number of questions and take about 2-4 minutes to complete. Surveys in other languages will be translated into English. Translators will only have access to individual pages or questions that need to be translated. They will email the translation of individual questions to the lead researcher who will enter the data into the survey database.

Data management

Survey responses will be stored in a password-protected file on secure YWCA St. Thomas Elgin servers. Only Petrusia Hontar (Principal Investigator), and Fiona Murray (Communication Coordinator) will have access to the raw survey data. We are hoping to hear from 400 immigrants in this survey. All the responses will be anonymous and will be summarized in a series of reports and presentations. They will be available on the St. Thomas Elgin Local Immigration Partnership website at <https://stelip.ca/immigrant-survey/> later this year.

Benefits, Risks and Supports

Participating in the survey is an opportunity to influence how services for immigrants are offered in the St. Thomas and Elgin Region and impact the development of policies at municipal, provincial and federal levels. We don't anticipate that there will be any significant risks to participating in this survey. Each person may react differently when reflecting on the questions, and it may raise anxiety for some people. If you need support at any time, you can call the Canadian Mental Health Association Thames Valley crisis line "Reach Out" at 1-866-933-2023 or text 519-433-2023. If you need help but are not in crisis, you can call the Canadian Mental Health Association Thames Valley Supportive Listening Line at 519-601-8055.

Contact Information

If you have questions about the survey, technical aspects of the research, or your rights as a survey participant, you can contact the principal researcher, Petrusia Hontar at phontar@stelip.ca or call 519-631-9800 x 241. If you have any questions about any possible ethical issues in the research, you can contact Shelley Harris Director of Education and Settlement at YWCA St. Thomas Elgin at 519-631-9800 x 233 or sharris@ywcaste.ca. This project has been reviewed and approved by the Community Research Ethics Board. If you feel you have not been treated according to the descriptions in our information, or your rights as a participant in research have been violated during the course of this project, you may contact the Chair, Community Research Ethics Board, at:

Community Research Ethics Office (Canada) Corp.
c/o Centre for Community Based Research
190 Westmount Road North, Waterloo ON N2L 3G5
Email: creo@communitybasedresearch.ca
Telephone: 1-888-411- 2736

The St. Thomas-Elgin Region Immigrant Survey is available at <https://stelip.ca/immigrant-survey/>