

## How did LUSO Start?

The organization was formed in 1979 and incorporated in 1980 as The Portuguese Community Services. The Centre operated for 16 years as an ethno-specific agency, and was established to assist Portuguese immigrants to integrate into the Canadian socio-political and cultural environment. The programs and services offered dealt mainly with settlement and integration issues. In 1995, the Board of Directors and staff determined that the agency needed to review its mission and goals in order to meet the changing needs of immigrants, newcomers and the community at large. Today, LUSO Community Services is a provider of community social services with a holistic approach to community development. We provide programs and services in the London community for children, youth, families and seniors of culturally diverse and ethnic backgrounds. LUSO is a non-profit charitable organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Membership is open to anyone who supports our mission, goals and philosophy.