

Press release

For immediate release

Ometz receives major funding from Community Foundations of Canada
Organization to receive \$130,000, second-largest grant awarded,
to enhance career opportunities for low-income youth

Montreal, December 14, 2015 – Helping vulnerable youth break out of the cycle of poverty is key to building a strong community. 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 Youth Catalyst Fund is a multi-sector partnership brought together to address the youth employment issues raised in Community Foundations of Canada's landmark *#GenerationFlux* report. Alongside a strategy to invest in social enterprises, the Fund is making more than \$1.2M in high-impact grants in communities across the country.

The new funding will enhance Ometz's current job training program which targets young adults, ages 18 to 30, with significant employment barriers due to life struggles including poverty, unstable education, substance abuse, homelessness, mental health issues, and abuse. Participants take part in an intensive six-month program of workshops and internships in a client-supportive environment. "We are excited about being afforded the opportunity to enhance our program," says Ometz CEO Gail Small. "This grant from Community Foundations of Canada will enable these young adults to enhance their employability and forge a path towards a brighter future."

About Community Foundations of Canada

Community Foundations of Canada is the national network for Canada's 191 community foundations, which help Canadians invest in building strong and resilient places to live, work and play. Learn more at communityfoundations.ca.

About Ometz

Founded in 1863, Ometz is a charitable organization which supports and strengthens individuals and families by offering a range of employment, immigration, school and social services. Serving more than 13,000 people annually, Ometz provides intervention, prevention, support services and programs aimed to enhance quality of life. 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, Ometz helps change lives. To find out more about Ometz, please visit www.ometz.ca

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