IAM OMETZ



ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

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EXECUTIVE MESSAGE



IT TAKES COURAGE

8 years ago, inspired by the Hebrew word for courage, we named our newly integrated agency "Ometz". Ometz is a reflection of the courage of the individuals and families who seek our support to transform their lives; it is a reflection of the courage of the team that opens its doors and its heart to provide impassioned, professional and transformative support; it is a reflection of the courage of a community to care, help and heal.

Ometz is Sonia, an accountant, who immigrated to Canada from Uruguay after meeting Jonathan, who was vacationing there. They married after a whirlwind romance, and by the time they moved to Montreal, she was pregnant. Almost immediately, Jonathan became verbally, emotionally and physically abusive. He did not allow her to learn French and restricted her from making friends. Sonia was trapped by her isolation, her need to provide a home for her son, and the fact that her husband sponsored her to remain in Canada. Jonathan threatened to withdraw the sponsorship, have her deported and keep their child.

It took time, but Sonia came to us, and eventually was able to leave the family home. She stayed at a Jewish community shelter and was assisted by our immigration professionals in filing for her landed immigrant status. Sonia enrolled in French courses at Ometz and participated in workshops to further develop her CV and interview skills. She now works at a financial institution, a position she secured through the help of her employment counsellor. Her son Mark was subsidized to attend day camp this past summer, and is currently enrolled in a Jewish day school.

Sonia's perseverance and courage in the face of adversity is common among the individuals and families we serve — and reflected in the spirit and name of our agency. On the following pages, you will read about the wide reach and impact of our work, made possible by our community's ongoing investment.

While we at Ometz work with clients to transform their lives, we have also taken critical steps in our own evolution as an agency. It took courage to launch our annual fundraising gala, A Chance to Shine, 5 years ago when the community calendar was already packed with so many events. We are proud to announce that we have raised a total of \$1.9 - million in 5 short years. Along the way we have made numerous new friends, attracted many loyal supporters, and exposed thousands of people to Ometz. Most importantly we continue to have a positive, meaningful, relevant and lasting impact on the lives of thousands of children and youth.

Over the past year, we undertook an ambitious organizational restructuring and created a compact Executive team, charged with ensuring the continued relevance and growth of our agency. We are in the process of rolling out the agency's new 3 year strategic plan that focuses on achieving financial sustainability by:

- Achieving maximum efficiencies in services and operations;
- Expanding and diversifying funding sources;
- Raising the stature and profile of Ometz within the Jewish and Montreal communities.

Ometz is committed to finding meaningful ways to capture and report on the impact of our services on the lives of our clients. We recently secured funding from the Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal allowing us to embark on a new multi-year partnership with the McGill Centre for Research on Children and Families. McGill's role is to help us develop and implement a systematic and efficient approach to outcome measurement across the agency.

New funding from Federation CJA, HSBC and the Morris and Rosalind Goodman Family Foundation has allowed us to expand significantly our services to children, youth and young adults at risk. Our partners have demonstrated that they recognize the need for early identification and timely innovative intervention.

In partnership with Federation CJA, Ometz has launched our "Initiative France" that focuses on outreach to and engagement with members of the French Jewish community who choose to immigrate to Montreal and for whom Aliyah is not an option. This strategy addresses three broad issues: immigration, employment and integration.

There is much to learn about Ometz. We encourage you to visit us at www.ometz.ca

In the coming year, inspired by the courage of our clients, our staff, our leadership and our partners, the Ometz team will continue to serve the community with focus, passion and creativity.

Marc Welikovitch

Millott

President

Gail Small

Chief Executive Officer

4 Small

MISSION, VALUES & OUR REACH

Ometz is a charitable organization which supports and strengthens individuals and families by offering a range of employment, immigration, school and social services. Reaching more than 13,000 people annually, we provide intervention, prevention, support services and programs aimed to enhance quality of life.

"Ometz" is the Hebrew word for courage, and it is a reflection of the courage of those who seek our support. To this end, our work is guided by the following core values:

- Promote self-sufficiency by engaging our clients - whether individuals or families - to actively participate in the choices that lead to a more productive, meaningful life.
- Foster inclusivity
 by welcoming and embracing everyone, without regard to race, religion,
 language, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability and any other factor.
- Respect human dignity by appreciating the uniqueness of each individual and interacting with sensitivity, empathy and non-judgment.
- Duild caring communities
 by creating social, emotional and cultural links, often with community partners,
 to engage those who might otherwise be isolated or feel disconnected.
- Ensure excellence by upholding the highest professional standards and committing to life-long learning, renewal and innovation.

