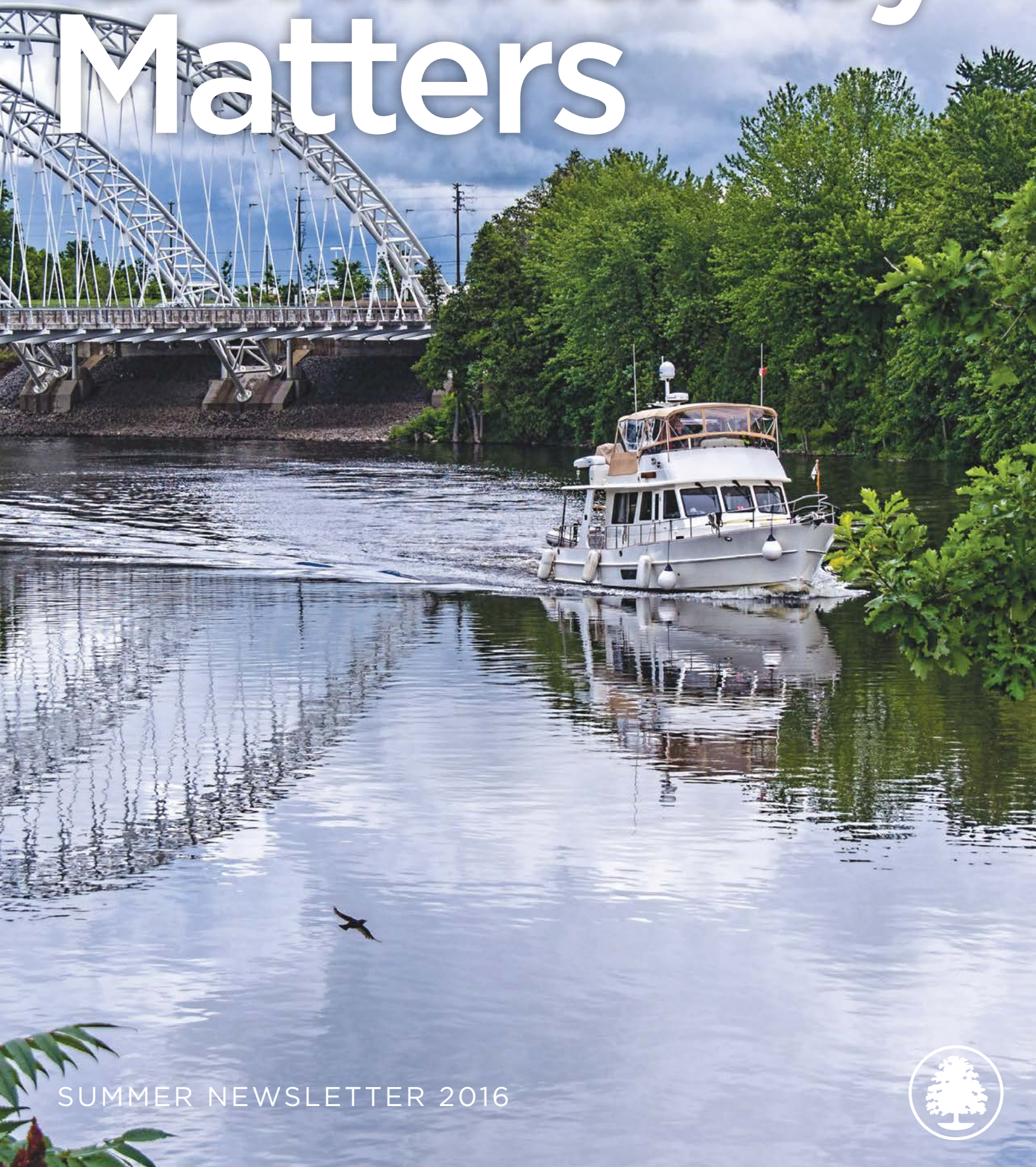


Community Matters



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2016





Photo courtesy of Ottawa Riverkeeper

Welcome to the summer issue of **Community Matters**. We hope you're all enjoying similar views and experiences to the one pictured on our cover, which are so accessible to all of us through the plethora of lakes, rivers and scenic waterways at our doorstep here in the Ottawa Valley.

