



Grands Frères Grandes Sœurs du Grand Montréal
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Montreal

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

3 new youth mentoring programs for diversity and inclusion

Montreal, May 2, 2019 - For Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Montreal, the main programs that have been developed in recent years have focused on expanding their youth mentoring services focused on social inclusion and diversity.

Why inclusion?

Very few young people from marginalized communities have access to positive role models in their own communities (people directly present in their environment such as family members or teachers). In order to offer this meaningful presence to young people from the various communities of Montreal, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Montreal has successfully implemented three new mentoring programs adapted to young people from the Black, Aboriginal and LGBTQ2+, the latter having recently been launched in March 2019.

"Social inclusion is often the key to ensuring that young people feel comfortable in their environment and develop in a harmonious way. Thus, to support young people from diverse communities or socio-economic situations, we must adapt our mentoring programs to their needs. Thanks to the collaboration of other community organizations, including Native Montreal, GRIS - Montreal, L'Astérisque, Interligne and the Coalition des familles LGBT, mentors and specialized resources are well trained to meet the specific needs of these young people," said Maxime Bergeron Laurencelle, Executive Director of the Greater Montreal BBBS Agency.

In addition to building a close relationship between a mentor and a mentee who share common interests, each program aims to increase youth autonomy and reduce vulnerability, increase educational achievement, help youth define and strengthen their personal identity, expose them to an appropriate cultural model and ensure that they develop appropriate personal and social skills.

New programs on the horizon

The organization wishes to offer its services to as many young people as possible in the Montreal, North Shore and South Shore regions. Currently, BBBSGM is collaborating with the Fondation du Centre jeunesse de Montréal to develop a new mentoring program for in-care youth.

About Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Montreal

(Source: <https://gfgsmtl.qc.ca/en/home/>)

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Montreal is dedicated to enabling life-changing mentoring relationships to ignite the power and potential of young people and to prepare them for the future. Our agency offers professional mentoring services and an opportunity to acquire and improve personal strengths and interpersonal skills, contributing to a healthier life over the long term. Thanks to the involvement of volunteer mentors and donations from the community of Montreal, the organization currently provides quality mentoring services to more than 1,650 youths.

MEDIA CONTACT:

To arrange an interview with Maxime Bergeron Laurencelle (Executive Director at BBBS) :

Maxime.bergeron-laurencelle@grandsfreresgrandessoeurs.ca

(514) 779-2380 or (514) 842-9715, extension 329