

Operation Back to School

Over 20 years of commitment to school retention



October to April

Overview

Operation Back to School is an annual event of conference-testimonials held in public and private, French and English high schools in the Greater Montréal area. Community organizations in the Montréal area that work to keep kids in school are also encouraged to host speakers.

Thanks to this program initiated by the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal and funded by Montréal Relève, its expert branch for the training of the next generation, more than 4,300 businesswomen and businessmen have gone “back to school” to share their experience and their passion with around 165,000 high school students to encourage them to stay in school.

Operation Back to School is made possible through the financial support of Montréal Relève.

Objectives

Operation Back to School was developed to stem the drop-out rate among students. The encounters help young people understand that success involves work, perseverance and determination. They also demonstrate that it is normal to face

obstacles along the way and that it is important to forge ahead and pursue one’s dreams.

The encounters surpassed the initial objective soon after they began. They create closer ties between schools and companies by providing students and teachers better information about the job market and businesspeople an understanding of the reality of young people, who are our future.

The impact of Operation Back to School

Each year, more than 200 groups – some of them in schools with the highest dropout rates – receive visits, involving around 5,000 young people. It is hard to quantify the impact of Operation Back to School. But the positive effects are clear from reading the comments of students, teachers and businesspeople.

For 23 years, Montréal Relève has been working on the socioeconomic development of the metropolis by increasing access to professional exploration experiences. Through internships, conferences, visits and workshops in preparation for succession, MR annually supervises more than 2,200 adolescents and young adults in their career choices. MR has several projects and programs addressed to different clientele, including Student Business, its flagship program. See how you can make a difference: montrealreleve.ca

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DE MONTRÉAL



The Chamber of Commerce
of Metropolitan Montreal

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Students are more motivated, more enthusiastic and better informed about the working world, employment opportunities and required skills.

Comments from students

"I greatly appreciated the speaker and his professional career, which were of exceptional motivation and inspiration."

"You gave me the desire to try harder and to hang on to my dream..."

"Before meeting you, I wasn't sure that I wanted to continue my studies. Thanks to you, I am definitely going to go farther than high school."

This program helps teachers feel supported in their teaching efforts and creates a special connection with the working world.

Comments from teachers and guidance counsellors

"After the presentations by businesspeople, I saw flickers of light in plenty of eyes... encouraging little flickers of hope."

"It was the ideal opportunity for our students to hear the personal testimonials of successful people, who talked about the importance of staying in school and pursuing post-secondary education... In our changing economy, it is important that our young people have access to accurate, timely information about the future job market, employers' expectations and how to prepare for the demands of the global economy."

"I am impressed by the enthusiasm of teenagers for this type of conference and their desire to learn more. This reassures them to know that others before them have experienced difficulties and persevered. I loved the experience so much that I am ready to continue all year."

Businesspeople have a better idea of the challenges faced by high school students and young people, who are our future.

Comments from speakers

"Every year, I think I manage to touch two or three students, and I tell myself that there is a real need out there."

"I probably learned as much as if not more than the students."

"Thanks for this great opportunity to encourage young people to take themselves seriously."

"This is my third year, and it is always a pleasure to meet and talk to young people to open their eyes to the possibilities of the future."

For more information:

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