# **ANNUAL REPORT**



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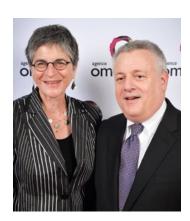
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## **EXECUTIVE MESSAGE**

Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime. It's an oft quoted proverb and one that embodies Maimonides's highest level of giving: that of helping someone become self-sufficient, preserving their dignity and instilling confidence in their ability to find solutions to their dilemmas.

At Ometz, our mission is to exemplify this philosophy: we are here to help people help themselves. Be it a new immigrant looking to gain work experience, an entrepreneur seeking mentorship advice or someone with an intellectual disability ready for their first career challenge—we believe strongly in a partnership approach.



That focus on partnership extends beyond those we build with our clients.

This past year has seen Ometz nurture existing relationships and forge new ones with our growing network of supporters, friends, volunteers and local organizations who share our vision to build a stronger, healthier, and more resilient community.

We have also been working hard to increase our visibility as a welcoming, open place in an effort to broaden our reach, deepen our impact and create new initiatives to break the cycle of poverty and provide our children, youth and young adults—and their families—with more promising futures.

Whether supporting a student who is struggling at school, a family in crisis, an individual coping with mental illness, a person looking for a new career or starting a new life in Montreal, we know our clients are better equipped to cope with life's challenges because we work together as a community.

#### Partnerships played a key role in our success this past year. Highlights include:

- We continued to work with our partners at the McGill Centre for Research on Children and Families to help us develop
  and implement a systematic and efficient approach to assessing the outcomes of our work with clients across the
  agency.
- With additional funding from Federation CJA, we expanded services to young adults with autism spectrum disorders and intellectual disabilities, developed new literacy courses and expanded our mentorship program.
- Thanks to a collaboration with the Sylvan Adams YM-YWHA and the McGill University Schools of Physical and Occupational Therapy and of Communication, Science and Disorders, we are able to offer Small Steps, a summer program that provides free occupational and speech therapy to children between the ages of 4-10 years old.
- The English Montreal School Board, which operates 72 schools throughout Montreal, once again contracted with Ometz for coaching and professional development of guidance counsellors, spiritual animators, and principals.
- With funding from Community Foundations of Canada, Ometz launched Destination Avenir, a program that provides atrisk young adults ages 16 to 30 with support, training and internships that will eventually lead to stable employment.
- Thanks to the generosity of The Morris & Rosalind Goodman Family Foundation, Ometz provided learning supports to more than 140 children from financially vulnerable families.

In the coming year, the Ometz team will continue to serve the Montreal community with focus, passion and creativity and we look forward to sharing this journey with you.

Saul Carliner

Sal Carlin

President

Gail Small

**Chief Executive Officer** 

## **OUR MISSION, OUR SERVICES & OUR REACH**

Ometz is a charitable organization offering employment, immigration, school and social services to help people fulfill their potential, and secure the growth and vitality of the Montreal community.

Reaching more than 13,000 people annually, we provide intervention, prevention, support services and programs to enhance quality of life.

- Our Services for Youth and Young Adults offer support, guidance and learning so that
  children and youth grow up healthy and safe—and prepared to transition into adulthood
  successfully and with confidence. We also provide a range of customized services for
  schools to help enrich a child's experience in the classroom.
- Our Services to Parents and Families provide emotional support and help our clients develop and implement an action plan to deal with a family's particular obstacles. With the guidance of our experienced counsellors and professionals, parents and children have access to support groups, workshops, our Small Steps camp program and various school-based services.
- The Ometz Counselling Centre helps families, couples, and individuals manage the stresses of unforeseen events and the challenges of everyday life. The Donald Berman Interactive Family Play Therapy Program also offers a unique opportunity for the whole family - children, parents and siblings - to be part of a process that promotes safety, healing and growth.
- Our Employment Services provide job seekers with a range of services, from skills training to job search assistance.
- Our Services for Employers help them find qualified candidates with specialized skills.
   For entrepreneurs, we offer a range of business consulting services to help start or grow their business.
- Our Services for Newcomers help new arrivals to establish their lives in Montreal through a range of services, from integration activities to employment services. Newcomers benefit from socialization and cultural activities, language courses, skills development workshops and job-readiness training, as well as financial capacitybuilding workshops.
- Our Community Services help with short-term crisis intervention or provide ongoing guidance and support to individuals and families looking to regain control of their lives.
- Our Training & Workshops provide skills development and employability training for job seekers, employers and professionals. Our wide range of training opportunities looks to empower and motivate our clients.

