

## **Discours – Speech**

### **Journée de formation de l'IGF – FMIC Training Session**

Did you know that EBO Financial Education Centre returned over \$4.5 million dollars to low income Ottawa taxpayers in 2016?

Good afternoon everyone, Bonjour, je m'appelle Véronique Perron et je suis membre du conseil d'administration du Centre d'éducation Financière EBO. I'm pleased to be here with you today on behalf of EBO Financial Education Centre. EBO is a charitable organization that provides free expertise in budget counselling, income tax services and financial literacy workshops to help people achieve financial autonomy.

I would like to thank the Financial Management Institute of Canada for recognizing the efforts and impact of EBO on the community, again this year. La reconnaissance de notre travail par un organisme important de la communauté financière signifie beaucoup pour la petite équipe, mais bien puissante qu'est EBO. It's an honour for us to receive this prize.

Since 1979, EBO has put people first and offered a personalized approach to a clientele that is socio-economically vulnerable.

We have three full time employees, including 2 budget counsellors and an executive director, we also have 2 financial literacy educators, plus a team of 50 or so dedicated volunteers serving the population of Ottawa and east Ottawa.

Each year, more than 2200 people turn to EBO Centre to receive free expertise in personal finance.

Whether they are single parents trying to make ends meet, a family of five that can no longer pay the bills, a public servant who doesn't know how to do his budget or a student who wants to learn how to save money, EBO is there for them.

We understand that we can help more people by strong collaboration with other groups.

Thanks to a great partnership with Mouvement Desjardins for supporting the “Mes finances mes choix” programme, or in English - My Personal Finance, I’m In Charge.

Last year, more than 1,600 youth, teens in grades 11 and 12, participated in financial literacy workshops provided at their schools by EBO. More than 92 % of youth participants would refer a friend to one of our workshops. This successful program aims to better equip teenagers facing today’s consumption and financial decisions.

Empowering the community also means empowering elderly people. EBO volunteers supported 18 residences mostly for elderly people, producing more than 630 tax returns for low-income residents in 2016. These 630 citizens will share close to \$2 million in program benefits and tax returns.

Our amazing volunteers produced 1900 tax returns for people of all ages, Through the Financial Empowerment and Problem Solving Program, EBO budget counsellors established a new partnership with Simple Tax, which will allow us to offer sessions to people on how to do their taxes themselves free of charge.

Tout récemment, nous nous sommes aussi réjouis d’apprendre que Prospérité Canada avait choisi EBO comme l’un des cinq meilleurs organismes qui œuvrent auprès des personnes à faible revenu pour une meilleure autonomie financière en Ontario. We were delighted to become one of Prosperity Canada’s five champions of financial empowerment in Ontario.

A few years ago, I was looking for an organization that had a strong mandate to really improve people’s lives. I wanted to make a difference in my community. Even though I was leading a busy life, working full time in Public Affairs for a government agency, I thought I could contribute to a cause close to my heart: financial autonomy. I was delighted when I met the executive director of EBO, Hélène Ménard, at a public event. The more I learned about the organization, the more I wanted to be part of it.

I have never regretted my decision to become a member of EBO's board. As you might know, EBO is currently looking for motivated and financially savvy people to join its board.

As a Board member, you would support the organization's mission and oversee its activities. You would review financial statements, policies and programs, and collaborate with partners. You would actively participate in meetings, make the most strategic decisions so that the organization is pro-sperus and meets its objectives.

Get involved, do it, help us empower our communities; you can play a role

- Become a board member
- An income-tax volunteer
- A member for as little as \$25
- Make a donation
- Promote the Centre to your contacts
- Partner with us to advance financial autonomy among Canadians

Si cela vous interpelle. N'hésitez à venir nous rencontrer.

Sur ce, j'aimerais remercier encore une fois l'Institut pour cette belle marque de reconnaissance et vous souhaitez à tous un bel après-midi et à très bientôt, j'espère!

Thank you!