Our Reach

Thanks to the support of our generous donors, our committed partners, our dedicated volunteers, and our tireless staff, in 2015-2016 we reached:





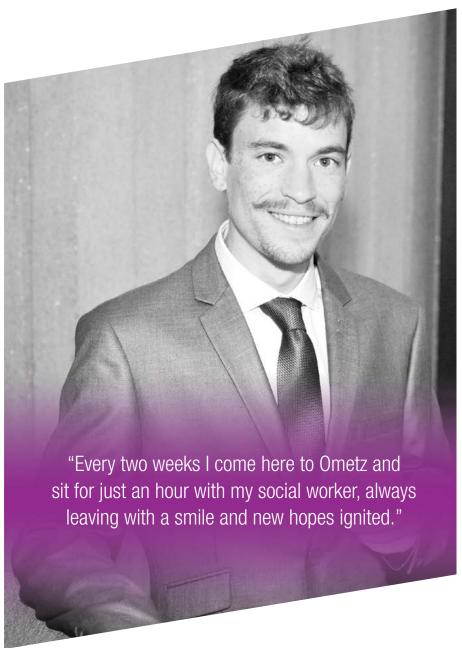






Newcomers Job Seekers

I AM OMETZ



AARON S.

AARON S. SHARES HIS STORY

At 19, I decided to make a change and moved from my hometown of Victoria, BC, here, to Montreal. I came with the prospect of learning to cook and becoming a skilled culinary artist. But despite my newfound passion and goals, I was introduced to OxyContin and eventually became addicted to heroin.

After a failed attempt at detox, my father reached out and helped connect me with Ometz. My first meeting was the first glimmer of light I had seen in a long time because I finally felt that someone truly cared about my well-being. With the support of my social worker, I participated in group activities, received financial aid, and help to find medical assistance. Unfortunately, I fell back into drugs and deeper into a downward spiral. Thankfully, Ometz never gave up on me, and together we looked to a new path. I worked out a methadone treatment plan with my doctor, and my social worker at Ometz encouraged me to go back to school. I learned French, and I am currently studying Telecommunications at Pearson.

I have finished my treatment, and I am completely drug and medication free. I don't see a doctor often or go to therapy, however every two weeks I come here to Ometz and sit just an hour with my social worker, always leaving with a smile and new hopes ignited.

The difference we make in supporting individuals like Aaron S.



Children and adults

benefited from a financial safety net and our advocacy efforts on their behalf with public institutions.



Young adults

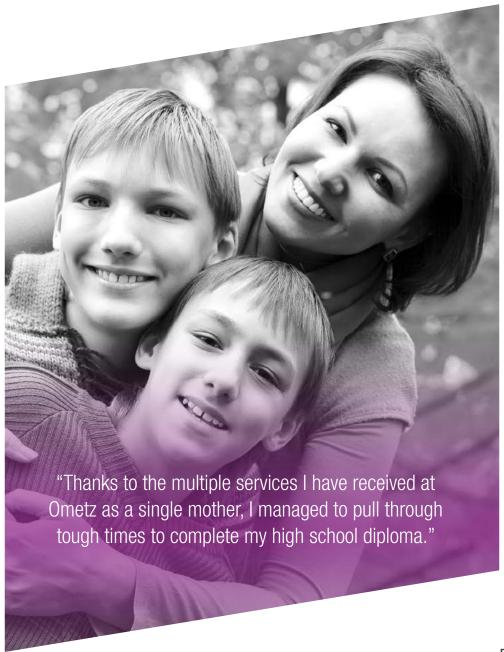
were matched with mentors as role models, and received support in learning self-sufficiency, financial capacity-building, independent living and career exploration.



Adults

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

I AM OMETZ



ESTELLE*

ESTELLE SHARES HER STORY

I first came into contact with Ometz around 10-12 years ago. At the time I was pregnant with my second child, and living with my mom was not possible anymore. I needed help to move forward, and to allow me to grow as an independent and single mother.