In 2016-2017 we reached:



### THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

Ometz is the Hebrew word for courage and is a reflection of the courage of those who seek our support in transforming their lives. We are dedicated to working with our clients on the following issues:

As the Jewish population is aging and we are experiencing a staggering unemployment rate throughout Quebec, many job seekers are facing challenges such as ageism, language deficits and outdated skills.

**1,919 Job seekers** received one-on-one coaching and employment support from our employment specialists, and had access to workshops on career strategies, current job search trends, CV writing, interview skills, and building a profile on social media.

**763 Mature workers** were trained with the necessary skills and tools to successfully re-enter or remain in the ever-changing job market.

**247 Individuals with disabilities** received assistance through our Supported Employment Services to enhance their job search skills, secure employment and maintain job retention.

**148 Entrepreneurs** received support to start or grow their businesses, contributing to job creation and the economic prosperity of Montreal.





Successful integration of newcomers is often measured by language proficiency, employment and financial autonomy, ability to access public services, knowledge of community resources and social interaction.

**2,181 Newcomers** registered with Ometz benefitted from socialization and cultural activities, language courses, skills development workshops and job-readiness training, as well as financial capacity-building workshops.

Since launching *Initiative France Montréal* in October 2015 in partnership with Federation CJA, we have received over **290 new enquiries from nationals from France, Switzerland and Belgium** regarding the possibility of immigrating to Montreal. Of these, **105 families** have settled in Montreal.

**745 Newcomers** took part in integration activities such as Jewish holiday celebrations, family trips and outings, as well as social and networking activities with local Montrealers.

If not detected at an early age, a communication or developmental disorder could significantly affect a child's future success in their academic and personal lives.

**2,313 Children** were screened for motor difficulties and speech disorders, and **168 children** from financially vulnerable families accessed additional learning supports to help improve their developmental trajectory.

This academic year close to **2,400 students** in elementary and secondary school participated in classroom groups to enhance social skills including self-regulation, social emotional learning and the promotion of healthy relationships.

**43 Montreal CPEs, elementary and high schools** benefitted from on-site psycho-social support in order to promote academic success and peaceful schools.

**264 Children and parents** worked through aggression and loss, developed social and communication skills, and built confidence with support from the Donald Berman Interactive Family Play Therapy Program.





347 Volunteers supported the services provided by Ometz professionals. Our academic mentors coach students to develop effective learning strategies to help them achieve academic success. Our literacy volunteers promote a love of reading with children and their parents to help foster healthy early childhood development. Our tax volunteers help vulnerable individuals and families complete their tax returns and work towards fiscal fitness.

According to the 2011 National Household Survey, 20% of the Montreal Jewish community lives below the poverty line.

**2,675 Children and adults** benefited from a financial safety net and our advocacy efforts on their behalf with public institutions.

**199 Adults** living with chronic mental health illness received services that connected them to community, developed autonomy, and improved quality of life.



## **HELPING BUILD COMMUNITY**

Meet the members of the Ometz Board of Directors and Executive Team who guide the organization to ensure it fulfills its mission and meets the needs of its clients.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Michael Aronovici
- Ruth Bensimon Choueke
- Yvonne Bensimon
- O Igor Bernadski
- Saul Carliner (President)
- Bill Itovitch (Treasurer)
- Howard Lohner
- O Danny Ritter
- Mitchell Shiller
- Cynthia Telio
- Annie Tobias (Vice-President)
- Marc Welikovitch (Past President)
- Alon Wexler

### **EXECUTIVE TEAM**

Gail Small

Chief Executive Officer

Dominique McCaughey

Chief Strategy and Development Officer

Susan Karpman

Chief Program Officer

Barbara Victor

Chief Clinical Officer

### FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS

These are some of the partners with whom we have collaborated to help build caring communities over the past year.