Our **Community Giving** feature tells the story behind the establishment of a special fund on behalf of the guardian of one such valuable resource. The Ottawa Riverkeeper Endowment Fund was seeded by long-time river supporters in memory of a special friend, which we're honoured to steward and have the opportunity to share their story with you.

Our **Community Pulse** section then takes a closer look at our city's current Environment & Sustainability status, where we also share some of the statistics that were recently released on our new Ottawa Insights community knowledge centre, as well as some of the exciting projects the Foundation is funding in support of a healthier, more sustainable local environment.

Be sure to have a close look at our **Community Innovation** page, where we describe some of the groundbreaking work being done in partnership with the City of Ottawa, other funders, and key community organizations. It is in these areas that the Foundation has been making great strides as a key community influencer, city-builder and thought leader as we forge the path into a more prosperous and equitable Ottawa.

Don't forget to dip into our **Community Chest** to learn more about a variety of other exciting programs and initiatives the Foundation has been spearheading lately, as well as the background of one of our key staff members who has been integral to the development and recent launch of the Ottawa Insights community knowledge centre.

Finally, we're delighted to profile our very own "renaissance man" of the Board of Governors, Eme Onuoha. A seasoned policy and social innovation expert with an entrepreneurial spirit, Eme is helping to carry the torch of the Foundation's new outlook into the next generation, and we couldn't be more pleased to have him in our corner.

We hope you enjoy this summer edition of our semi-annual newsletter, and that it helps provide further insight into the work being conducted by the Foundation and our many partners and community champions. We invite you to visit our website, as well as our Facebook and Twitter pages, where you can stay informed and share your own stories and experiences to help us illustrate the many ways that **Community Matters**.



For good...forever Le bien...toujours

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VISION

Ottawa fulfills its potential as an environmentally balanced, socially just, culturally vibrant and economically resilient city.

MISSION

The Community Foundation of Ottawa works with the community as a trusted partner to fulfill impact philanthropy and bring about positive, systemic and sustainable change in our city and beyond.

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Cover image: **Rideau River Afternoon, Vimy Bridge**, courtesy of Phil Kinsman



Community Giving

Ottawa Riverkeeper Endowment Fund

The Community Foundation's first fund of 2016 was a very special one established by an exceptionally caring pair of Ottawa River supporters on behalf of a cherished friend and community member. The Ottawa Riverkeeper Endowment Fund was seeded by David Spence and Helen Hirsh Spence to commemorate the life of esteemed Ontario educator Erika Rimkus and her love and appreciation for the time they spent together at the Spences' cottage on the river. Together they enjoyed learning about and lending their support to the ongoing health and sustainability of one of Canada's most extensive and historic river systems.

Long-time supporters of a wide variety of environmental groups and community initiatives, David and Helen became Ottawa Riverkeeper patrons in 2004. As founder of the Friends of the Carp River, former Chair of the Ottawa Stewardship Council, and long-time board member and rehabilitator with the Ottawa Wild Bird Care Centre, it wasn't long before David was asked to join the Riverkeeper Board of Directors.

"When I first joined the board over ten years ago, very few people understood the vital importance of - or imminent threats to - the health and future of the Ottawa River," says David, past chair of the Ottawa Riverkeeper Board. "The reality is that rivers reflect the health of the communities through which they flow, so their protection is ultimately of benefit to us all."

For her part, Helen has always been a strong advocate and educator on Canadian environmental and public policy issues. As the current Chair of the Jane Goodall Institute of Canada and an international educational and leadership consultant, Helen has a keen sense of the importance of raising the public profile and appreciation for the work of such grassroots charities as Ottawa Riverkeeper.

"It's been particularly gratifying to see the increase in awareness of the critical issues that need to be addressed through this vast watershed over these past ten years," she and David agree. "Much of that is thanks to the incredible amount of research, advocacy, collaboration and science-based policy work that's being performed by this extraordinary organization and our own Riverkeeper, Meredith Brown. She's been the Ottawa River's steadfast guardian angel and community champion."

After more than ten years of receiving significant support from the Community Foundation of Ottawa on the delivery of a diverse array of river projects and initiatives, the Ottawa Riverkeeper leadership team felt particularly confident having it act as the steward for the organization's legacy fund. "Partnering with a trusted organization like the Community Foundation will help us grow and provide swimmable, drinkable and fishable water for current and future generations," says Geoff Green, chair of the Ottawa Riverkeeper Board.

