

La Passerelle-I.D.É. responds to Zaahira Atchia ONFR-TFO comments.

All of us at **La Passerelle-I.D.É.** were surprised and disappointed by the comments made about our organization by a former member of our board of directors, Zaahira Atchia. Ms. Atchia decided to believe unsubstantiated media reports and recently resigned from the board of directors.

Ms. Atchia served on our board for a period of two years, which, contrary to her public comments, Ms Atchia throughout her time on the board, participated to several meetings in person and/or via teleconference. Ms Atchia was encouraging management and her fellow board members' activities and the role they each assumed in guiding the organization.

La Passerelle-I.D.É. is also disappointed that TFO would choose to publish this piece which amounts to little more than a gossip column. As we have stated repeatedly, the recent attack on our organization is inexplicable and we are exploring all legal remedies and will be responding more fully in due course.

La Passerelle-I.D.É. has operated successfully for over two decades. The organization has received grants from governments and departments to administer its programming, including employment training, social integration and economic development programs. La Passerelle-I.D.É. successfully runs over a dozen signature initiatives and has been an important partner to governments and organisations who share our vision of successfully integrating francophone immigrants and visible minorities in Canada.

La Passerelle-I.D.É. thanks Ms Atchia for her contribution within the organization.