- AMI-Québec
- Association du Québec pour l'intégration sociale
- Association of Professional Educational Leaders
- BDC Point Claire
- CIUSSS West-Central Montreal
- Community Council of Volunteerism
- Community Economic Development and Employability Committee
- Community Learning Centres
- Concordia University
- Corporation de développement communautaire de Côte-des-Neiges
- CSSS Cavendish
- Douglas Mental Health University Institute
- Employment Roundtable
- Forum jeunesse de l'île de Montréal
- Futurpreneur
- Gold Centre
- Kehilla Montreal
- Compare 1
  La Gare 1
- McGill University Center for Research on Families and Children
- Montreal Walks for Mental Health
- PJ Library
- PME MTL
- Ready Willing and Able
- Regroupement québécois des organismes pour le développement de l'employabilité
- Table de concertation en santé mentale centre ouest
- Table régionale de concertation pour les réfugiés et les immigrants
- West Island Table for Intellectual Disabilities

### **OMETZ IN ACTION**

#### **Annual Family Hanukkah Party**

On December 18th, we hosted our annual Ometz Immigration Services Family Hanukkah party for 374 newcomers. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation of the Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, Israel Engagement Initiative and the Federation CJA Tikun Olam Volunteers (TOV) via the #100days100deeds toy drive, 213 children left the party with a bag full of gifts.





#### Glee Club

As a result of a partnership between Ometz and the Cummings Center, and thanks to the generosity of our donors, our clients have the opportunity to participate in our music therapy Glee Club, a combination choir and performance group meeting weekly to create music together. Participants are all adults living with mental illness (schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression and anxiety disorder) who are connected to both agencies' mental health support departments.

#### **Cocktails and Conversation**

On February 8th, Ometz and the Jewish Chamber of Commerce hosted the 47th edition of Cocktails and Conversation. This annual recruitment and networking event featured special guest speaker The Honourable Denis Coderre. Since it first began almost twenty-five years ago, Cocktails and Conversation has helped more than 1,400 candidates secure jobs in Montreal.





### Ometz Cooking Class Series

The Ometz Youth Team started a popular new cooking workshop that targets young adults (ranging from late teens to age 30), many of them living in low-income households. The goal is to teach skills, break the cycle of social isolation and create a sense of community. Participants are taught to be more self-sufficient in the kitchen, with each lesson covering meal preparation, grocery shop planning, food budgeting and nutrition. This program is one of our growing number of responses to help youth thrive.



#### The ABC's of Starting a Business

ProMontreal Entrepreneurs in partnership with the City of Montreal's business-support network, PME MTL, launched *The ABC's of Starting a Business* training series at Côte-Saint-Luc City Hall. Offering tips on everything from financing to business law, this successful 4-part workshop series provides participants with helpful information and advice for local entrepreneurs.

### The Betty and Bernard S. Shapiro Family Lecture Series

Featuring engaging and insightful conversations with some of today's top influencers and experts, the Betty and Bernard S. Shapiro Family Lecture Series kicked off on April 25th at the Shaare Zion Congregation with the first of three highly anticipated speakers. Dr. Michele Borba—considered today's "go-to" expert on children, teens, parenting, bullying and moral development—shared useful tips to help parents cultivate empathy in children, from birth to young adulthood.





#### Initiative France Montréal Brunch

In partnership with Federation CJA, on March 26th Ometz organized a brunch for all newcomers who are part of "Initiative France Montréal." The family-friendly event welcomed 72 new arrivals — 28 families from France, Switzerland and Belgium, all of whom were paired with 12 local Montreal families ("twin families") in an effort to support and ease their integration into the community.

#### **Ometz Shtetl Crawl**

Throughout the month of March, all Ometz staff took part in an outreach mission, visiting 25 non-profit organizations in and around the City of Montreal. This was an opportunity to meet, open a dialogue, exchange ideas and learn new ones from other professionals who also serve our diverse Montreal community.



## **MAJOR FUNDERS**

We thank our Major Funders for their continued confidence and support.