"By establishing this Community Foundation fund in Erika's name, we were able to create a legacy of support for this mighty waterway which so many of us love and respect," said Helen. "Our



From left to right: Meredith Brown, Helen Hirsh Spence, David Spence, and Marco Pagani.

hope is that other caring river stewards will come forward and add to the fund to memorialize and celebrate the special people in their lives," says David. "We can't imagine a better union than the proven philanthropic management services of the Community Foundation and the excellent team at Ottawa Riverkeeper to carry forward all our shared aspirations for a cleaner, more sustainable environment for generations to follow."

To make a donation to the Ottawa Riverkeeper Endowment Fund, visit www.cfo-fco.ca and click on the Donate button. You may then either search the fund name or find it under our list of Featured Funds. For more information about their vital work, visit www.ottawariverkeeper.ca.



Community Pulse

ISSUE

Environment & Sustainability

We released our latest Ottawa Insights theme at a public event on June 24, in partnership with Ecology Ottawa and Sustainable Eastern Ontario. Providing indicators in the areas of Energy & Climate; Land Use & Ecology; Water, Waste & Sewage; and Transportation, the newly-released theme offers fresh insights into how well the city is performing in relation to our natural environment and sustainability.



“These indicators demonstrate both progress in some areas, along with a number that require serious attention and action,” said Marco Pagani, President & CEO of the Community Foundation of Ottawa. “By identifying both the problem areas and those that deserve celebration, we hope to contribute to informed discourse among decision-makers, influencers and the general public in order to support strategic action for the long-term good and sustainability of our environment.”

STATISTICS:

Ottawa made **little direct progress** **IN REDUCING** Greenhouse Gas emissions between **2004** and **2012**.

Tree canopy cover WITHIN OTTAWA’S URBAN BOUNDARY **IS BELOW target levels.**

DISCHARGES OF UNTREATED SEWAGE TO THE OTTAWA AND RIDEAU RIVERS **HAVE DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY.**

Local household water **consumption** HAS DECLINED CONTINUOUSLY AND SIGNIFICANTLY **since 2007.**

More than 30% of Ottawa commuters used **public transit, walked** or **cycled** to work.



Photo courtesy of Ottawa Riverkeeper

SUPPORT

● ECOLOGY OTTAWA

The Emerald Ash Borer is killing millions of trees across Ottawa, including hundreds of thousands within the urban area. Ecology Ottawa's **Living Communities** project – a sub-component of the broader Tree Ottawa initiative, will focus on increasing the scale and health of Ottawa's tree canopy by empowering Ottawa citizens to become stewards of their greenspace. From spring 2016 to February 2017, the City of Ottawa, three community associations and their constituents will work with Ecology Ottawa to organize, create and carry out multi-year tree planting and park restoration programs. www.ecologyottawa.ca.

● FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

The **Bee Cause** is a pilot project designed to build volunteer capacity to motivate Ottawa residents to support their native bee population by creating safe bee havens – or Bee Worlds – and by creating a benchmark for the current bumble bee population in participating areas of Ottawa. Through a partnership with the Business Improvement Areas of Bank Street and Preston Street, project components will be integrated into their seasonal activities and signature events. www.foecanada.org.

● OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

With the support of a CFO grant, an **Ottawa Bird Strategy** will be developed as a basis for informing new development and landscaping companies in the city of best practices for creating bird friendly spaces. The strategy will support the creation of accessible, vibrant natural spaces that will benefit all Ottawa residents as the diversity of birds in urban settings brings important ecological, social, cultural and economic benefits. www.ofnc.ca.

● RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

The **City Stream Restoration Project** will take place along various creeks in the Rideau and Ottawa River watersheds within the City of Ottawa. The purpose of the project will be to carry out restoration projects on targeted tributaries, including stream clean-ups, riparian planting, bio-engineering and erosion control, which were identified in annual reporting for the City Stream Watch monitoring program. The project will engage volunteers in projects across the city as targeted creeks are located in the west, east, central and southern portions of Ottawa. www.rvcf.ca.



