

Toronto, February 4th, 2020

Letter to partners and funders – Update on funding from Public Safety Canada

Dear partners –

I'm writing to you today with an important update regarding one of our programs.

In April 2019, the *Toronto Star* published malicious and irresponsible articles that falsely claimed that La Passerelle-I.D.É. had misused public funds for the delivery of its **Sans Visage program**, targeted to immigrant and francophone girls and women from racialized, ethno-cultural groups. As a result of the articles, an extensive audit of the *Sans Visage* program has been undertaken and completed by Public Safety Canada.

I am pleased to report the audit's conclusion that La Passerelle-I.D.É. "generally complied with the financial terms and conditions" of its funding agreement for *Sans-Visage*. It also confirms that Public Safety Canada is "confident it can continue to work" with us on the program.

The audit also identified specific areas in which La Passerelle-I.D.É.'s financial and governance practices may be improved and made specific recommendations for improvement. La Passerelle-I.D.É. appreciates this guidance and has indicated to the government our strong willingness to implement the recommendations.

On one point, the audit found that a minor portion of funding was appropriately recoverable by the government. The audit found that this was a result of a data entry error. The entry has been corrected and the issue is being resolved.

We are making a Memorandum to the Minister confirming the results of the audit public : [click here to view](#)

The *Toronto Star's* false reporting about *Sans-Visage* has caused our organization, employees and clients significant distress and hardship. This has been a difficult year for us at La Passerelle, but I wanted to reassure you that we remain fully recommitted to our mission of supporting the integration and economic development of francophone new immigrants.

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to you for being a valuable partner to us over the last many years. I hope that we can continue to work together positively toward our shared goals.

Sincerely,

Leonie Tchatat
Founder and CEO of La Passerelle-I.D.É.

Cc members of the board of director of La Passerelle-I.D.É.