- Federation CJA
- Autorité des marchés financiers
- BDH Community Foundation
- Betty and Bernard S. Shapiro Family Endowment
- Centraide of Greater Montreal
- Community Foundations of Canada
- Donald Berman Foundation
- Echo Foundation
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- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Gustav Levinschi Foundation
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- Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal
- Laura Schecter Fund (King Family)
- Leonard Albert Family Foundation
- Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Diversité et de l'Inclusion
- Morris and Rosalind Goodman Family Foundation
- Programme de soutien aux organismes communautaires
- Richter Charitable Foundation
- Ville de Montréal

# We thank our donors for their generosity.

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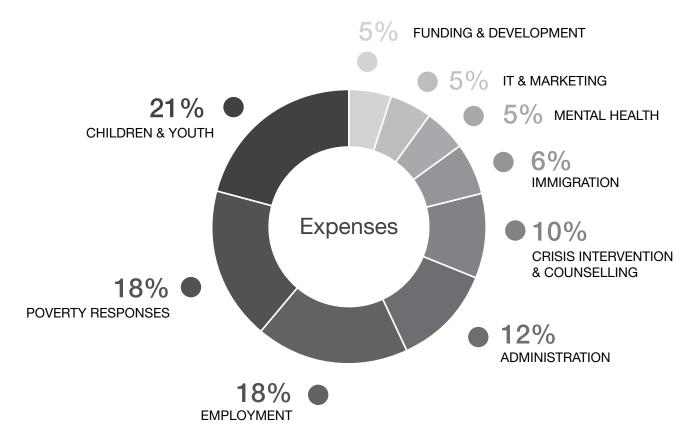
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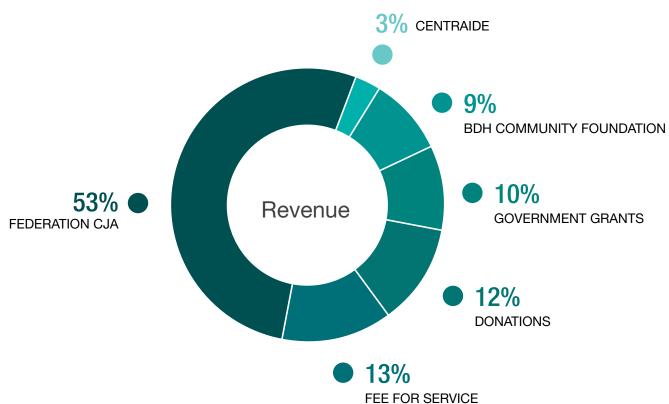
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# **ANNUAL EXPENSES & REVENUES**

2016-2017





# STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year ended March 31, 2017

REVENUE	2017 \$	2016 \$
Federation CJA	2,974,216	2,683,974
Fee for service	1,000,950	926,237
Government grants	775,500	761,606
Centraide	250,000	250,000
Donations	945,153	849,927
BDH Community Foundation	653,623	619,041
Total Revenue	6,599,442	6,090,785

EXPENDITURES	2017 \$	2016 \$
Operating expenses		
Program salaries and benefits	4,051,641	3,931,864
Program contract professionals	365,871	294,119
Activity costs	270,348	244,765
Professional development and memberships	48,600	37,607
Marketing	236,557	208,919
Information technology	159,053	149,582
Amortization of capital assets	22,739	28,541
Amortization of intangible assets	27,640	27,596
	5,182,449	4,922,993
Administration		
Salaries and benefits	678,278	573,460

Total expenditures	6,392,462	6,031,561
Funding and Development	337,183	355,113
	872,830	753,455
Bank charges	2,338	2,745
Professional fees	57,104	41,188
Insurance	39,224	42,515
Office and general	95,886	93,547
Salaries and benefits	678,278	573,460

Government grants	2017 \$	2016 \$
Emploi-Québec	480,023	479,485
Immigration, Diversité et Inclusion	62,721	76,245
Programme de Soutien aux Organismes Communautaires	152,890	151,077
Human Resources and Skill Development of Canada	58,828	35,830
Other grants	21,038	18,969
	775,500	761,606

<sup>\*</sup>This page is an extract of the Ometz financial statements

### Thanks to our funding partners:









This annual reports can also be viewed online at www.ometz.ca

This annual report covers the period of April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 and was submitted at the Annual General Meeting of members on June 20, 2017. © Agence Ometz, 2017. Design and Production: Ometz Marketing and Communications Department.