After finding out I was pregnant, I went through a depression. I contacted Ometz, and I was assigned to a social worker. From the second I sat down, she put me at ease, and everything started falling into place. A psychotherapist from Counselling Services followed me and helped me find solutions and resources. Through a workshop series, I learned how to better manage my finances. I took my social worker's advice, and went back to school, and succeeded in getting my high school diploma!

Thanks to Ometz, my boys go to summer camp, receive a Jewish education, and get the right support to succeed in school. I don't know what I would have done without the help of these various programs and services. We still have some struggles, but the best thing that ever happened to me and my children was going to Ometz.

The difference we make in helping families like Estelle's



worked through aggression and loss, developed social and communication skills, and built confidence with support from the Donald Berman Interactive Play Therapy program.

2,275 Children

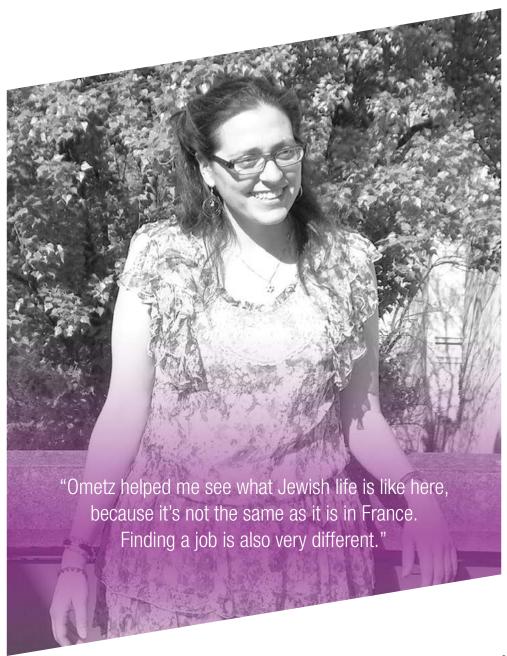
were screened for motor difficulties and speech disorders, and **156 children** from financially vulnerable families accessed additional learning supports to help improve their developmental trajectory.

2,230 Students

participated in classroom groups to address and reduce bullying and the potential outcome of future unhealthy relationships.

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

I AM OMETZ



NATACHA

NATACHA SHARES HER STORY

Canada is a country I had thought about since I was fifteen years old. In my mind, it was a beautiful postcard of big lakes and green spaces. This is what drew me to Canada and particularly Quebec, because it's Francophone. I wanted to come to Montreal in particular because it's a big city that has a very, very intense cultural life throughout the year.

At first, I wanted to get to know the job market here. I wanted to know how things worked. I found Ometz, which provides social services to the Jewish community. The Immigration Services team welcomed me with open arms. I saw what social work here entailed, as this is my field of expertise. I saw how things work here. I attended workshops for newcomers that provided key information on how to navigate the system in Canada and Quebec. This was crucial to my new life in Montreal! When I arrived, it was a bit complicated to look for a job, redo my resume, and write cover letters. Ometz Employment Services helped me do all that.

Ometz helped me see what Jewish life is like here, because it's not the same as it is in France. Finding a job is also very different. These are all the ways that Ometz benefited me.

The difference that we make in welcoming newcomers like Natacha

100

Since launching *Initiative France* in October 2015 in partnership with Federation CJA, we have received over **100 new enquiries from French nationals** regarding the possibility of immigrating to Montreal. Of these, **50 families** have already visited Montreal to explore their options in the hope of eventually settling here, and **53 families** have arrived in Montreal in the last year.

2,099

Newcomers

who are registered with Ometz and who are establishing new lives in Montreal benefitted from socialization and cultural activities, language courses, skills development workshops and job-readiness training, as well as financial capacity-building workshops.

377

Newcomers

attended our annual Hanukkah party, a fun-filled cultural celebration with music, dance, games, treats and wonderful gifts for 213 children to help build a sense of belonging to the Montreal Jewish community.

I AM OMETZ



AARON K.

AARON K. SHARES HIS STORY

I first came into contact with Ometz about 4 years ago. My main goals were first, to volunteer, and then to find a job. The first program I took part in was the Personal Support Worker for Seniors Training. I enjoyed the program and my teacher was great. I learned CPR, how to transfer a patient from a wheelchair to a bed and vice versa, and I got a better understanding of certain diseases such as Alzheimer's.

After falling into a bit of a rut, Ometz was there to put me in the right direction and to help me realize my potential and my capabilities. Through Supported Employment Services, the team pulled me out of my comfort zone to try new things, pushing me to continuously go out and hand out my CV. Through a workshop series, I learned to set up a budgeting plan.