Community Innovation

Driven by new leadership and an ambitious strategic plan, the Foundation has spent the last two years setting out an exciting new blueprint for its future as a city-builder and thought-leader in the community. From working with the City of Ottawa on planning for the new Innovation Centre at Bayview Yards, to providing input on the province's Social Enterprise Strategy and the National Capital Commission's 50-year plan for Ottawa, to helping to lead the city-wide response to the Syrian Refugee crisis, the Foundation is making good on its promise to be a leading catalyst for positive, systemic and sustainable change in our community. It is also taking a more collaborative and innovative approach to working with the community to find fresh and lasting solutions to our city's most pressing issues. The following are just a few examples of the strategic initiatives we are currently working on with our community partners.

The Next 150: Putting Indigenous Culture in Schools

As Canada celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2017, The Next 150 project will work to restore the relationship between Indigenous people and all Canadians by creating a completely Indigenous-led school curriculum to revitalize culture and teach true Indigenous history in Ottawa schools. A partnership led by the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health and funded by a Community Foundation donor and Community Foundations of Canada's Community Fund for Canada's 150th, the initial pilot project will be the first of a three-part program. The purpose of phase one beginning in Sept. 2016 is to finalize a unique, culturally-based curriculum on Indigenous history rooted in traditional teachings. This curriculum will provide all students with the experience of culture. The Community Foundation is also currently working with the Grantmakers' Forum on plans for future funding of the next phases of the project through its Collaborative Grantmaking program.

Social Enterprise Platform

The Community Foundation of Ottawa is encouraging investments and supporting key players in formalizing a Social Enterprise Platform in our city that will enhance mission-aligned social enterprises within the charitable sector. This Platform will involve such capabilities as micro-financing, market analysis, business case development, marketing and branding, access to technical assistance, policy management, and a social innovation incubator space. The Platform could also ultimately provide skills training, job placements, and a pipeline of practitioners to support social enterprises. The Innovation Centre at Bayview Yards has recently confirmed space to house the Platform players and incubation space to support social enterprise development.

Collaborative Grantmaking

Following the successful delivery of the Collaborative Grantmaking Pilot project by a core group of Grantmakers' Forum members over the past year, some funders have now identified the primary area of focus for its next funding partnership. This focus area, established through a partnership with the city-wide Community Development Framework initiative, will support priority communities in Ottawa to strengthen their sense of belonging in order to more successfully address key issues such as safety, food security, mental wellbeing, employment, and opportunities for children and youth. For further information about the Grantmakers' Forum and the Collaborative Grantmaking initiative, visit the Initiatives section at www.cfo-fco.ca.



Community Chest



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION NEWS

Ottawa Insights

The Community Foundation released the first five sections of its dynamic new web-based community knowledge centre that brings together and connects key information and intelligence on status, trends and conditions affecting quality of life in Ottawa. Its key purpose is to support shared understanding and strategic collaboration towards fostering a more vibrant and equitable city over the long term.

Since the April launch, Ottawa Insights has presented a General Demographics section, along with a suite of over 60 indicators related to Basic Needs & Standard of Living; Economy & Employment; Health & Wellness; and Environment & Sustainability. The Community Foundation will continue to deliver comprehensive information and data over the coming months in the areas of Education and Learning; Arts and Culture; and Community and Belonging. Visit www.ottawainsights.ca.

Community Fund for Canada's 150th

The Foundation is excited to bring the **Community Fund for Canada's 150th** (CFC150) to Ottawa in celebration of the country's upcoming sesquicentennial. Launched by Community Foundations of Canada, with funding from the Government of Canada, CFC150 is being delivered in partnership with community foundations across the country.

The Community Foundation of Ottawa will match the funds made available through CFC to support a wide range of local initiatives to celebrate and deepen residents' connection to Canada, Ottawa, and the diverse communities that make up our city. The first round of applications opens in mid-August and the deadline is Oct. 3 at 5:00 p.m.

New Leaf Community Challenge 2016

Following on the successes of its first two New Leaf Community Challenges in supporting local food systems projects to increase access to healthy, affordable food in Ottawa, the Community Foundation has set its sights on another key issue in our city.

