



The Board of Directors of Agence Ometz announces that Howard Berger, Co-Executive Director, will retire effective April 30, 2015.

Since 2001, Howard has held leadership roles in Agencies providing critical services to the Jewish Community in Montreal. As Executive Director for Jewish Employment Montreal (JEM - formerly Jewish Vocational Services) Howard built a strong and respected organization dedicated to helping native Jewish Montrealers and new arrivals hone their job seeking skills and to reaching out to the business community to secure employment opportunities for those so eager to work.

Founded on a vision of holistic service delivery and efficiency, Howard became an early champion of the merger process that led to the amalgamation of JEM with the former Jewish Family Services (JFS) and Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS). In 2008, Agence Ometz was founded with Howard as Co-Executive Director.

Since then, Howard has directed a complex transition with professionalism and determination and, most importantly, seamlessly to an Agency clientele with broader service needs. He has been instrumental in establishing the cultural underpinnings and administrative framework at Ometz that permits more than 100 staff to respond to over 13,000 service requests annually.

Ometz is a model for service delivery, executive management, strategic creativity and governance. Howard's visionary leadership and unwavering commitment have, in great measure, made Ometz the poster child of Agencies in the Federated system and a haven to all those in our community with needs and challenges.

Ometz means courage, strength, virtue. Howard embodies the "ometz" that drives the Agency to provide those services needed by too many in our community with professionalism, respect, dignity and integrity. He has distinguished himself as a deeply compassionate leader and mentor with a stunningly clear moral compass. Trusted and caring, his vision, creativity and dedication are, and will remain, palpable with the entire Ometz team and the Board.

Thank you Howard for all you have done over many years to strengthen Jewish Employment Montreal, JEM Workshop and to shape and strengthen Agence Ometz. The Montreal Jewish Community has been blessed and enriched to have you serve such an integral role in its efforts to care for its own. We wish you health, happiness and success in all that lies ahead. You will be missed.

Gail Small will remain in place as Executive Director.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marc Welikovitch".

Marc Welikovitch, CPA, CA
President
