



LOFT Kitchen supports marginalized youth (ages 16-29) who are experiencing poverty, precarious housing, mental health challenges and parenthood. It operates a café and also offers catering services to customers while developing the employability of local youth facing barriers. LOFT Kitchen offers hands-on training in its culinary program, which includes: menu development, menu planning, administration, recipe development and promotion, and front-of-house experience. The training includes hands-on workshops and one-on-one support on a daily basis. Through LOFT Kitchen, participants gain valuable training and experience alongside leadership, mentorship and networking opportunities, social supports and work-readiness programming.

## FAST FACTS

**Location:** Toronto, ON  
**Founded:** 2014  
**Sector:** foodservices  
**Annual Revenue (2018):** \$30K  
**Parent Org:** Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre (CONC)  
**Website:**  
[www.conccommunity.org](http://www.conccommunity.org)

## FINDINGS

- While many social enterprises wrestle to find a balance between financial and social goals, LOFT Kitchen feels it has found a synergy there.
- This case reinforces the importance of community support - LOFT was created within a well-established Toronto neighbourhood and has recently relocated to another where it feels its social mission is well received.
- As noted throughout this project - energized and entrepreneurial leadership plays a significant role in driving growth.
- LOFT Kitchen is unique in this project as a case that rates its contract bidding capacity as high despite its small size. Thus far it has not been successful in its bidding efforts but is optimistic about the future and recognizes that apart from financial stability, winning a regular contract would provide stability for its training program and allow for better routine and scheduling

***Selling Social: Experiences of Social Enterprises with Social Procurement and Social Purchasing*** presents the findings of a three-year (2017-2020), pan-Canadian research project detailing experiences with social procurement and social purchasing from the perspective of social enterprises, as well as their organizational purchasers. These 19 profiles highlight the cases presented in the book and illustrate unique features that make them of interest to practitioners, scholars and students of the social economy.

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**For further information:**

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