Ometz has helped me personally as well as professionally. I now have a solid part-time job. I work 24 hours a week at a second-hand bookstore. I love my job, I am very happy with it. At first, my contract was for 6 months, but recently it was renewed for another year! I am a lot happier now since I first visited Ometz, and I am very thankful for all the support that I have received.

The difference we make in encouraging job seekers like Aaron K.

1,980 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.

Wature workers

were helped to acquire the current skills and tools necessary to successfully re-enter or remain in the ever-changing job market.

Individuals with disabilities

received assistance through our Supported Employment Services to enhance their job search skills, secure employment and maintain job retention. Of the **139 new clients** this year, 64% achieved positive outcomes including getting a job, going for retraining or returning to school.

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

I AM OMETZ



SARAH

SARAH SHARES HER STORY

I originally contacted Ometz for a field placement as part of my clinical training. Though this opportunity did not work out, I explored Ometz further and read about the wonderful services offered, as well as opportunities to volunteer and provide support, particularly for newcomers to Canada. Interested in getting involved, I applied to become a mentor with Ometz Volunteer Services.

Ometz provided me with the opportunity to give back to my community, as well as "pay it forward." My parents immigrated to Canada in 1982, and my family received wonderful support from the community they moved into in Ontario. Thus, I think it's very important to continue this notion of helping others settle into a new country, and provide emotional support. In addition, Ometz provided me a place to further work with children and adolescents who require guidance and support in order for them to reach their potential.

My mentee and I have a very common background - we are both of Russian descent, whose parents lived and married in Israel, and moved to Canada to give their family better opportunities in life. She also reminds me a lot of myself at 14 - a young woman with a high level of responsibility at home, surrounded by friends, but unsure of herself, and wanting to feel accepted by her peers. On more than one occasion, people have referred to us as sisters, since we seem alike in many ways. At times, she has even finished a phrase in the same way I have in the past, making us both laugh when we realize how alike we truly are in so many ways.

Ometz has given me the space to volunteer my time to help those who would most benefit from it. It also gives me a place to spend time with children and adolescents and feel like I am making a difference in someone's life. As a psychologist-in-training, I am able to pursue my passion of giving back to society in a way that is meaningful, by being a role model to those who may not have many strong role models in their lives.

The difference our volunteers make in inspiring children and their families

329

Volunteers

supported the services provided by Ometz professionals. Our academic mentors coach students to develop effective learning strategies to help lead them towards 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 to complete their tax returns and work towards fiscal fitness.

WE ARE OMETZ



SANDRA & DAVID MARTZ

HELPING BUILD COMMUNITY

The difference our donors make in transforming the lives of individuals and families

- Arlene Fels was born with a disability that could have prevented her from obtaining meaningful work. Her perseverance and positive attitude towards life led her to Jewish Vocational Services, where she was employed for 19 years. Arlene has since retired, and she is now involved with creating and funding a program at Ometz called "The Arlene Fels Work Experience Program," which helps individuals living with disabilities find jobs. Through her donation, Arlene has enabled us to provide work subsidies in order to incentivize employers to hire someone with a disability.
- The Morris and Rosalind Goodman Family Foundation committed \$80,000 towards the Ometz GAP Fund which allows financially vulnerable families to access additional learning supports so that their children can succeed in school. Subsidies are provided for academic and therapeutic supports such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, psycho-educational assessments, auditory processing assessments, tutoring and counselling. This new funding will help ensure that more students who are experiencing learning difficulties are able to remain in their school and use the supports offered in order to achieve their academic potential.
- Thanks to the **Community Foundations of Canada**, Ometz is one of ten organizations across the country to have been awarded a grant from the Youth Catalyst Fund to boost educational and career opportunities for young Canadians. This grant of \$130,000 over 3 years is a first for Ometz. The new funding will enhance Ometz's current job training program which targets young adults, ages 18 to 30, with significant employment barriers such as poverty, unstable education, substance abuse, homelessness, mental health issues and abuse.
- This year marks the 5th anniversary of the Ometz annual fundraising gala, A Chance to Shine, at which we raised an astounding \$460,000 to help at-risk children and youth. This year's gala featured a breathtaking performance of the internationally acclaimed show, Traces, by Montreal's own Les 7 doigts de la main. It was preceded by special performances by local young talent from Tyler Anne School of Dance and Juste Danse. A Chance to Shine benefited from the generous patronage of philanthropists Véronique and Herbert Black for a fifth consecutive year, and from the dedication and leadership of Event Chair Randy Brandman Farber.

