



Press release

For immediate release

Ometz rolls out *Money Matters*, a new financial literacy program to help break the cycle of poverty

Montreal, December 17, 2013 – Ometz is proud to officially launch **Money Matters**, a series of financial capacity building workshops to educate and empower Ometz clients who want to take the next step in their development. In addition, Ometz professionals are using financial discussions as a vehicle to look at family dynamics, relationships, communication and planning. Supported by the *Autorité des marchés financiers* ("AMF"), Money Matters is an Ometz initiative in partnership with the YM-YWHA and Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors.

The goal of Money Matters is to provide fundamental knowledge and skills to low-income individuals, especially youth, new immigrants, and seniors. This exciting initiative has enabled Ometz to bring together a solid and talented team, with expertise in community development, communications and, of course, financial acumen. They include John Quesnel and Kasia Tomasinska both of Ometz, along with financial planners Brenda Shanahan, Terri Allister and Jose Aguiar. Shanahan initially encouraged Ometz to propose the innovative program to the AMF, the body mandated by the government of Québec to regulate the province's financial markets. "It's an amazing team! We are very excited about our new direction," says Susan Karpman, Director of Community Services and Immigration at Ometz. "Financial capacity building is more than even the fishing rod – it provides the foundational basis for the decisions that shape our lives. It provides the framework for understanding our values, making our decisions and shaping our futures. It's something we need to talk about with our clients, and they need to talk about in their families – productively."

About Ometz

Founded in 1863, Ometz celebrates 150 years of providing social services to the Montreal Jewish community, from generation to generation. Ometz is a not-for-profit human services agency 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, and support services and programs aimed to enhance quality of life at any stage of the lifecycle. 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 is responsive to the ever-changing needs of our clientele. To find out more about Ometz, please visit www.ometz.ca

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