While the city-wide unemployment rate in 2015 was 6.4%, the youth unemployment rate was the highest it's been in over a decade - and the highest rate among Canada's six largest cities - at 15.3%. Therefore, **NLCC 2016** is focused on demonstrably improving the employment situation for young adults in Ottawa. Expressions of Interest from local organizations and groups are now being accepted to tackle this pressing local issue.

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR

At the core of the Ottawa Insights team is **Chayanika Lutes**, Senior Associate, Community Engagement. Armed with a Master's in Economics and expertise in statistical analysis, research and data management, Chayanika has worked tirelessly over the last year to gather, analyze and synthesize a wide range of data and information in order to provide key insights into the current status and trends that affect quality of life in Ottawa, and to promote evidence-based decision making among local funders, policy-makers and donors.

Originally hailing from Winnipeg, Chayanika earned her Bachelor of Commerce in Finance and International Business at the University of Manitoba, followed by her Master of Development Economics at Dalhousie University.

A passionate volunteer from an early age, Chayanika chaired her high school Youth in Philanthropy program in grade 12 in partnership with the Winnipeg Foundation (WF), where she interned in the summer of 2005. In her current position, Chayanika has become the CFO's representative on the Ottawa Research Culture Group and is managing our involvement with the **One Young World Summit**.



Community Profile



EME ONUOHA

“I believe in the power of cultivating innovation to create observable and sustainable human impact across the entire community.”

If you wanted to capture the modern definition of a Canadian renaissance man, you might do well to consider Eme Onuoha's journey. As Xerox Corporation's Vice-President Global Government Affairs (Canada), Eme is an eloquent communicator and inspirational leader who joined the Community Foundation in 2014. He is guided by a clear vision of what a community can accomplish when it works together for the common good. Eme has already made great strides in both his career and personal life while helping build a brighter future for those in need on both a local and global scale.

Eme's family experience shaped his passion for inclusive human development. “As the son of immigrant parents who came to Canada from rural Nigerian villages in the 1960's, I was raised to respect the importance of community engagement and the need to create a safe place for humanity to thrive in the wake of civil strife and adversity,” he says. “It was my parents' pursuit of a better state of community health and wellbeing that brought my family to Canada in the first place, and it was thanks to the generosity and support of the people who helped my parents settle here that we've all enjoyed the opportunity to both prosper and contribute to our community.”

Eme earned an honours BA in International Relations from McMaster and an MBA from Queen's, followed by a Master's-level diploma in Strategy and Innovation from Oxford. In addition to nearly a decade's work as an executive with a renowned Fortune 500 technology company, his professional background includes 13 years in the federal public sector in such diverse roles as Director of Operations at the Privy Council Office, Vice President of the Canadian Commercial Corporation, Chief of Staff to the Minister of National Defence, and Policy Advisor to the Minister of International Trade. Over the course of his career, Eme has been lauded with awards such as the Top 100 under 50 designation by Diversity MBA magazine, Green Living Enterprises' Excellence in Corporate Responsibility Award for the Canadian IT industry, and recognition as one of Canada's Clean50 honourees for 2015.

Eme first learned about the work of the Foundation in conversation with then-Governor of the Bank of Canada Mark Carney. “We were discussing current trends in the community and I expressed interest in learning more about local grassroots organizations and initiatives,” said Eme. “The Governor was emphatic about the Foundation's vital role in the community. He

described how it works as an enabler for hundreds of non-profit organizations by generating sustainable returns that nourish the eco-system of philanthropic activities in our city and beyond on a daily basis.”

With additional encouragement from Ottawa's Mayor Jim Watson, Eme was convinced to join the Foundation's Board. “I welcomed the opportunity to apply my perspective on innovation, and experience in public and business administration, to the Community Foundation's increasingly collaborative and innovative approach to community development.”

“I believe in the power of cultivating innovation to create observable and sustainable human impact across the entire community. I'm passionate about the art and science of technological and social innovation. Canada's long-term socioeconomic wellbeing depends on mastering both,” said Eme. “Having said that, I also believe technological innovation is necessary but not sufficient. Together we must pursue truly inclusive socioeconomic growth and socialize the rewards of innovation, not just the risks. This requires humanity, entrepreneurial attitude and collective ambition.” These are characteristics that Eme exemplifies in his volunteer work on the CFO Board.