CHANGE IN BOARD LEADERSHIP

Marc Welikovitch is completing his three-year term as President of Ometz.

His contributions are notable, including a particularly strong ability to "Chair" and harness the full power of the Board to get things done, however complex, sensitive or demanding. Marc is both reflective and intuitive; a highly perceptive listener who never fails to add considerable value and insight to each conversation and decision – often done with wry humour.

We offer Marc our gratitude for his leadership, time and commitment and for his deep heartfelt belief in the mission of Ometz.

On a personal note, you have been a wonderful Chair Marc, and it has been a privilege and an honour for me to work alongside you as Chief Executive Officer.

We also welcome Saul Carliner as our incoming President. Saul has been involved as a Board member and an Executive member of Ometz for the past four years. Before that, he held a number of community leadership positions at both Federation CJA as well as in the Minneapolis Jewish community.

Saul is the e-Learning Fellow at Concordia University, where he also serves as Director of the Education Doctoral Program and an Associate Professor of Educational Technology. He specializes in learning and communication for the workplace. We look forward to an exciting three years with Saul at the helm.

Gail Small

Chief Executive Officer

GOVERNANCE

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." — Anne Frank

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Michael Aronovici
- Joanne Baskin
- Ruth Bensimon Choueke
- Yvonne Bensimon
- Michael Cape
- Saul Carliner (Vice-President)
- O Bill Itovitch (Secretary Treasurer)
- O Howard Lohner (Immediate Past President)
- O Danny Ritter
- Mitchell Shiller
- Oynthia Telio
- Annie Tobias
- Marc Welikovitch (President)
- Alon Wexler

EXECUTIVE TEAM

- Gail Small
 - **Chief Executive Officer**
- O 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 Jewish Family & Children's Agencies
- Association of Professional Educational Leaders
- BDC Point Claire
- O CIUSSS West Central Montreal Health
- Community Council of Volunteerism
- O Community Economic Development and Employability Committee
- Community Learning Centres
- Concordia University
- Ocrporation de développement communautaire de Côte-des-Neiges
- CSSS Cavendish
- Douglas Hospital
- Employment Roundtable
- > Forum jeunesse de l'île de Montréal
- Futurpreneur
- Gold Centre
- International Association of Jewish Vocational Services
- Kehilla Montreal
- La Gare
- McGill University Center for Research on Families and Children
- Montreal Walks for Mental Health
- PJ Library
- O PME MTL
- Ready Willing and Able
- O Regroupement québécois des organismes pour le développement de l'employabilité
- O Table de concertation en santé mentale centre ouest
- O Table régionale de concertation pour les réfugiés et les immigrants
- West Island Table for Intellectual Disabilities

MAJOR FUNDERS

Thank you for your confidence and support

- Federation CJA
- Autorité des marchés financiers
- BDH Community Foundation
- Centraide du Grand Montréal
- Community Foundations of Canada
- Donald Berman Foundation
- ECHO Foundation
- Emploi-Québec
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Gustav Levinschi Foundation
- HSBC
- Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal
- Laura Schecter Fund (King Family)
- Leonard Albert Family Foundation
- o Ministère de l'Immigration, Diversité et Inclusion
- Morris and Rosalind Goodman Family Foundation
- Programme de soutien aux organismes communautaires
- Richter Charitable Foundation
- Ville de Montréal

DONORS

Thank you for your generosity

"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give" - Winston Churchill

\$50,000+

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Morris & Rosalind Goodman

Family Foundation

Joel King

\$10.000 - \$49.999

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\$5,000 - \$9,999

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Sandra Riff Sarah Small Sarita Elman Sean Sprackett Selma Almaleh Sharon Arakanchi Sheldon Shafter Shoula Cohen

Simon & Kathy Lipnicki

Sol Horowitz Solly Feldman Sonia Isenberg Stan Cytrynbaum Stan Zack Stanley P. Morris Stephanie Klam

Stephen & Brenda Rodier

Stephen Gaty Stephen Rapps Susan & Earl Ralph Susan Gutman Susan Schachter Susan Svotelis Sylvia Itzhayek Sylviane Borenstein Tamara Schwager Terence & France Greenley

Tracy Rosenberg Ehrlich Victoria Sanchez William Itovitch Yael Soussana

Yair Szlak Yvonne Bensimon

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HIGHLIGHTS



An evening with best-selling author Barbara Coloroso



ProMontreal Entrepreneurs'
PME Fund winners



Staff workshop on LGBTQ inclusion

A YEAR IN PICTURES



MONTREAL WALKS for Mental Health

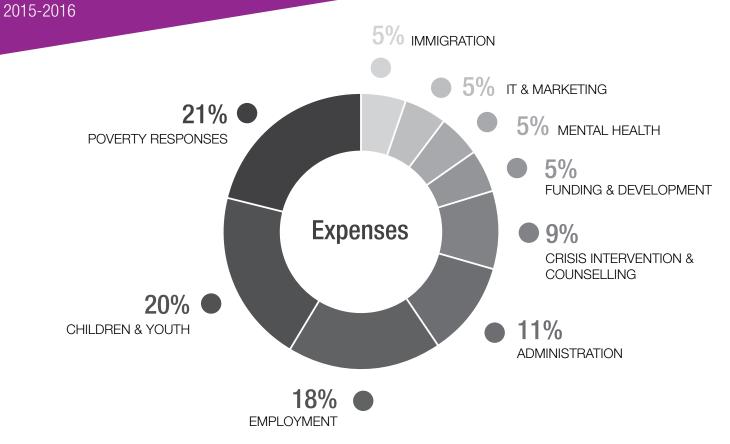


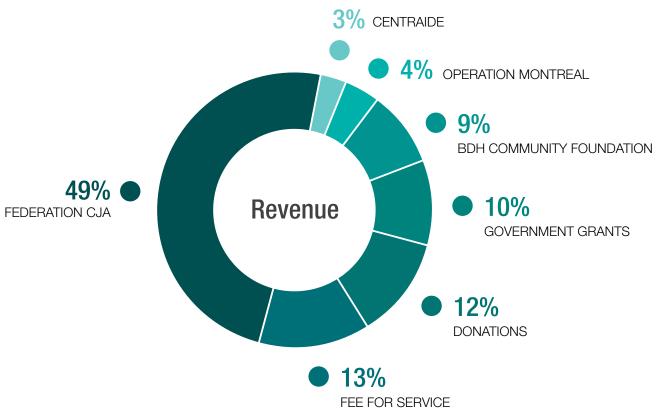
Immigration Services Hanukkah Party



Cocktails and Conversation annual recruitment event

ANNUAL EXPENSES & REVENUES





STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year ended March 31, 2016

Revenue	2016 \$	2015 \$
Federation CJA	2,402,974	2,286,340
Fee for service	926,237	1,031,815
Government grants	761,606	793,818
Operation Montreal	281,000	281,000
Centraide	250,000	313,600
Donations	849,927	761,024
BDH Community Foundation	619,041	618,667
Total Revenue	6,090,785	6,086,264

Government grants	2016 \$	2015 \$
Emploi-Québec	479,485	454,525
Immigration, Diversité et Inclusion	76,245	110,970
PSOC	151,077	149,581
HRSDS	35,830	75,030
Other grants	18,969	55,913
	761,606	793,818

Expenditures	2016 \$	2015 \$
Operating expenses		
Program salaries and benefits	3,931,864	3,944,693
Program contract professionals	258,362	216,590
Activity costs	280,522	280,152
Professional development and memberships	37,607	29,417
Marketing	208,919	178,298
Information technology	149,582	145,402
Amortization of capital assets	28,541	31,813
Amortization of intangible assets	27,596	30,069
	4,922,993	4,856,434
Administration		
Salaries and benefits	573,460	619,310
Office and general	93,547	94,411
Insurance	42,515	41,711
Professional fees	41,188	43,597
Bank charges	2,745	4,160
	753,455	803,189
Funding and Development	355,113	343,228
Total expenditures	6,031,561	6,002,851
Operational surplus before undernoted item	59,224	83,413
Restructuring costs	-	98,220
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	59,224	(14,807)

Thanks to our funding partners:









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

This annual report covers the period of April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 and was submitted at the Annual General Meeting of members on June 21, 2016. © Agence Ometz, 2016. Design and Production: Ometz Marketing and Communications Department.